



ORONO-WESTONKA WARRIORS

Pre-Season Player Evaluation Process and Criteria

(Effective September 2023)

General

The Orono Youth Hockey Association Coaches Board and the Mound Westonka Hockey Operations Committee are committed to providing a fair and impartial pre-season player evaluation process/system in an effort to place players at the level where they will maximize their skill development and be challenged appropriately.

Pre-Season Player Evaluation Dates

Each year's dates will be determined by available ice time, but will generally begin mid to late September and be completed by early to mid-October (based on levels).

Pillars of Orono-Westonka Warrior Hockey

- Attributes: Passion to Compete, Hockey Sense, Teamwork, Work Ethic, Attitude
- Skills: Movement with the Puck, Playmaking, Shooting, Puck Support, Anticipation

Skater Evaluations

General Guidelines and Performance Metrics

- Combination of performance in practices and game play.
- Skills and Attributes consist of the pillars stated above and are evaluated in practice and scrimmages.
- Game Play (scrimmages) consist of: a player's team skills (offensive & defensive), positional play, teamwork, and the ability to read and react to game situations.
- Each player will be ranked numerically based on their scores from the practice and scrimmage from which the pool split will be determined. After the players are split into pools, the players will participate in inside or outside scrimmages, depending on age-level.
- Scrimmages – Based on number of players and/or individual player scores, some players may be asked not to participate in certain scrimmages.

Practices

- Players will be evaluated how they listen, apply their skills to the drills, and represent themselves as hockey players in a hockey practice setting. We will be looking how players add value to the practice whether that be offensively, defensively, physically, energetically, mentally, emotionally, intelligently or through leadership, and attentiveness.

Scrimmages

- Coaches and Evaluation Leads will be on the benches during scrimmages to coach the game not the individual player. Bench coaches will also be monitoring players for fair play and ensuring all players get similar ice time, as well at the Five Attributes listed above.
- Players will be evaluated how they approach game situations whether in the locker room, on the bench or on the ice.
- They will be evaluated how they adapt to game situations whether that be game play, coaching decisions/changes, and general adversity hockey brings.

- Again, players will be evaluated based on how they add value to the team whether that be offensively, defensively, energetically, mentally, emotionally, intelligently or through leadership, and attentiveness.

The following are the numbers of events and the weightings associated with those events:

2023-2024 Evaluations

10U Pre-Split

Session #1	50%
Session #2	50%

10U Post-Split

	A Pool	B Pool
Session #3	50%	50%
Session #4	50%	50%

12U Pre-Split

Session #1	50%
Session #2	50%

12U Post-Split

	A Pool	B Pool
Session #3	50%	50%
Session #4	50%	50%

15U Pre-Split

Session #1	50%
Session #2	50%

15U Post-Split

Session #3	50% for Session #3 + 25% Session #1 + 25% Session #2
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After the split, the scores are zeroed and the players are scored against their peers within the post-split pool for 10U and 12U. For 15U after the split, 50% of the weighting will be on the Post-Split Session with the remaining weighting of 25% for Session 1 and 25% for Session 2.

Teams will be formed based on the evaluation results with a best effort being made to balance the number of players on each team at a given level. Note that in final team determination the head coach has discretion to move a player up or down if the player is within 10% of the final evaluation score from the player at the cut line. If the head coach elects to utilize this discretion, he/she will present the reasons to the members of the executive pre-season player evaluation group (consisting of the Chair of the OYHA Coaches Board, the Mound-Westonka Hockey Operations Director, the Pre-season player evaluation Co-Op Committee level leaders, and the Presidents of OYHA and MWAH) for approval. **Discretionary reasons can include, but are not limited to, the coach's observations, positional needs, and information from former coaches or additional input from evaluators.**

In the event that a 1st year and 2nd year player's scores are deemed to be in a tie, the tiebreaker will go to the 2nd year player at the particular level, at both the A/B - B/C pool split point and the final team rankings.

Goaltenders:

Goalie Skills, approximately 50% of total grade – during skills evaluation sessions, goalies will be judged based on:

- Movement in Standing position
 - Short Parallel Slides
 - Long Parallel Slides
 - Pivots
 - Forward backwards movement
 - T-Push
- Movements going down:
 - Full V (with/without pivots)
 - Full V (with recovery)
 - Shuffle, Full V, then push
- Movements from down position
 - Full V
 - Full V then recovery

Team Practices and Scrimmages, approximately 50% of total grade - During all sessions, goalies will be judged based:

- Pivots (being square)
- Forward / Backwards Movement
- Lateral Movement
- Rebound Control
- Angles
- Recovery
- Stick work
- Hands
- Pads

Players Electing to be Evaluated as “Both” a Player and a Goaltender

Players may elect to be evaluated as “Both” a player and a goaltender

- This election must be made no later than 1 week prior to the first evaluation date
 - These players should attend the “Goalie Only” evaluation session as a Goalie
 - These players should attend all other evaluation sessions as players
- Team placement for these players/goalies will be determined based on:
 - Results of the player evaluations
 - Secondary consideration is given to the goalie evaluation scores and team goalie needs are taken into account.

Pre-Season Player Evaluation: Evaluators/Graders

The Co-Op will utilize evaluators/graders for the completion of graded events. The evaluators will possess the applicable hockey background and experience to complete the evaluation process and **NOT** be deemed by the Co-Op to be in conflict with an impartial pre-season player evaluation process. At least three evaluators will be utilized per graded event. During scrimmages, a separate grader will be used to grade goaltenders. These criteria do not include/affect the following:

- Contracted Non-Parent Coaches at applicable levels/teams **MAY** grade at the level he/she will be coaching.

Parent Conduct

During the pre-season player evaluation process it is important to remember most players feel some level of pressure or anxiety. The best ways for parents to approach pre-season player evaluations is with encouragement for their players and support their player by reducing as much outside pressures as possible, and reminding them to have fun.

In an effort to reduce additional pressure on players:

- **ALL PRE-SEASON PLAYER EVALUATION SESSIONS WILL BE CLOSED TO PARENTS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC. Parents are not allowed in the arena/building while the evaluation is in session.**
- **NOT in the Birch's Loft and NOT in the dryland area.**
- **Anyone seen in prohibited areas will be asked to leave the property immediately.**
- **Anyone seen recording the evaluations from anywhere in the facility will be asked to leave the property immediately.**
- **Anyone seen discussing players or play with the evaluators or coaches will be asked to leave the property immediately.**

Failure to abide by the aforementioned rules may result in sanctioning by the respective Boards.

- U15; U12 – parents/guardians may drop their players off at the rink, assist in registration if they wish, but are not allowed inside the arena during the ice session.
- U10 – parents/guardians may assist their players in registration and getting dressed, i.e. tying skates and helping with equipment, but are not allowed inside the arena during the ice session.
- In very rare or special circumstances, the Co-Op may give parent(s) permission to remain at the event if deemed necessary.

Additional Information

If a player cannot make their assigned time for any scheduled evaluation session, they will be required to attend a different session already scheduled but must notify the Co-Op or Tryout Coordinator 24 hours prior. There will be no makeup time for players missing post-split sessions.

Please make sure all of your child's equipment is in good condition **and is the Orono-Westonka Warrior color scheme.** Helmets and breezers should be black or dark blue. For the pre-season player evaluations, all of the skaters should wear as generic a jersey as possible with no team names, last names or identifiers on them. All non Orono-Westonka stickers must be removed prior to taking the ice for the first evaluation session (e.g. no AAA team, all-star team, or choice league stickers). **Failure to follow these rules may result in the player not being able to participate in the pre-season player evaluation process.**

Opt-out Pre-Season Player Evaluations: Players have the option to opt out of pre-season player evaluations completely, and be automatically placed on the lowest level team for their age group, or they can opt out of the top level (AA/A) pre-season player evaluations. If they chose to opt out of the top level pre-season player evaluations, they would only have to go to the post-split B/C pool session. Players who opt out of top level pre-season player evaluations may still have the opportunity to make a second or third tier team.

Absence Policy for Pre-Season Player Evaluations

The following absence policy is to be used by the Co-Op to determine the placement of a player missing one or more of the pre-season player evaluation sessions. This policy is to be a set of guidelines for the Co-Op in making their determination. This policy recognizes that there are a variety of factors that will need to be taken into account and that this policy cannot cover all situations. The final determination will be in the sole discretion of the Co-Op and will endeavor to abide by this policy and its philosophy.

The pre-season player evaluation process is an important process for the Orono-Westonka Warriors and is the process to place a player on his or her a team commensurate with their abilities displayed during the evaluation process. Absence from pre-season player evaluations is discouraged as it not only affects the missing player, but also impacts the association and the quality of the pre-season player evaluation process for all involved. Missing players has been a problem in our pre-season player evaluation process. Full attendance is needed for the Co-Op to conduct fair and effective pre-season player evaluations for all players, and properly place players of similar abilities together on teams.

1. Voluntary Absence from Pre-season player evaluations: A voluntary absence from pre-season player evaluations exists when a player elects to miss pre-season player evaluations for any reason. A voluntary absence from a single pre-season player evaluation session would result in the player receiving the lowest scoring awarded any player during the missed event.

2. Involuntary Absence from pre-season player evaluations: An involuntary absence from pre-season player evaluations exists when a player misses pre-season player evaluations due to conditions that are uncontrollable by the player or parents. These include but are not limited to such things as:

- An injury resulting in a player being unable to pre-season player evaluation or unable to complete pre-season player evaluations (requires a doctor's note)
- An illness resulting in player being unable to pre-season player evaluation or unable to complete pre-season player evaluations (requires a doctor's note)

3. A mandatory absence (i.e. mandatory school function, church function etc.) that the Co-Op is aware of and approves prior to pre-season player evaluations.

Team placement for players in categories 2 and 3 will be determined solely by the Co-Op in closed session. Considerations for team placement may include, but are not limited to:

- Performance in pre-season player evaluations if partially completed;
- Input from prior years' coaches or other coaches familiar with the player's abilities;
- Prior year level of play;
- Input from other neutral and qualified observes; and
- The scores of players deemed similar of ability by former coaches and/or the Co-Op Committee.

Penalty Policy for Pre-Season Player Evaluations

An important pre-season player evaluation objective of the Association is fairness and safety for the players. The safety of our players is a priority. Scrimmage sessions will be monitored by the level leads and/or Co-Op Committee members. Penalties committed will result in the offending player sent to the bench and miss the remainder of his or her shift. Repeated, flagrant, or penalties which were an attempt to injure may result in extended benching or ejection from the session. Outside scrimmage sessions are conducted as a part of the pre-season player evaluation process and experienced officials will be used. Penalties will be called and assessed. Any player receiving a penalty will serve his/her penalty in the penalty box, however teams will play even strength at all times. Inappropriate behavior exhibited by any player will be discussed by Co-Op representatives and immediately addressed. This may include removal from the pre-season player evaluation process. As such, any removal of a player due to inappropriate behavior will be considered a voluntary absence from pre-season player evaluations and follow the appropriate procedures.

Contact the Co-Op Committee the OYHA or MWAHA Boards if you have questions or concerns. Contact information can be found under the "Board" tab on www.orono-westonkagirlshockey.com, the "Hockey Operations" tab on www.oronohockey.org, or on the "About Us/Organization" tab on www.westonkahockey.org