



NORTHWEST WARRIORS
WESTWOOD - CROWCHILD JOINT
HOCKEY PROGRAM
Welcome Letter



Welcome to the Northwest Warriors 2013 Evaluation Season! Over the past several months a number of your association volunteers have worked endlessly to consolidate the best evaluation practices of both Westwood Hockey Association (WHA) and Crowchild Hockey Association (CHA) while always keeping the players in mind. This letter is intended to give members a brief summary of the compilation of these practices.

Key areas covered include:

- Evaluation Criteria
- Player/Goalie Movement Process
- Coach's Pick
- Coach Selection Process
- Team Approval Committee
- Grievance Process
- Special Note: Number of teams, and the 'team number'

Player Evaluation Criteria (Skills Rubric) - New to WHA members, is the skills rubric evaluation criteria which will be used to assess your child's scrimmage performance. The skills rubric focuses on 5 key skill areas: skating skills, defensive skills, offensive skills, puck handling skills, and overall hockey sense. All age groups from Novice to Midget will be assessed using this criteria, with slight variations between the **Junior Age Groups** (Novice and Atom), and the **Senior Age Groups** (Pee Wee, Bantam and Midget).

Movement Process - New to the CHA members is the player/goalie movement process. Initial seeding of players will be based on the 'division' in which each player played in the 2012/13 season.

The Junior Age Groups will start with a technical/skills skate to then rank them from 1- X and place players in groupings for scrimmages. Senior Age Groups will be placed into initial scrimmage groupings based on the 'division' they played in the 2012/13 season.

Once in the scrimmage groupings, players will be assessed using the above noted skills rubric. The player results for each skate will result in a ranking (from 1 to X), with this ranking being specific to forward or defense for the senior divisions. The first two skates are intended to get players into groups of like skilled players, with the last two skates used to fine tune the players' placement into the final team placements.

Coach's Pick - The fifth and final game for Atom and up will be a coach's pick game. The purpose of this game is used for the selected Head Coaches to pick the final three players for their roster from a group of approximately 6 players whose evaluation ratings from game 3 and 4 place them in consideration for that particular team selection. Players eligible for the coach's pick for PW and up will be both forwards/defensemen and coaches can pick either forwards or defensemen to round out their teams. These picks are then vetted.

Coach Selection Process – As in the past, people interested in coaching must complete a coaching application form, located on the WHA and CHA websites. The Director of Coaching for each association will review applications, and in conjunction with Age Group Coordinators, will make recommendations to the Team Approval Committee, for all Head Coaches. The goal is to ensure equitable coaching representation from both associations.

Team Approval Committee – All team selections and coaching recommendations will be presented by the Age Group Coordinators. The Team Approval Committee, comprising of members of each association, will review and provide final approval of all player placements and coach selections.

Grievance process – In the event a player/parent wishes to appeal the placement of a player, there is a \$40 (non refundable) grievance application fee. The form must be complete and forwarded to the Age Group Coordinator before a grievance will be considered. The Age Group Coordinator, Age Group Director, and Director of Evaluations will assess the grievance, and make the final ruling.

Special Note - Number of Teams and 'Team Number' – In the past the WHA and CHA had fewer teams than Hockey Calgary divisions for all age groups. This meant that our team numbers did not coincide with the division the team played. E.g. Atom 2 may have played in division 3, 4 or 5. With our two associations combined, in most age groups the team will also correspond to the division. E.g. Bantam 1 will be in division 1, Bantam 2 will be in division 2, and so on.

It is important to help your child understand that she/he may play on a team 'number' that is the same or lower, compared to previous years, for this upcoming season. The actual Calgary Minor Hockey Association age division may also differ. The expectation, and one of the main reasons for pursuing this joint endeavor, is to provide the opportunity for the kids to play on a team with similar skilled players. With smaller hockey associations this was not always the case.

Evaluators - As you are all likely aware, the key element to a fair and successful evaluations process is the participation of as many evaluators as we can muster. So please consider volunteering as evaluators when the request and schedules come out.

Ideally, we ask people to evaluate all sessions, but as long as you can make a good number of the sessions that would be very helpful.

Also, please note you do not have to have experience in evaluating. We will be holding an evaluators training and refresher (for all those returning volunteers) during the week of September 3rd; so we strongly encourage you to join in the fun, gain more understanding of the process, and help make the evaluations a greater success at the same time.

We hope this overview has provided you with a general understanding of the new process for the upcoming evaluation season. Please take the time to review the evaluation skills rubrics, the movement charts, and the player and goalie evaluation process summary documents.

Additional communications will be provided to you in the coming weeks, including details of parents' information meetings in early September.

We look forward to seeing you at the rink!

Sincerely, your Northwest Warriors Evaluation Committee!