

Updated May 2021

Aberdeen Cougars Player Placement Process

Goal: To place each player in the level/team that they can best find success, enjoy the game of hockey, improve their hockey skills and game knowledge.

1. Evaluation Process:

Each player with exception of Mites will be evaluated by a combination of:

1. Level appropriate Skill Testing
2. Coaching staff evaluation during pre-selection practices.
3. Scrimmages/In-house games

2. Percentage and weight of evaluation process:

	Skills Testing	Coaches' Evaluations
Mites	100%	0%
Squirts	50%	50%
Peewees	40%	60%
Bantams	30%	70%
Varsity	20%	80%

3. What is being evaluated and when?

A. Skills

- a. The skills testing will be entered into an Excel document that will generate a ranking from the #1 ranked skill player to the last ranked skill player.
- b. The skills testing will look much like an ADM practice plan, with small groups of player moving from skill station to skill station.
- c. Coaches should remain at one station the entire practice. Each group will have a paper copy for coaches to record skills on.
- d. The skill testing will happen two times and not on the same night.
- e. The best score a player earns is what will be entered into the skill ranking formula.

B. Scrimmages

- a. Coaches and evaluators need to be watching for during scrimmages:
 - i. Player movement without the puck
 - ii. Player movement with the puck
 - iii. Player ability to read the play and move to open ice
 - iv. Character qualities
- b. The final scrimmage prior to finalizing rosters should be observed by 3-4 evaluators. The evaluators will be instructed to evaluate all skaters with emphasis on the "bubble" players.
- c. The pool of evaluators will be approved by HDC. Guardians may not evaluate their own player. The head coach will be responsible for scheduling the evaluators from the provided pool.
- d. After each scrimmage, the coaching staff will take the time to rank skaters from 1-X on each team that played. All goalies that play will also be ranked 1-X. This ranking will be kept as a record and used for referral when teams are set.
- e. The coaching staff will determine when to match players and teams to best evaluate and test each player's abilities.

C. Character

- a. From the time the player enters the facility until they leave, the player will be under the evaluation process.
- b. The player will be evaluated not only on hockey skills & hockey sense, but also on coachability, attitude toward coaches, teammates, leadership qualities, effort & unselfish play. These character qualities will be evaluated on and off the ice.
- c. Players, guardians and coaches must know they represent the Aberdeen Cougars at all times. Team chemistry is an important component beginning at the younger levels and becomes more important as players age. Aberdeen Hockey wants to help young boys and girls grow into leaders both on and off the ice.

4.Final Rosters:

- a. The coaching staff at each level will have the final say in placing each player on the appropriate team.
- b. The coaching staff will need to use the above skill testing, ranking and the players "intangibles" to determine best placement.
- c. All rosters will be submitted to the supervisor within HDC for review. If a player is placed on a team that contradicts the skill and game ratings the coach shall explain the reasoning for the placement.
- d. When the tryout is finished, coaches will notify players as to what team they have earned a roster spot on. Rankings and notes from other evaluators will NOT be shared directly with the player or guardian/s.
- e. Guardians who have questions regarding their player's team placement will be allowed to meet with the coach and HDC member. The purpose of this meeting will not change the roster spot, but will add clarity to a guardian's questions.

5.Play-Up Consideration:

- a. Only requests submitted in writing by the participant's parents or legal guardians will be considered. This request must be submitted to HDC Development Director at least 14 days prior to the first day of Try-Outs.
- b. A Committee of the coaches of both respective levels and the HDC Development Director will evaluate each request. Criteria for allowing a player to play-up will be based on the evaluation of the player's skill and ability to contribute to the older team, the player's emotional and physical maturity level compared to the older team's players, physical size and number of players at each level. The play-up player must be projected to be a dominant player on the older team. If the player is not projected to be a dominant player on the older team, then it is highly questionable whether playing up is truly in the best interest of that player or the team.

Allowing players to play-up from a non-checking division to a checking division represents the greatest risk and will therefore receive additional scrutiny.

The Committee decision is final.