

WESTERN VALLEY MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Hockey Operations Assessment Policy 2026/2027

Western Valley Minor Hockey Association (WVMHA) Objectives

It is difficult to satisfy the expectations of all stakeholders in the Assessment process. Assessment, by its very nature, is subjective because it is based upon the opinions of those evaluating. The intention of WVMHA is to bring as much quality, consistency, fairness and transparency to the process as reasonably possible.

WVMHA shall strive to meet the following outcomes when conducting player Assessments:

- To create an environment where each player has an opportunity to be selected for the level appropriate to their skill, maturity and ability where they may continue to grow and develop as a player;
- To establish an Assessment and selection process that provides consistent and comprehensive Assessment based upon the demonstrated skills and ability of each player;
- To ensure that all players and parents understand the expectations upon which players will be evaluated;
- To ensure all evaluators are objective, unbiased, free of conflict of interest, and approved by the WVMHA Executive Committee; and
- To provide ongoing review and improvement of the player Assessment and team selection process, ensuring that the process continues to meet the demands placed upon the Association.

In order to meet these objectives, WVMHA empowers the Hockey Operations Committee (HOC) to use this policy in evaluating players and selecting WVMHA Competitive Hockey teams.

Unable To Attend Assessments

The success of WVMHA's annual Assessment process is based upon the premise that independent evaluators are able to observe and fully evaluate all participating players during the various stages of the process. This is necessary to enable evaluators to suitably rate each player. Any player who wants to have an opportunity to be part of a WVMHA Competitive team must attend Assessments. A player registered for contact assessments (U15 A, AA, U18 A) must remain in the process if moved to the assessment for non-contact competitive teams (U15 B, U18 B) so the ice times are not disrupted.

This is a competitive process; therefore, players who want the opportunity to play on one of the WVMHA competitive teams MUST be evaluated. This is to ensure transparency of the process and minimize disappointment on the part of another player who potentially may get displaced. It is difficult to promote a player to a higher level when they are unable to display the skills against other players at that level.

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Unable To Attend Assessments Continued...

As players grow and develop at varying rates, it is not unusual to see changes in a players ability over the course of the summer or from season to season. For this reason, it is very important to have the opportunity to compare players in a common forum to ensure the HOC place each at the most appropriate level. For this reason, the expectation is that all players will attend all Assessment sessions.

WVMHA also understands that from time to time, there are valid circumstances that preclude participants from attending, including but not limited to: sickness, injury, family tragedy and commitments, summer sporting conflicts, etc.

If a player is unable to attend a part or all of the Assessment process and wishes to be considered for placement on a WVMHA competitive team, the following process will be enforced;

- They must communicate their intention in writing to the HOC chair about which sessions they will be available to attend and which sessions they cannot attend because of scheduling conflicts. This can be done through the WVMHA E-mail address.
- In all cases, it is critical that the parent notify the HOC chair as soon as they become aware that the player will be absent and when the player is expected to return. Failing this may have an adverse impact upon the players overall Assessment.
- It is also important to note that while WVMHA will make every effort to properly evaluate players who encounter these situations, there are significant challenges associated with evaluating and ranking players who are absent and, as such, every effort should be made to attend sessions.
- The player shall be scored for the sessions in which they participate.
- The HOC committee will evaluate and score players that missed using as much info as possible this may include reaching out to previous coaches, scores from the previous season, and any other pertinent information the HOC finds available.
- From this additional information the Competitive Rep and HOC committee will decide where to place the player. HOC decisions are final if a player is unable to attend evaluations.
- In cases where injuries eliminate participation for a lengthy period and if a player has been assigned to a specific level based upon the ranking of the independent evaluators, a roster spot will be held open until such time that player is able to return.
- Final player placement will be decided by the HOC. If the players absence is deemed valid, the player will be evaluated as per policy.

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Selection Process

WVMHA competitive teams are selected by position; in other words, each player will be expected to provide the position they wish to try out for on a team. This can be Forward, Defense or Goaltender. The Assessment Process will determine the top 9 forward, 6 defense and 2 Goaltender for the competitive teams.

Ideally the HOC recommends that a Head Coach will take the top 9 forwards, 6 defense and 2 goaltenders as evaluated. However, it will be their option to pick one forward, one defense and 1 goaltender to fill their roster. These coaches' choices will follow the following stipulations

- If scores don't warrant the use of coaches' selections HOC committee may not allow any. If scores are close the following applies.
- The Head Coach will have the option to pick 1 player to complete their forward roster. These players must fall in the evaluated ranks from 10th spot to the 12th spot.
- The Head Coach will have the option to pick 1 player to complete their defense roster. These players must fall in the evaluated ranks from 7th spot to the 8th spot.
- The Head Coach will have the option to pick 1 goaltender. This goaltender must fall in the evaluated ranks from 3rd spot.

All coaches' selections will be approved by the HOC. Should HOC determine there are not enough qualified players for forward, defense or goalie on a team they reserve the right to offer a spot on the team to a player who registered under a different position should the evaluation scores deem that player qualified.

HOC reserves the right to make smaller teams based on the numbers, skill and make-up of the group. In this event the team will be given the option of either additional fundraising or less ice times to make the difference of the team fees collected.

Due to the timing of outside tryouts, teams will not be announced until HOC determines it is best to do so. An update will be given to each Age Group during the Assessment process on when they can expect to be notified. Once HOC determines it is time to release the team rosters, players (parents) will be contacted and advised on which team they have been placed.

At this time, the HOC or Competitive Rep will contact the Head Coach. At this time players must either commit to the team or decline and return to the C program. Players/Parents must be prepared for any outcome; there will be no time to "think it over" as this delays the process.

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Evaluators/On Ice Volunteers

WVMHA uses third party evaluators who have extensive knowledge in grading hockey skills and ability. To ensure evaluators are unbiased, Evaluators shall not evaluate immediate family members or players the HOC deem to be a conflict of interest. On ice staff whenever possible will not be on the ice with immediate family members and players that HOC deem to be in a conflict. All Evaluators/On-ice personnel will be approved by the HOC.

Parents/Players

Show up 45 minutes prior to the start of each ice session. Players/Parents are to sign in and register with the HOC. The player will receive a pinnie at this time. After each ice session players must return their pinnie to the HOC.

Players are being assessed on all facets of hockey, including but not limited too: skating, shooting, passing, hockey IQ, positioning, compete etc. Dangerous players will be removed from the process. This encompasses players that are dangerous to others or to themselves. Players are evaluated by position so play the position you have registered to play at.

Watch the website often as we cannot guarantee that there will be no changes to ice times and/or groupings, we try to contact everyone but cannot guarantee it. If you have any questions at all about the process, or WVMHA teams please contact the HOC or the Competitive Rep.

On Ice Process

The make-up of the Assessment ice times will be determined based on the number of players registered and the age level. Evaluators will be looking at:

- Skill session(s) - players evaluated on skating, game situational skill, passing, puck handling and shooting;
- Scrimmage session(s) - players evaluated on positional play, team play, situational ability, intangibles and contact - if applicable
- Goaltenders will be evaluated on Mobility, Quickness, Low shots, High shots, Position, Angles and concentration.

Scrimmage sessions will be refereed by qualified referees. Benches will be supervised by nonparent personnel.

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General Information for Parents

When questions arise, the first point of contact for all questions should be the Competitive Rep or the HOC. The WVMHA is a large and very competitive association; therefore, it is imperative you prepare for all possible outcomes. Building unrealistic expectations prior to the process can have devastating effects and spoil what could be a positive year for the player.

No complaints will be accepted until 24 hours has passed. Should you contact WVMHA regarding placement of your child within the 24-hour period, your inquiry will not be heard. If the Competitive Rep feels the matter needs further review, they will then consult with the Hockey Operations Chair and the Development Coordinator. In extreme cases, the matter may be referred to other members of the WVMHA Executive for a final decision. Harassing or threatening calls/e-mails will not be tolerated. They will be reported to the WVMHA disciplinary committee and action will be taken immediately (including possible ejection). Lots of hours have been dedicated by the volunteers to provide a fair process to choose the WVMHA teams.

It is the player's responsibility to check the website for their next try out scheduled session. All information will be posted on the website in an attempt to provide all players with at least 24 hours advanced notice of their next ice session. Families should familiarize themselves with the process and the various aspects that their child will be involved in. Gaining a sound understanding of the overall process will answer most questions.

Be supportive of and encourage the player throughout the process. This assists the child in maintaining confidence about their efforts. Stress and anxiety may lead to poor performance so encourage a fun and relaxed approach. At the end of assessments, regardless of what team your child plays for, be sure to let them know that they did their best and that they should be proud of themselves.