



2024/25 VALLEY WILD EVALUATION POLICY

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INTRODUCTION

Valley Wild strives to have a consistent, fair, and transparent evaluation. We understand that this is a stressful time for everyone involved and will try our best to keep families informed.

OVERVIEW

The on-ice evaluation process will be organized by the Valley Wild Evaluation Committee. Non-biased evaluators will be on site to assess all athletes. Scores will be tabulated for each player to provide an overall ranking. This ranking will be used in part to create teams at each level.

EVALUATOR GUIDELINES

1. **Data Integrity:** Evaluators must ensure the integrity and consistency of data throughout the evaluation process.
2. **Software Usage:** GrayJay evaluation software will be used by evaluators to record player scores.
3. **Interaction Restrictions:** Evaluators should not interact with parents or players before, during, or after the evaluation session.
4. **Evaluator Presence:** Each session will have at least four (4) evaluators who will stay for the entire session.
5. **Confidentiality:** All player ratings and scores are confidential within the Evaluation Team and will not be disclosed.
6. **Observation and Assessment:** Evaluators will observe and assess players' skills and performance during the on-ice sessions.
7. **Anonymity and Objectivity:** Evaluators will not know players' names, share opinions, or see other evaluators' scores. Major discrepancies between evaluators are rare but will be investigated. In extreme cases where an evaluator has scored someone significantly different than the other evaluators this score may be discounted if determined as necessary by the Evaluation Committee.

PLAYER AND PARENT GUIDELINES

1. **Position Declaration:** Players in the U13/U15/U18 categories must declare their position before evaluations. Valley Wild may meet with players and their families after the initial session to discuss a potential position change.
2. **Position Change Requests:** Parents cannot request a position change once evaluations have started.



3. **Identifying Gear:** Players are not allowed to wear identifying socks, pant shells, gloves, or helmets. Acceptable colors are Valley Wild colors, white, or black. Players wearing other gear will be asked to leave the session.
4. **Registration and Jerseys:** Players must register upon arrival at each session and will be assigned a pinnie/jersey, which must be returned at the end of the session.
5. **Evaluator Interaction:** Parents and players are not permitted to engage with evaluators or ask them questions before, during, or after evaluation sessions.
6. **Score Confidentiality:** Scores/ranks will not be released to members or parents.
7. **Contacting Evaluation Team:** Parents are not allowed to contact members of the Evaluation Team or the Board regarding evaluations. All inquiries should be directed to the evaluations committee via email at evaluations@valleywildhockey.ca
8. **Respectful Behavior:** Players and parents must show respect to all participants, evaluators, Valley Wild Board Members, and volunteers. Bullying or disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated.
9. **Viewing Policy:** Parents are not allowed on the bench or to stand around the glass during evaluations. Viewing is only permitted from the stands. This policy will be monitored to ensure players can perform independently without distraction.
10. **Restricted Areas:** During evaluations, parents, siblings, guardians, friends, or other interested parties are not allowed in the following areas without special permission:
 - In the dressing room
 - Outside the dressing room door
 - Near evaluators during sessions
11. **Dressing Room Monitors:** Only females are allowed in the dressing rooms as monitors. No males are permitted at any time. Dressing Room Monitors can assist if a player needs help with gear.
12. **Team Placements:** Players and parents should not assume team placements based on current groupings. Final placements are made after the last session, considering all collected data, observations, and feedback.
13. **Out of Association Players:** Players from other Female Hockey Associations may evaluate with Valley Wild based on decisions or directives from HNS's Female Council, considering team availability in the area. Out of Association players will not displace Valley Wild players from the organization.



14. Hockey Nova Scotia Regulations: According to HNS Regulations (Document #F2.21):

1.0 Regulation: Female players choosing to play female hockey must attend the female tryout process from the beginning and will not be permitted to be part of both a minor tryout process and female tryout process at the same time. Exception U18 AAA Major - Female players who try out for U18 AAA Major Female will be permitted to be part of the Association female tryout process.

EVALUATION PROCESS

For the 2024-25 season. U11 will be evaluated primarily on individual skills. U13/U15 will focus more effort on Hockey IQ and in game compete levels. Low registration numbers in U18 negate the need for evaluations this season.

OPTIONAL UNEVALUATED PRE-SKATE

U11 / U13 / U15 - SKILLS AND BATTLE (UNEVALUATED)

The pre-skate is not evaluated, and attendance is optional. This session will serve as practice prior to evaluated sessions. Drills that will be evaluated during the remaining session(s) will be introduced and everyone will be given a chance to become comfortable with process. Evaluators may be on site during the unevaluated sessions to test software, check-in processes, evaluation approach and for calibration by the lead evaluators. No scores will be counted.

EVALUATED SESSION 1

U11 / U13 / U15 - SKILLS AND BATTLE

All players will participate in a skills and battle evaluation session. Players will be scored on all drills completed in the session. U13/U15 Drills will be posted in the evaluation section of the website. Players will be scored in skating, puck control, compete level, decision-making, second efforts and creativity displayed for all drills.

EVALUATED SESSION 2

U11 - SKILLS AND BATTLE

All players will participate in a skills and battle evaluation session. Players will be scored on all drills completed in the session. U11 drills will be posted in the evaluation section of the website. Players will be scored in skating, puck control, compete level, decision-making, second efforts and creativity displayed for all drills.



U13 / U15 - INTER-SQUAD

Based on evaluation scores from session 1, equal teams will be created from the ranked full player pool (1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-7, ...). Goalies will be rotated, and each given the same amount of playing time on each team. Players will be evaluated on positional play, compete level, skating, backcheck, forecheck, passing, and hockey IQ with and without puck.

EVALUATED SESSION 3

U11 - INTER-SQUAD

Based on evaluation scores from session 2, equal teams will be created from the ranked full player pool (1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-7, ...). Goalies will be rotated, and each given the same amount of playing time on each team. Players will be evaluated on positional play, compete level, skating, backcheck, forecheck, passing, and hockey IQ with and without puck.

U13/U15 - INTER-SQUAD

For the second inter-squad game, the top players from the previous 2 evaluated sessions will sit out. This will give other players an opportunity to showcase talent that may have been missed in the first inter-squad game and allow evaluators to better assess the middle 50% of the population. The total number of skaters to be removed from this session will be based on total number of participants, scores to date, and how many players are required to have a proper inter-squad game.

Players will be evaluated on positional play, compete level, skating, backcheck, forecheck, passing, and hockey IQ with and without puck.

The First round of cuts will be made after this session. Players who have been placed on the respective A teams will be notified Sept 28th afternoon.

EVALUATED SESSION 4 (U13 / U15 ONLY)

U13/U15 – EXHIBITION GAME

Exhibition Games will be played against either Metro West Force or Metro East Inferno. The exhibition game rosters will be expanded to include the top 17 skaters and up to 3 goaltenders. The primary aim is to closely evaluate skaters ranked 14 to 17 and, if necessary, the second and third goaltenders. Bench staff will manage ice time and positions to showcase specific gameplay attributes for evaluators, which means ice time may not be evenly distributed, and your player might play in a different position. Players will be assessed on positional play, compete level, skating, backcheck, forecheck, passing, hockey IQ with and without the puck, team play, and flexibility.



ASSESSMENT ABSENTEEISM

To ensure a fair and thorough evaluation of all players during the evaluation process, **it is expected that players attend all evaluated sessions**. If a player is unable to attend any session(s), a parent or guardian must inform the Evaluation Committee (evaluations@valleywildhockey.ca) as soon as possible. Approval from the Evaluation Committee is required for a player being considered for a top-level team to miss an evaluated session. Failure to notify may result in the player receiving a score of zero for the missed session(s).

However, it is recognized that there are valid reasons that may prevent players from attending one or more evaluation sessions. The Evaluation Committee has established guidelines for these situations:

SICKNESS OR INJURY

If a player becomes sick or injured after attending one or more sessions, they will be ranked based on the sessions they attended, and their score will be pro-rated for the missed sessions.

If a player is excused from all evaluations due to sickness or injury, a note from the player's family Physician/Nurse Practitioner or an attending Physician is required by the Evaluation Committee.

COMPASSIONATE REASONS

In addition to sickness or injury, players may miss evaluations for other reasons, such as:

- Family tragedy
- Religious holidays

COMPETING SPORTS

Valley Wild promotes multisport athletics; however, given the limited size of our organization, we require the full commitment of our players during the hockey season (late September – early April). Absenteeism during evaluations to attend another sporting event will not be approved by the Evaluation Committee, as it would create an unfair environment for the rest of the participants.

An exception may be considered for players competing at a provincial level or higher, but this must be approved by the Evaluation Committee in advance.



PLACEMENT WITH APPROVED ABSENTEEISM

If a player is excused from the evaluation process (in full or partially) as outlined above, the Evaluation Committee may consider the following to determine the player's ranking and eventual placement:

- The team the player was on last year.
- The player's development over the past year.
- The player's performance at the end of the last year relative to others.
- Discussions with previous coaches regarding other qualitative factors.

TEAM FORMATION

Players will be ranked based on their aggregate scores from the evaluation sessions. The top 13 ranked players are automatically awarded places on the highest-level team. The coaching staff has the final say on the last 2 players. They are permitted to select from players ranked 14, 15, 16, 17. Movement / selection outside these guidelines would be considered exceptional and require consultation with the board.

EVALUATION RESULTS

Numerical scores from the evaluation process will not be shared with players or families under any circumstances. Evaluations are not intended as a feedback mechanism. While the outcomes of evaluations can be hard to accept, focusing on future opportunities rather than the evaluation process can help maintain your player's love for the game. Even if your daughter was the last cut from a AAA team, she could take on a leadership role on an A or AA team and build confidence with the puck. It might be the best year of hockey she has ever had. Our goal is to foster a lifelong love for the game, so don't let evaluation results overshadow the reasons we play team sports.

FINAL ROSTERS

Before the results are publicly posted, each player will receive an email with their team assignment. Final rosters will be posted on valleywildhockey.ca

APPEAL PROCESS

There will be NO appeals of the evaluation results.