



Nonotuck Knights Hockey Player Evaluation Procedures

The spring evaluation for **8U** through **14U** will be held in March at the conclusion of the GSL season. If required, an additional evaluation may be held at the beginning of the next season. Times for the tryouts will be published on the Association Website.

Evaluation Philosophy

Evaluations are intended to assess the skill level of each player and place him or her on the most appropriate team within their age group to ensure skill development, player growth and support a fun learning experience. Teams will be created in order of descending skill ability within the USA Hockey designated age group to compete in the Greater Springfield League (GSL). It is important to recognize that an 'A' team may compete in a lower GSL division based on overall team skill. Conversely, multiple teams may compete at the 'A' level if the talent is deemed appropriate. Evaluations will create a competitive environment to bring out skills and guide the placement of the players. Naturally, this time of year creates a tense and stressful time for parents and players as we strive to do what is best for them and the organization as a whole.

Guidelines for Parents

In order to provide a fair and stress-free environment for all skaters trying out, we ask that you please refrain from being a distraction to the skaters or the evaluators during the evaluations. Encourage your player to play hard and play the game as they have done all year. Parents, please take a seat in the stands and please keep away from the glass and the player's boxes during all skates. Evaluations are an extremely stressful time for your skater and you can actually help your player more by providing a supportive environment. Parents are asked not to contact any evaluators before, during or after evaluations to discuss any part of evaluations including their child's score. We appreciate your patience and support at this time of year. Our goal is to provide all of the Hockey Players a fair and balanced evaluation for next years hockey season.

Position Declarations

- All players at **10U**, **12U**, and **14U** level must declare if they are going to tryout for Goalie, Skater, or both.
 - **10U** and **12U** B/C players may elect to play out and goalie.
- **12U** and **14U** skaters may select their preference to evaluate as either Defense or Forward during the scrimmage. Players will be evaluated and may be selected for the A and B team based on their position.

Goalies

- All players must declare at the time of tryouts if they are trying out for Goalie, Skater, or both.
- Once a skater has declared that they are trying out for the position of Goalie, they will be expected to attend all of the tryouts for their age level, potentially including a separate goalie tryout.
- Goalies will be scored and placed based on their scores from the evaluation sessions and the separate goalie evaluation session.

- Goalies are a position that requires different athletic skills from a skater and will receive specialized training throughout the year.
- Players committed to full-time goalie will receive a 50% reduction for the season ice fee and may use Association goalie equipment. If there are two fulltime goalies on a team both will receive a 50% discount. Back-up goalies will not be eligible for a goalie discount.
- If there are enough Goalies trying out in a division, **10U** through **14U**, each team will receive 2 goaltenders.
- At no time may a Coach replace a goaltender with a skater from the team, unless the goaltender is unavailable, is skating out to work in a back-up goalie, or is injured and cannot play.
- At the **8U** level, all players will rotate through goalie at least once to try the position out. Once the rotation has occurred players may decide to 'commit' to playing goal (especially last year mites). **8U** players are not eligible for the 50% goalie discount.

Evaluation Sessions

- The Evaluation Committee may place the best player(s) on the highest team after the first two sessions for **10U / 12U / 14U**; the same may occur for the lowest level players. Letting the players evaluate fully (i.e. complete all sessions) will be done whenever possible.
- Players will be evaluated on the fundamental skills of hockey: Skating, Passing, Puck Control, Shooting, Hockey Sense and Coachability (via coach assessment).
- Players scores will be determined in the following fashion:
 - 90% on ice evaluation
 - 10% coachability
- **14U evaluation scrimmages will not involve checking; play will be expected to occur as if at the 12U level.**

Evaluation Format

8U Evaluations

Two 50 minute blocks of ice

Session Number / Session Type Outcome

First Session:

- Players split into two even groups alphabetically by last name.
- Evaluation Style: Skills based drills.
- Players will be ranked in descending order based on total score from evaluation session.

Second Session:

- Players split into two even groups alphabetically by last name.
- Scrimmage
- Players will be ranked in descending order based on total score from evaluation session.

10U Evaluations

Two 50 minute blocks of ice with the potential of a third

Session Number / Session Type Outcome

First Session:

- Players split into two even groups alphabetically by last name.
- Evaluation Style: Skills based drills.
- Players will be ranked in descending order based on total score from evaluation session.

Second Session:

- Players split into two even groups alphabetically by last name.
- Scrimmage
- Players will be ranked in descending order based on total score from evaluation session.

Third Session: Only if player numbers require additional time for evaluation.

- If needed.
- Skills and Scrimmage
- Players will be ranked in descending order based on total score from first two evaluation sessions.

12U Evaluations

Two 50 minute blocks of ice with the potential of a third

Session Number / Session Type Outcome

First Session:

- Players split into two even groups alphabetically by last name.
- Evaluation Style: Skills based drills.
- Players will be ranked in descending order based on total score from evaluation session.

Second Session:

- Players split into two even groups alphabetically by last name.
- Scrimmage
- Players will be ranked in descending order based on total score from evaluation session.

Third Session: Only if player numbers require additional time for evaluation.

- If needed.
- Skills and Scrimmage
- Players will be ranked in descending order based on total score from first two evaluation sessions.

14U Evaluations

Two 50 minute blocks of ice with the potential of a third

Session Number / Session Type Outcome

First Session:

- Players split into two even groups alphabetically by last name.
- Evaluation Style: Skills based drills.
- Players will be ranked in descending order based on total score from evaluation session.

Second Session:

- Players split into two even groups alphabetically by last name.
- Scrimmage
- Players will be ranked in descending order based on total score from evaluation session.

Third Session: Only if player numbers require additional time for evaluation.

- If needed.
- Skills and Scrimmage
- Players will be ranked in descending order based on total score from first two evaluation sessions.

Evaluators

- There will be three evaluators utilized at each session.
- A list of evaluators will be published on the Association Website prior to evaluations.
- Drills will be provided to coaches ahead of evaluations so players and coaches will have a chance to practice them.
- All NVHA head coaches will be required to evaluate/run sessions and assistant coaches will be included where appropriate to run a safe evaluation; there may be evaluators from outside the organization who have hockey experience.

Scoring

- Players will be evaluated on the fundamental skills of hockey: Skating, Passing, Puck Control, Shooting, and Hockey Awareness.
- Players will be given a numerical score in each of these areas after each session based on the average evaluation numerical score.
- Evaluators will rank each player in these areas based on the following scale (note this is not comparing players but rather scoring them):
 - 1 – Weak**
 - 2 – Below Average**
 - 3 – Average**
 - 4 – Above Average**
 - 5 – Outstanding**
- Each team is expected to submit one ‘unified’ player evaluation sheet that is completed together by all of the coaches from the season.

- At the end of all the sessions the ‘coachability’ score based on the same scale from the coaches evaluation will be added to the final score; this will create the player’s final evaluation score.

Coachability (for coaches assessment):

- Player attitude and effort
- Team versus me
- Relative attention span based on age
- Ability to understand and execute a drill
- Overall effort on a consistent basis
- Attendance at practice and games

Player Placement & Team Formation

- Players will be assigned to A, B or C level teams based on their overall score
- Teams will be formed based on the following guidelines:
 - **8U** 8-10 players per team (includes goalie rotation)
 - **10U** 10-12 players and goalie per team
 - **12U** 12-15 players and goalie per team
 - **14U** 15 - 18 players and goalie per team

**** Higher numbers may be placed on B or C teams so that upward movement may occur as necessary**

KEY DATES:

- Tentative Teams Announced: **Two Weeks After Evaluations****
- Evaluation Appeal Forms Due: **One Week After Tentative Team Announcement**
- Commitment Payment Due: **April 30th**
- Final Team Rosters Released: **September Before Games Start**

****Teams may not be complete if there are additional evaluations required and thus not completely finalized until the first week of the regular hockey season.**

Player Selection Criteria

The following is a reference based off of the USA Hockey guidelines and will be provided to evaluators prior to the player selection process.

Skating: Displays acceleration, speed, mobility, agility, balance, stride, crossovers, pivots, can accelerate out of turns, is controlled and may be able to change of pace.

- Can the players perform the basic forward and backward stride?
- Are the players knees well bent with the back slightly forward and the head up?
- Good skaters will use long strides with a complete recovery of the stride leg before striding with the other leg; their strides will look very smooth.
- Does the player look smooth when they skate or do they appear off balance?
- Can the player turn in both directions with little trouble or do they struggle to turn in one or both directions?
- Can the player stop in both directions? Younger players will often have trouble stopping in one direction?

- Can the player keep up with the play or do they struggle to stay with the other players on the ice?

Passing: Good technique receiving the puck, smart pass choices, utilizes backhand, is unselfish with the puck, presents a good target, receives and retains puck with control, and can touch pass.

- Can the player pass the puck to its intended target with minimal effort?
- Can the player make an accurate pass to a moving target?
- Can the player receive a pass on their backhand or do they tend to shift their body to receive the pass on the forehand?
- Can the player pass the puck off of the backhand with some speed and accuracy?
- Does the player call for the puck vs. banging their stick on the ice or saying nothing at all?
- Does the player passing the puck make eye contact with the intended receiver or do they just pass the puck blindly?
- Can the player pass the puck off the boards to another player?

Puck Control: When skating with puck has head up, smooth, good hands and displays puck protection in small spaces and in traffic.

- Does the player have the basic skills to execute a forehand pass?
- When the player passes the puck do they slap at it or is the motion smooth with the player following through to the intended target?
- Does the player appear to be comfortable handling the puck while skating or do they appear to fight the puck and have trouble skating with some speed while handling it?
- Can the player keep his/her head up while carrying the puck?
- Can they execute dekes and fakes with the puck?
- Can they stop quickly or change directions while handling the puck?
- Can the player continue to handle the puck while in traffic and under pressure?

Shooting: Can shoot with power and accuracy, has a quick release, can shoot in motion, and demonstrates ability to score goals.

- Can the player execute the technique of a wrist shot and backhand?
- Does the player follow through to the target on all shots?
- Can the player raise the puck?
- Is the puck shot with some velocity?
- Does the puck sit flat in the air or does it wobble?
- Can the player execute a one-time shot?
- Is the player accurate when shooting?

Hockey Sense: Ability to see the play developing, instinctively makes hockey plays both offensively and defensively, moves to support puck, has good judgment, is able to anticipate and is disciplined.

- Does the player seem to understand where he/she are to play on the ice?
- Do they support the puck in defensive and offensive situations?
- Does the player show patience, or do they tend to panic when pressured?
- Do they protect the mid lane and force opposing players inside out?

- Can the player angle another player off of the puck?
- Does the player force the play or do they wait too long?

Goalies:

- Evaluated on the following skills:
- Glove and stick saves
- Positioning
- Hockey Sense
- Coachability

List of Attachments:

1. Coach/Evaluator Assignments
2. Player Registration
3. Player Evaluation Form
4. Coaches Evaluation Form



Coach /Evaluator Assignments

Evaluation Committee	
NVHA President	
NVHA Vice President	
NVHA Coach in Chief	
SME (Selected by NVHA Board)	
SME (Selected by NVHA Board)	
NVHA Secretary	
8U	
On Ice Coach	
On Ice Coach	
Evaluator	
Evaluator	
Evaluator / On Ice Evaluator (if needed)	
Greeter / Eval Registration	
10U	
On Ice Coach	
On Ice Coach	
Evaluator	
Evaluator	
Evaluator / On Ice Evaluator (if needed)	
Greeter / Eval Registration	
12U	
On Ice Coach	
On Ice Coach	
Evaluator	
Evaluator	
Evaluator / On Ice Evaluator (if needed)	
Greeter / Eval Registration	
14U	
On Ice Coach	
On Ice Coach	
Evaluator	
Evaluator	
Evaluator / On Ice Evaluator (if needed)	
Greeter / Eval Registration	



NVHA Player Registration Document

U8/U10/U12/U14 Evaluation

[illegible]



U8 / U10 / U12 / U14 Evaluation

[illegible]



NVHA Coaches Evaluation Document

U8 Gold / U8 Black / U10 Black / U12 Black / U14 Gold / U14 Black

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