

Devon Minor Hockey Association

Goaltender Evaluation Process for U11 & U13 Divisions

In our continuous pursuit of player development and fostering a competitive environment within the U11 & U13 division, Devon Minor Hockey Association has established a structured Goaltender Evaluation and Team Placement Process for the U11 & U13 divisions. This process aims to effectively assess and develop goaltending talent while ensuring fair team placements. Additionally, this process will also consider goaltenders who wish to play in positions other than goaltending. This process is being used by many organizations across Hockey Alberta and specifically for organizations within the Edmonton Federation Hockey League.

Objective

The primary objectives of this Goaltender Evaluation Process are to:

1. Create a comprehensive Evaluation Process that can be used for all U11 & U13 goaltenders moving forward.
2. Identify and assess the skills and potential of goaltenders and players wishing to play out in the U11 & U13 age group.
3. Facilitate equitable selection and placement of players on respective teams, including those who transition from goaltending to playing out.

Evaluation Process Overview

Pre-Evaluation Communication

Communicate the evaluation process details, schedule, and expectations to goaltenders, players wishing to transition to playing out, and their parents/guardians.

Each player at the U11 and U13 level need to declare, prior to evaluations, how they wish to be evaluated. The evaluation options are as follows:

1. **Dedicated Goaltender** – Goaltenders that wish to only play goal. By choosing this option, the player will be solely evaluated as a goaltender and will NOT need to participate in the position player evaluations.
 - i. Goaltender is solely choosing to play goal for the season.
 - ii. Goaltender will not be eligible to play as a position player for the season.
 - iii. This may mean that they split playing time with another goaltender. (Based on 2 goaltenders per team).
 - iv. Goaltender will be placed on team based on their goaltender evaluation score only.
2. **Hybrid Goaltender (Hockey Canada Recommended)** – Hybrid goaltenders are goaltenders that wish to play goal, but also play as a position player in games where they are not playing goal. By choosing this option, the player will be evaluated as both a goaltender and a position player and will need to attend both goaltender and position player evaluations.
 - i. Player can play both as both a goaltender and position player.

- ii. Player would play as a position player in games where they are not playing goal. (Based on 2 goaltenders per team)
 - iii. Player will be evaluated as both a goaltender and position player.
 - iv. Player will be placed on a team based on their lowest evaluation score.
3. **Position Player** – Player does not want to be a full-time goaltender. By choosing this option, the player will be solely evaluated as a position player and will not participate in the goaltender evaluations.
- i. Player is solely evaluating as position player.
 - ii. Even if the player may have some interest in playing goal, they would not be considered a full-time goaltender and would NOT evaluate as a goaltender.
 - o Any interest in playing goal should be brought up to the coaching/management staff once the team is formed.
 - o Coaches/managers should try and provide opportunities throughout the year for player to try goaltending during practices.
 - o Player should not take away playing time from full time goaltenders, without consent from the parents/player of the full-time goaltender and coaching staff evaluation.
 - iii. Player will be placed on a team based on their position player evaluation score only.

***Note: All full-time goaltenders on a team are to be provided equal playing time, as a goaltender, regardless of if they are a Dedicated or Hybrid goaltender. All goaltenders should be aware of this prior to making their declaration. (ie. If a team has 1 Dedicated goaltender and 1 Hybrid goaltender, games are to be split evenly. Game 1 – Dedicated goaltender plays goal, Game 2 – Hybrid goaltender plays goal, Game 3 – Dedicated goaltender plays goal, Game 4 – Hybrid goaltender plays goal, etc...)**

Evaluation Sessions

General Items

- o All evaluation sessions will be conducted by 3rd party evaluators.
- o Evaluation sessions will be led by experienced coaches and specialists.
- o Evaluation groups and process will be determined by the Evaluation Committee.

Generally, evaluations will consist of the following:

- o Evaluation pre-skates (Min. 5 sessions) – All dedicated goaltenders, hybrid goaltenders and position players are to attend, based on their assigned group.
- o Position player skill sessions (Min. 1 session) – All position players and hybrid goaltenders are to attend. Dedicated goaltenders do not attend this session.
- o Goaltender evaluation sessions (Min. 1 session) – Both dedicated and hybrid goaltenders are to attend. Position players do not attend this session.
- o Evaluation scrimmage games (Min. 2 games) – All dedicated goaltenders, hybrid goaltenders and position players are to attend, based on their assigned group.

Team Placement

The selection process will be monitored by the Evaluation and Selection Committee. The Evaluation and Selection Committee will consist of the Evaluation Coordinator plus a minimum of two or three individuals as selected by DMHA Executive.

The number of teams will depend on the number of registered players at each division and will be determined by the DMHA executive. Typically, DMHA will have 2 to 3 teams at the U11 & U13 divisions.

Position players will be placed on teams, as laid out in the DMHA Rules and Regulations.

Goaltender placement will be dependent on the number of registered goaltenders and the number of teams at each level. The ideal situation is to have two (2) full time goaltenders (dedicated and/or hybrid goaltenders) per team. However, this may not always be the case and the evaluation committee may make determinations for goaltender allotment per team, based on the evaluation scores. The following steps are to be used for placement of goaltenders on teams:

1. Goaltenders should be ranked based on their evaluation scores.
 - i. Dedicated goaltenders will be ranked based on their goaltending evaluation scores.
 - ii. Hybrid goaltenders will be ranked based on their lowest evaluation score.
2. Place dedicated goaltenders.
 - i. Try and place at least one full time goaltender per team to maximize playing time.
3. Place hybrid goaltenders once all dedicated goaltenders have been placed.
 - i. Try and place hybrid goaltenders on teams where there is at least one other goaltender to maximize playing time.

In all cases, if goaltenders are equal in ranking, the selected higher coach may have further input for placement. If the coach and evaluation committee cannot come to an agreement, the DMHA executive may step in to make a final decision.

Placement Scenarios (2 Teams)

Scenario 1 (Ideal) – 2 Teams, 4 Full Time Goaltenders (2 per team)

- Goaltenders ranked based on their evaluation scores.
 - o Goaltenders ranked 1 & 2, placed on Team 1.
 - o Goaltenders ranked 3 & 4, placed on Team 2.
- Note: If goaltenders 2 & 3 (or more) are equal in ranking, the selected higher coach may have further input for placement
- Does not matter if goaltenders are dedicated or hybrid.

Scenario 2 – 2 Teams, 2 Full Time Goaltenders (1 per team)

- Goaltenders ranked based on their evaluation scores.
 - o Goaltender ranked 1, placed on Team 1.

- Goaltender ranked 2, placed on Team 2.
- Note: If goaltenders 1 & 2 are equal in ranking, the selected higher coach may have further input for placement
- Does not matter if goaltenders are dedicated or hybrid.
 - In this scenario, any hybrid goaltenders may not have the ability to play as a position player, as often as they may like. Coaches should encourage position players to try goaltending, to try and allow any hybrid goaltender to play as a position player.

Scenario 3 – 2 Teams, 3 Full Time Goaltenders (2 on 1 team and 1 on the other team)

- In this scenario, dedicated and hybrid goaltenders need to be considered.

Scenario 3a – 2 Dedicated, 1 Hybrid Goaltender

- Goaltenders ranked based on their evaluation scores.
 - Dedicated goaltender ranked 1, placed on Team 1.
 - Dedicated goaltender ranked 2, placed on Team 2.
 - Hybrid Goaltender is placed on Team 1 or Team 2, based on their lowest evaluation score.
- Note: If hybrid goaltender ranking falls in the “coaches’ selection” ranking, then the coach will have the final decision in where this goaltender is placed.
- This scenario would allow the hybrid goaltender to play as a position player during games in which they do not play goal.

Scenario 3b – 1 Dedicated, 2 Hybrid Goaltenders

- Goaltenders ranked based on their evaluation scores.
 - If dedicated goaltender ranked 1, placed on Team 1. Both Hybrid goaltenders placed on Team 2.
 - If dedicated goaltender ranked 3, placed on Team 2. Both Hybrid goaltenders placed on Team 1.
 - If dedicated goaltender ranked 2, then goaltender placed on team, based on their evaluation score. Hybrid goaltender 1, placed on team 1. Hybrid goaltender 3, placed on team 3.
 - Note: If dedicated goaltender ranking falls in the “coaches’ selection” ranking, then the coach will have the final decision in where this goaltender is placed.
- This scenario would allow the hybrid goaltenders the best opportunity to play as a position player during games in which they do not play goal.

Scenario 3c – 3 Dedicated or 3 Hybrid Goaltenders

- Goaltenders ranked based on their evaluation scores.

- Goaltender ranked 1, placed on Team 1.
- Goaltender ranked 3, placed on Team 2.
- Goaltender ranked 2, placed on team, based on their evaluation score.
- Note: If goaltender 2 ranking falls in the “coaches’ selection” ranking, then the coach will have the final decision in where this goaltender is placed.
- Does not matter if goaltenders are dedicated or hybrid.

Scenario 4 – 2 Teams, 5 (or more) Full Time Goaltenders

- In this scenario, dedicated and hybrid goaltenders need to be considered.
- All attempts should be made to place goaltenders on teams that would allow them to play the most. However, in this scenario it may mean that dedicated goaltenders sit for 2 or more games.
- Scenarios below provide an outline for 5 goaltenders. If there are more than 5 full time goaltenders, then the evaluation committee and executive need to provide further direction.

Scenario 4a – 5 Dedicated Goaltenders

- Goaltenders ranked based on their evaluation scores.
 - Dedicated goaltenders ranked 1 & 2, placed on Team 1.
 - Dedicated goaltenders ranked 3, 4 & 5, placed on Team 2.
- This scenario would not be ideal for goaltenders on team 2, as only 2 of 3 goaltenders would be allowed to dress for each game and a rotation should be established. It would be recommended that goaltenders play half games to ensure no goaltender sits for more than 1 game.

Scenario 4b – 5 Hybrid Goaltenders

- Goaltenders ranked based on their evaluation scores.
 - Hybrid goaltenders ranked 1 & 2, placed on Team 1.
 - Hybrid goaltenders ranked 3, 4 & 5, placed on Team 2.
- This scenario would mean that goaltenders on team 2 play goal every 3rd game. However, the other 2 goaltenders would play as a position player when not playing goal.

Scenario 4c – 4 Dedicated Goaltenders, 1 Hybrid Goaltender

- Goaltenders ranked based on their evaluation scores.
 - Dedicated goaltenders ranked 1 & 2, placed on Team 1.
 - Dedicated goaltenders ranked 3 & 4, placed on Team 2.
 - Hybrid goaltender placed on team, based on their evaluation score.
- Note: if hybrid goaltender ranking falls in the “coaches’ selection” ranking, then the coach will have the final decision in where this goaltender is placed.

Scenario 4d – 1 Dedicated Goaltender, 4 Hybrid Goaltenders

- Goaltenders ranked based on their evaluation scores.
 - If dedicated goaltender ranked 1 or 2, placed on Team 1. Highest ranking hybrid goaltender placed on team 1. All other hybrid goalies placed on team 2
 - If dedicated goaltender ranked 4 or 5, placed on team 2. Hybrid goaltenders ranked 1, 2 & 3 placed on team 1. Lowest ranking hybrid goaltender placed on team 2.
 - If dedicated goaltender ranked 3, placed on team based on evaluation score. Hybrid goalies ranked 1 & 2 places on team 1. Hybrid goalies ranked 4 & 5 placed on team 2.
 - Note: If dedicated goaltender ranking falls in the “coaches’ selection” ranking, then the coach will have the final decision in where this goaltender is placed.
- In cases where dedicated goaltender ranks 1, 2, 4 or 5, this scenario places 3 hybrid goaltenders on 1 team to allow goaltenders not playing goal to sit for no more than 1 game.

Scenario 4e – 3 Dedicated Goaltenders, 2 Hybrid Goaltenders

- Goaltenders ranked based on their evaluation scores.
 - If 2 of the dedicated goaltenders rank 1 & 2, then they are placed on team 1. All other goaltenders are placed on team 2.
 - If 2 of the dedicated goaltenders are ranked 4 & 5, then they are placed on team 2. All other goaltenders placed on team 1.
 - If a dedicated goaltender is ranked 3, they are placed based on their evaluation score. Goaltenders ranked 1 & 2, placed on team 1. Goaltenders ranked 4 & 5, placed on team 2.
 - Note: If dedicated goaltender ranked 3 falls in the “coaches’ selection” ranking, then the coach will have the final decision in where this goaltender is placed.
- In all cases, other than where a dedicated goaltender is ranked 3, this ensures that the hybrid goaltenders play on the same team to ensure that only 1 dedicated goaltender sits for 2 games.
- In the case where a dedicated goaltender is ranked 3, 2 dedicated goaltenders will end up on the same team.
- It would be recommended that goaltenders on 3 goaltender teams, play half games to ensure no goaltender sits for more than 1 game.

Scenario 4f – 2 Dedicated Goaltenders, 3 Hybrid Goaltenders

- Goaltenders ranked based on their evaluation scores.

- Goaltenders ranked 1 & 2 are placed on team 1. Goaltenders ranked 4 & 5 are placed on team 2.
 - If goaltender ranked 3 is a dedicated goaltender, they are placed on the opposite team of the other dedicated goaltender.
 - If goaltender ranked 3 is a hybrid goaltender, they are placed based on the following:
 - If there are two dedicated goaltenders on the same team, they are placed on the opposite team.
 - If there is one dedicated goaltender on each team, they are placed, based on their evaluation score.
 - In all cases this ensures that no team with 3 goalies has more than 1 dedicated goaltender and only 1 dedicated goaltender would sit out more than 1 game.
 - It would be recommended that goaltenders on 3 goaltender teams, play half games to ensure no goaltender sits for more than 1 game.

Conclusion

Introducing a structured Goaltender Evaluation Process that also welcomes players wishing to transition to playing out at the U11 & U13 level aligns with our commitment to holistic player development. This process also aligns with both Hockey Alberta and Hockey Canada development guidelines. By embracing this inclusive approach, we aim to foster well-rounded athletes and enhance the competitiveness of our teams.