

Viking Minor Hockey Tryout Evaluation Policy

GOAL

Viking Minor Hockey Association's goal is to ensure that try-outs are as transparent as possible and acknowledge that this process can be very stressful on both participants and parents. Evaluator objectivity, clear and concise lines of communication, effectively run ice sessions, and appropriate player selection criteria, is essential for conducting evaluation camps at all levels.

Objectives of Player Evaluation

- a) To provide a fair and impartial assessment of a player's total hockey skills during the skating and scrimmage sessions.
- b) To ensure that players have a reasonable opportunity of being selected to a team appropriate to their skill levels as determined during the on-ice evaluations of the **current year**.
- c) To provide coaches (if no ties to team) with the opportunity and flexibility to build a team based in-part on their own coaching philosophy and knowledge of player skills and attitude.
- d) To provide uniformity and consistency in the evaluation process such that a player and parent expectations are consistent from year to year as players move through the various levels of Viking Minor Hockey.
- e) To further develop players by providing high quality descriptive feedback.

Player Evaluation and Selection Process

- a) Viking Minor Hockey Association will set a schedule and inform players/parents via the website the initial ice sessions dedicated for try-outs for each level, and when further ice sessions may occur pending the results of the initial assessments. **Every parent and player should be aware prior to evaluations that there will be a minimum of 2 evaluation sessions before being released from a given team.**
- b) Players will be assigned a jersey and number upon their arrival at the rink. The evaluators will only know the players number, not their name. The **Evaluation Director** will help with this process and will keep the master copy of jersey numbers and corresponding names. They will also ensure that all equipment including pucks, pylons and other ice time equipment are present for the beginning of the session.
- c) An information meeting will be run prior to try-outs by the **Head Coach (if no ties to team or the Person in Charge by board decision if Head Coach is not in place) with assistance from the Evaluation Director**, informing the parents of the following:
 - How the selection process will work
 - Number of ice sessions
 - Coaches philosophy and tryout criteria and expectations
 - Expectations of players and parents
 - Procedure for release of players
- d) In order to give each and every player a fair opportunity to exhibit the range of skills that they possess they will be evaluated in a **game/scrimmage and skill environment**. At the younger age levels a greater emphasis will be placed on the evaluation of skills- as the players get older the game or

scrimmage sessions will have a greater overall impact on the player's placement within the minor hockey program.

e) Viking Minor Hockey representative teams including Novice, Atom, Peewee, Bantam, and Midget will use an *Independent Team of Evaluators (ITof E)* to observe or conduct try-out sessions. The *ITofE* may be from Viking or the surrounding community, **but are to have no direct ties to any of the teams they are evaluating.**

f) The *ITofE* will run 3 sessions for each team based upon the recommended try-out guidelines and criteria set out by Hockey Canada. After the second on-ice session, the *ITofE* will provide an overall score for each player and rank the players from 1-X.

Tryout Session #1- No releases will be made

Tryout Session #2- After 2 ice sessions, the *ITofE* will discuss the rankings of each player based upon the criteria, and report to the Evaluation Director the successful players moving on to the next tryout session. The *ITofE* will reduce the roster as applicable. The list of players will be posted on the VMHA website and it is the responsibility of the players/parents to check the website to see when their next tryout session will occur.

Tryout Session #3- The *ITof E*, Head Coach (or Person in Charge by board decision if Head Coach is not in place) and Evaluation Director will discuss the successful players moving on to the next tryout session. This new list of players will once again be posted on the VMHA website and it is the responsibility of the players/parents to check the website to see when their next tryout session will occur.

All remaining tryout sessions – After the remaining tryout sessions, players are expected to remain in their change rooms and coaches are expected to personally communicate to all players being released, conveying to them the areas of strength and areas which need improvement. This will be done by a face-to-face interview by a pre-selected route in which they do not have to pass those players remaining to be interviewed. For the sensitivity of our players, it is strongly encouraged that players/parents do not loiter in the lobby of the arenas.

Extra Tryout Sessions- The Head Coach (or Person in Charge by board decision if Head Coach is not in place) will have the ability to select players from the bottom 3 rated players & bottom 2 rated goalies. Before a team roster is finalized, the Head Coach (or Person in Charge by board decision if Head Coach is not in place), the *ITofE*, and the Evaluation Director will review the selection criteria, and when all are in agreement, the final releases will be made. Each team may need more evaluation skates before making their final decisions. The coach (or Person in Charge by board decision if Head Coach is not in place) may consider playing an exhibition game before determining the final roster. The Head Coach (or Person in Charge by board decision if Head Coach is not in place) may also request to utilize the help from the *ITofE* for additional skates.

g) **There may be special circumstances where *positional players* are chosen for the team that are not rated in the top by the evaluators if mutually agreed upon by the Evaluation Director, the Head Coach (or Person in Charge by board decision if Head Coach is not in place), and the *ITofE*.** An example may include a team that is short defensemen.

h) Under no circumstances will evaluation results be released to parents. The evaluation rankings will only be made available to the Evaluation Director, Head Coach (or Person in Charge by board decision if Head Coach is not in place) of team, and the *ITofE*.

i) Players registered for tryouts must attend all sessions; however, consideration may be given for sick or injured players or other extenuating circumstances. This will be evaluated on a case by case basis by the Minor Hockey Board.

Release of Players

- One of the toughest tasks a coach faces is telling players they did not make the team. Although difficult, releasing players must be approached with planning and sensitivity to ensure try-outs are a growth experience, not one which damages players' self-esteem.
- The Coaches (or Person's in Charge by board decision if Head Coach is not in place) are expected to personally communicate to all players being released, conveying to them the areas of strength and areas which need improvement.

Evaluator Guidelines

As much as possible there should be a consistency of evaluators for a given age group or division. This continuity ensures that the players are being observed by a group of evaluators who have a benchmark for performance and knowledge of the overall ability of the group that they are observing.

The evaluators must:

- ◆ Review all of the drills and skills to be observed so that you are clear on the on-ice process
- ◆ Review the evaluation criteria prior to the process to ensure that all evaluators are evaluating the same skill with the same intent.
- ◆ Sit separate from the other evaluators and the spectators during the entire on-ice process. It is crucial that they don't engage in any discussion with parents as evaluations are a confidential process that must be respected.
- ◆ Make sure that all evaluators have the same evaluation page with the same jersey numbers and colors
- ◆ Review your marks at the end of the session to ensure you have not made any entry errors
- ◆ Evaluation documents should be gathered by the Evaluation Director at the completion of each ice session

- ◆ Do not share your comments or opinions with any players/ parents or other interested observers
- ◆ Refer questions, comments or concerns that you may receive to the Evaluation Director without offering comment on the question or concern.