

U9 Player Evaluations – WHAT TO EXPECT

Evaluations take place at the start of each season with the intent to group players by skill level. This method of evaluations varies across associations; at Chebucto we base our evaluations on Hockey Canada's [National Skills Standards and Testing \(NSST\)](#) followed by other assessments, if necessary for certain players. This secondary assessment is to better refine groupings to ensure proper placement. Players required to attend the secondary assessment will be notified separately. It is important that all players attend the NSST evaluations unless they choose to 'Opt Out', in which case they will automatically be placed in the Developmental grouping or, if 2nd year, in the same grouping as their 1st year of U9; opting out is recommended for brand new players.

On arrival each player will be checked in at the door and assigned a number. They will perform 2-4 drills/stations, a number of times (approximately 3 times). Chebucto's Technical Director and other evaluators (not associated with any U9 player) are responsible for evaluating each drill for all groups to ensure consistency in the evaluation of that drill. Only designated parent on ice coaches will be permitted on the ice during evaluations and their role is to assist with lineups and ensure drills run smoothly. They will not be evaluating or involved in that process at all.

Assuming there are enough volunteers; spectators are allowed in the rink during evaluations, but must be in the stands, no one is permitted to stand at glass level during evaluation sessions.

Please remember that players are placed on teams with other players at the same skill level. First year U9 players will be evaluated with second year U9 players. Second year U9 players are a whole year older and usually have one more year of hockey under their belt. At this age, this usually results in them being just a little bit stronger and faster with more developed skills.

- Advancing teams have historically been majority second year U9 players.
- Intermediate has historically been less weighted between second and first year players.
- Developmental teams are majority first year U9 players or players new to hockey.

According to Hockey Nova Scotia Rules and Regulations:

Under no circumstances shall Minor Hockey Associations "cut" or release players from levels or teams. Minor Hockey Associations must carefully consider all aspects of the player's skill, ability, social maturity, physical maturity, capability to compete successfully, and any other factor prior to advancing a player to the next level so as to ensure that the player continues to develop and have fun and thereby eliminating any need to release the player back to a lower level. All movement of the player within the U9 program shall be progressive.

Goalies are also evaluated and placed accordingly. Goalie evaluations are separate and will be communicated to those who indicated goalie positioning at registration. This pertains to nonrotating goalies. Players who would like to try goalie, or rotate as goalie should participate in player evaluations to ensure proper placement and then can rotate goalie within their assigned team, once assigned.