



2026/27 VALLEY WILD EVALUATION POLICY

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INTRODUCTION

Valley Wild strives to have a consistent, fair, and transparent evaluation. We understand that this can be a stressful time and will try our best to keep families informed. This document outlines Valley Wild's application of the "[Standardized Evaluation Guidelines](#)" document (referred to as HNSFC Guideline) available on our website ([2026/27 Evaluations](#))

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.

2026/27 EVALUATION DETAILS

Registration Deadline: September 18, 2026

Evaluation Format:

- U11: 2 x optional pre-skates, 2 x skills, Intrasquad (3 min, 5 max)
- U13: 2 x optional pre-skates, skills, 2 x Intrasquad, exhibition/equalizer (3 min, 6 max)
- U15: 2 x optional pre-skates, skills, 2 x Intrasquad, exhibition/equalizer (3 min, 6 max)
- U18: No evaluations for 2026/27

Key Contacts:

- Evaluation Chair: Cindy-Jo Reid
- President: Matt Burns
- Regional Director: Tim Clayton

Anticipated Teams:

- U7: Learn to Play
- U9: Dev
- U11: C, A
- U13: 2 x A, AAA
- U15: AA, AAA
- U18: AA



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. Scoring will be based on the rubric in Appendix A of the HNSFC Guideline
3. **Interaction Restrictions:** Evaluators should not interact with parents or players before, during, or after the evaluation session.
4. **Evaluator Presence:** Each session will include a minimum of three (3) evaluators and one (1) goaltender evaluator, all of whom must be present from the beginning of the session until the players leave the ice. Each evaluator will assess all players, while goaltender evaluators will specifically assess all goalies.
5. **Confidentiality:** All player ratings and scores are confidential within the evaluation committee 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.
8. **Conflict of Interest:** The evaluation committee will ensure that players are not evaluated by relatives. Where possible non-parent, non-association evaluators will be used. If parent/coach evaluators must be utilized, they will not be assessing players that they have previously coached. Evaluators are required to disclose any potential conflicts to the evaluation committee.

PLAYER AND PARENT GUIDELINES

This section has been replaced by "Player and Caregiver Guidelines" section of the HNSFC Guideline.



EVALUATION PROCESS

For the 2026-27 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. If this changes the policy will be updated to reflect the change.

Level	Pre-Skate / Development	Skill Sessions	Intrasquad Sessions	Exhibition / Equalizer	Total Ice Sessions
U11	2	2	1	0	3-5
U13	2	1	2	1	3-6
U15	2	1	2	1	3-6
U18	0	0	0	0	0-0

OPTIONAL UNEVALUATED PRE-SKATE / OPTIONAL PRE-SEASON DEVELOPMENT

U11 / U13 / U15 - UNEVALUATED

The pre-skate/development is not evaluated, and attendance is optional. U13/U15/U18 unevaluated pre-skate will not introduce the athletes to drills used during evaluations. The U11 unevaluated pre-skate will offer a chance for players new to the evaluation process to learn the drills that they will perform during the U11 evaluation.

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. Players will be scored on skating, puck control, passing, shooting. Drills will be posted on our website if players wish to review them in advance of the evaluation.

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 on skating, puck control, passing, shooting



U13 / U15 - INTRASQUAD

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 skating, puck control, passing, shooting, positional play. In addition, the U15/18s will be evaluated on checking (emphasis on stick checks, angling, and responsible body contact).

EVALUATED SESSION 3

U11 - INTRASQUAD

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 skating, puck control, passing, shooting, positional play. **Due to the newness of full ice hockey for some of our U11 players, we will change lines with a buzzer at fixed intervals.** This allows all the players an equal chance to be evaluated

U13 / U15 – INTRASQUAD

Based on evaluation scores from session 1 and 2, groups A and B will be repopulated. Each group will be split evenly into 2 teams and play in an intrasquad game. If there are less than 10 players per team, skaters from group A will be chosen at random to participate in the Group B game. They will not be scored during their second game.

The full field will participate in the intrasquad, no players will be “parked”

The first round of cuts will be made after this session. Players who have been placed on the respective A/AA teams will be notified via e-mail on the afternoon of September 26th. Rosters for Sunday’s game will be posted on the website 60 min after the emails have been sent.



GOALTENDERS

U13 / U15 – SKILLS, INTRASQUAD

Goaltenders will participate in both groups A and B for evaluated sessions 1-3.

At the start of the skills sessions, there will be two separate 12-minute windows for goalie warm-ups and crease movement evaluations. Specific drills and patterns will be posted on the website for review before the session. Goalies will be evaluated on criteria outlined in the HNSFC guideline (Skating Skills, Positional Movement Skills, Save Movement Skills, Rebound Control Skills, Transitional Play Skills).

After the first three sessions, the evaluation committee will review the results to determine which goalies will move on to the intrasquad / equalizer game. The committee will consider the number of goalies being evaluated and the number of teams being formed. Depending on these results, some goaltenders may be released to A/AA teams.

A minimum of two and a maximum of three goaltenders will participate in the intrasquad / equalizer game. Goaltenders selected for the game will be notified by email on the afternoon of September 26th, before the exhibition game rosters are posted on the website.

EVALUATED SESSION 4 (U13 / U15 ONLY)

U13 / U15 – INTRASQUAD / EQUALIZER

The Intrasquad / equalizer game rosters will be shortened to include the top 20 skaters and up to 3 goaltenders. The primary aim is to closely evaluate skaters ranked 14 to 20 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 (defence moving to forward, center moving to wing, etc.).

EVALUATION ABSENTEEISM

The “Absenteeism” section of the HNSFC Guideline replaces most of this section.

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).

In addition to the HNSFC Guidelines, Valley Wild will also consider absence for compassionate reasons and certain competing sports.



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.

PLAYER MOVEMENT (IN/OUT OF ASSOCIATION)

This section has been replaced by "Player Movement Process" in HNSFC Guideline.

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, and the coaching staff will select the last two players. They are permitted to select from players ranked 14,15,16,17. If the evaluation committee defines a non-standard roster size (13,14,16,17, etc), the coach will be permitted to select the last 2 players from the next 4 in line. 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. 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

Replaced by HNSFC Guideline "Appeal/Complaint Process"