

The background features a large, faded logo for the Carstairs Bruins. The logo is circular with a yellow border. At the top, the word "CARSTAIRS" is written in a yellow, stylized font. In the center, there is a yellow bear's head with its mouth open, showing its teeth. At the bottom, the word "BRUINS" is written in the same yellow, stylized font. The entire logo is semi-transparent.

**Carstairs Minor  
Hockey Association  
Evaluation Procedures  
2024/2025**

## **Introduction**

In an effort to increase transparency and clarity in the evaluation process, the Carstairs Minor Hockey Association has developed and approved this document to provide guidance to the Members of the Association on the manner in which evaluations will be conducted. The Board fully understands that the evaluation process, especially at younger ages where the process is likely new to parents and Members, can be an intimidating and, at times, frustrating process. As such, this procedure has carefully been crafted to ensure that players are effectively and accurately evaluated (where applicable) and to ensure that appropriate processes are established to direct how inquiries and grievances will be dealt with.

This guideline has been created to supplement, but not replace CMHA Policy, specifically Policy F “Hockey Operations”. When inconsistency between this guideline and CMHA Policy is identified, Policy shall be the hierarchical document.

## **Evaluation Committee**

The Player Development Coordinator has been designated as the Association representative for the evaluation process and the head of the Evaluation Committee. The Evaluation Committee shall comprise the following Board positions:

- Player Development Coordinator (chair)
- President;
- Vice President 1;
- Vice President 2;
- Secretary;
- Treasurer;
- Registrar.

Any formal decisions of the Evaluation Committee shall be made by a majority of the Evaluation Committee and shall be final, except in cases where grievances are permitted in accordance with CMHA Policy.

## **Absences**

CMHA respects that players at the U11 age division may also be participating in evaluation processes for Elite Hockey in other associations. Unfortunately, the Evaluation Committee is unable to make separate arrangements for these players, nor use any of the scoring received through these external evaluation processes. As such, all players are notified that they are required to participate in the CMHA evaluation process to be placed appropriately.

Players that are absent from any of the evaluation sessions shall be handled in a manner consistent with CMHA Policy F “Hockey Operations”.

## **U7 Evaluations**

U7 Players will undergo an informal conditioning camp / evaluation process in order to create evenly skilled teams. There are no tiered teams in U7 and all players shall be evaluated as a skater.

## **Conditioning Camp / Evaluation Group Creation**

Prior to conditioning camp, all players will be randomly divided into even groups. It is intended that these groups will remain through conditioning camp and through the first evaluation session.

Following the first evaluation session, the Evaluation Committee reserves the right to adjust the groups to create like skilled groups in advance of the game play portion of evaluations.

Following the first game play portion of evaluations, in the event that there is a group of players that have separated themselves insofar that the remaining evaluation processes won't have an impact on their team placement (either as automatically qualifying for either the top or bottom team in an age division), the Evaluation Committee reserves the right to remove these players from the remaining game play portion. Members are notified that this is done to allow for more players to engage in the game play allowing for more effective evaluations for the remaining game play portions. The Evaluation Committee may choose to remove additional players following the second game play evaluation if in their discretion it will facilitate a more effective evaluation process.

Notwithstanding the above, the Evaluation Committee shall not remove any players that have not completed at least one skills portion and one game play portion of the evaluation process.

### **U9 Evaluations**

U9 Players will undergo the CMHA Evaluation process in an effort to create tiered teams. Players will undergo one skilled session and three game play sessions during their evaluation week. All players will be evaluated as a skater.

### **U11 Evaluations**

U11 Players will undergo the CMHA Evaluation process in an effort to create tiered teams. Players will undergo one skilled session and three game play sessions during their evaluation week.

Players that wish to be a goaltender may declare as such prior to the evaluation process. In this instance, players will be permitted to attend the conditioning camp portion but will be required to attend a separate goaltender skills evaluation. Goaltenders will also participate in the game play sessions. Players that only wish to try goaltending periodically throughout the season will be required to evaluate as a skater.

### **U9/U11 Evaluation Process**

In accordance with CMHA Policy, a Conditioning Camp will be established to allow U9 and U11 skaters four (4) ice times prior to evaluations commencing. During two (2) of these ice times, players will be given an opportunity to review and participate in the drills that they will be evaluated on. No evaluations will be conducted during this opportunity. Conditioning Camp is encouraged for all players, however is optional.

Following Conditioning Camp, four (4) ice-time evaluation process will be offered as follows:

- One ice-session dedicated to evaluating the player's skills through quantitative analysis using timing gates.
- Three ice-sessions dedicated to evaluating the player's skills and game play through qualitative analysis using volunteer evaluators.

Each session will account for 25% of the player's final scoring and subsequent team placement.

## Skills Sessions

Skills evaluation sessions will be run as follows:

- Players will complete three drills:
  - Forward Skate (U9)
  - Backwards Skate (U11)
  - Pivots (U9 and U11)
  - Tight-turns/Agility Weave (U9 and U11) – U11 shall conduct this skill with a puck
- Each drill will be demonstrated by a station head before players are required to complete
- Timing gates (or stopwatches in the event of failure) will be used
- Each player will receive the opportunity to do the drill three times. The best score out of those three opportunities will be recorded for the player. The remaining scores will not factor into the final score for the player (averaging is not used).
- The player must complete the drill as instructed or they will receive a “no time” for that run.
- Regardless of a player falling or doing a drill incorrectly, the run is credited the moment the timing gate is triggered. Only three opportunities are granted in all cases, except for where the station head has determined that a technical malfunction has occurred with the timing gate software.
- All decisions by the station head shall be final.

## Games Sessions

Games evaluation sessions will be run as follows:

- Players will be divided into teams by the Evaluation Committee in an attempt to have equity amongst teams.
- Players will be rotated to ensure that lines are randomized.
- All games will be played with a 2 minute buzzer.
- U9 games will be played 4 on 4 on 2/3 ice surface without goaltenders.
- U11 games will be played 5 on 5 on full ice with goaltenders.
- For U11 games, Players, on a rotational basis, will be assigned a position prior to each shift during game play. Players will be evaluated based on their ability to play that position during that shift. I.e. If a player is assigned a defensive position, they will be evaluated based on their defensive skill set for that shift.
- U11 games will be officiated and include blatant offsides (not icings). No faceoffs will occur. Non-offending team shall gain possession of the puck.
- U11 games will have blatant penalties called, resulting in a penalty shot for the player that is victimized by the penalty.

## Volunteers / Evaluators

The CMHA evaluation process requires a tremendous amount of volunteer assistance in order for the process to be efficient and successful. A number of volunteer positions will be available for members to sign up for. At no time will a volunteer be permitted to participate in the evaluation process in a capacity that will provide benefit to any player. The Evaluation Committee reserves the right to request that volunteers adjust their role to ensure that this principle is maintained.

Evaluators will be selected by the Evaluation Committee based on their knowledge of the skills under

evaluation. As mandated by CMHA policy, no evaluator will be selected that may provide benefit to any individual player.

Evaluators will **not be** advised of the names of any players and will only be provided with the evaluation numbers of players. Each evaluator will be provided with an electronic evaluation sheet which he or she will be required to complete and submit immediately following the evaluation session. Each evaluator will provide their evaluation of players according to their evaluation number. The electronic evaluation sheets will be maintained by the Evaluation Committee and remain confidential to anyone outside the Evaluation Committee.

## **Major Penalties / Suspensions**

Any player who receives a major penalty resulting in a game ejection during an evaluated ice session will be given a “0” score for that session subject to review by the discipline and Evaluation Committee. The Evaluation Committee and on-ice officials, have the right to eject players based on their on-ice actions.

## **Grievance Process**

CMHA respects that at times following the evaluation process, Members may not agree with the team that their player is placed on. All Members are required to follow the established grievance policy contained within Policy F “Hockey Operations” which requires for any grievances to be filled within the following time period:

<24 hours after teams are announced:	No Grievances Permitted
24 hours to 48 hours after teams are announced:	Grievances may be filed
>48 hours after teams are announced:	No Grievances Permitted

Members that do not wish to file a grievance, but wish to receive information based on where their player was evaluated, may request to receive a copy of the players scores as well as the scores of the 2 players that evaluated higher and lower than the player. Under no circumstances will any other player names, nor who evaluated the player, be identified to any other Member. This request may happen at any time within seven days of teams being announced.