

## Evaluations & Team Formation

**Policy Number:** NWR102

**Most Responsible Board Member:** Director of Evaluations

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### Guidance and Administration

Should circumstances, issues, or problems arise that are not described in this policy, NWR reserves the right to take whatever actions they deem necessary, while following the principles described in this document and determined to be in the best interest of the goalies in question, the impacted teams, and NWR.

Where there may be conflict between any Ringette Canada Policy or Ringette Alberta policy and any statement(s) in this document, the Ringette Canada Policy or Ringette Alberta policy will take precedence.

### Principles

The evaluations and team formation process will be conducted in a fair and impartial manner. Outcomes of the evaluations will be based on the data collected and the rankings derived from that data.

Objectives:

- To create fair and balanced teams in each tier
- To place athletes in a division and tier suitable to their skills and athletic developmental stage
- To provide an objective, accurate, and transparent evaluation and team formation process

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**Definitions**

Refer to the Northwest Calgary Ringette Society (NWR) Bylaw definitions.

The following terms have these meanings in this Policy:

**Conflict of Interest** means, for the purpose of evaluations and team formation, a situation where the individual who is involved in making decisions related to evaluations or team formation has close familial tie to an athlete participating in that age division, or where they are applying to coach in that age division, or where they have a perceived conflict of interest. (See also the NWR Code of Conduct policy)

**Two Above, Two Below** means a method used to generate a final rank an exempted player by using the progressive ranking of players immediately adjacent to the exempted player during evaluations.

**Secured skater list** means a list of skaters who are guaranteed to be placed in a given tier within an age division whether by assigned placement or draft. The secured skater list size per team is 75% of the team size (skaters only) rounded to the nearest whole number.

Number of secured skaters = Team size (skaters only) x 75% (rounded to the nearest whole number) x the number of teams

Example: team size = 14.  $14 \times 75\% = 10.5$  rounded up to 11 skaters will be placed on the secured skaters list for each team. If there are 2 teams, the top ranked 22 skaters are placed on the secured list.

**Unsecured skater list** means a list of skaters who are eligible to be drafted by team coaches in a given tier. The number of skaters on the unsecured skater list is calculated based on the team size (skaters only) minus the number of skaters on the secured list, multiplied by two (2) and multiplied by the number of teams.

$(\text{Team size} - \text{secured skaters list}) \times 2 = \text{unsecured skaters list size per team}$

Continuing the example from Secured skater list:

$(14 \{\text{team size}\} - 11 \{\text{secured skaters list}\}) \times 2 = 6$

$6 \times 2 \text{ teams} = 12 \text{ skaters on the unsecured skaters list.}$

**Serpentine format** means a method of drafting or assigning players to teams to ensure a balanced approach by reversing the order of picks with each round. In other words, the coach that picks last in one round picks first in the next, resembling the pattern of a snake or a serpentine line. This drafting style is favored for its simplicity and fairness, as it compensates for the advantage of an early pick in one round with a later pick in the subsequent round.

Table 1. Example of serpentine format player selection during team formation for three (3) teams.

**Evaluations & Team Formation**

| Round | Coach A | Coach B | Coach C  |
|-------|---------|---------|----------|
| 1     | 1 →     | 2 →     | 3 ↓      |
| 2     | 6 ↓     | ← 5     | ← 4      |
| 3     | 7 →     | 8 →     | 9 ↓ etc. |

**Predicted player pathway** means the anticipated next most likely age division and tier for the current season of an athlete using the most recent age division(s) and tier(s) from the previous two (2) to three (3) seasons, and the previous seasons evaluation ranking where applicable.

**Confidentiality**

1. Confidentiality is paramount, and all coordinators must sign a confidentiality agreement.
2. On ice players will be identified to evaluators by pinnie number and color only.
3. Each player will be assigned a player ID for the purposes of evaluations.
4. Evaluation scores, rankings, written feedback, and recommendations will be kept confidential and will not be shared beyond what is deemed appropriate and necessary for the evaluations and team formations committees to be able to place players on teams, or for coaches to draft players, during the evaluations and team formations process.
5. Under extenuating circumstances, evaluation scores, rankings, and recommendations may be shared with the NWR board or subcommittee for the purpose of conflict or dispute resolution.
  - a. If deemed necessary, only the relevant athletes eligible tier during the team formation process may be disclosed to the complainant.
  - b. Note: Evaluation scores will not be provided as this information is out of context.
6. There should be no communication by NWR members with coaches regarding player placement, coach selection, team formation, evaluation scores or possible outcomes, before, during or after the evaluation process is complete. Doing so is a breach of the code of conduct and any complaints regarding this would follow the NWR complaints policy.

**Appeals**

7. Concerns during evaluations should be directed to the Division Coordinator as soon as possible, particularly if there are questions about how the evaluation process is being conducted. If necessary, they will recommend action.
  - a. Escalation of the complaint should be directed to the Director of Evaluations followed by the Director of Complaints.
8. Appeals will be considered for the following concerns:
  - a. Evidence of an error that would impact a player's placement, such as a data entry error. Disagreement of a player's ranking does not necessarily constitute evidence of an error.
  - b. Failure of NWR to follow its policy where this could reasonably have a significant impact on the evaluation scores, player ranking, or team placement.
9. Filing an appeal may result in:
  - a. NWR may provide that athlete's eligibility relative to team formation where relevant.
  - b. NWR will review an individual score(s) from evaluation sessions where the complaint is based on a possible error (e.g., data entry). An individual's scores from evaluations are not meaningful on their own, i.e., out of context, and will not be provided to complainants.
  - c. Where the appeal is based on a failure to follow NWR policies, NWR will review to determine if there was a significant impact on the player's team placement. The Board or subcommittee, as appropriate to the situation, will then determine the most appropriate next steps, with consideration of the impact to the individual player, as well as to all affected athletes and teams.
10. The appeal process and fees are set out in the NWR Appeals policy. The fee is non-refundable unless a team placement change occurs.

**Access to Information**

11. Information related to the Evaluation Process will be posted on the Northwest website prior to the commencement of evaluations.

**Evaluations Committee**

12. The Evaluation Committees are responsible for facilitating the NWR evaluations process in a fair and impartial manner according to this policy.
13. Each Evaluation Committee should be formed for each age division, consisting of three (3) people including the Division Coordinator, Director of Evaluations, and a third person as approved by the Director of Evaluations without a **conflict of interest**.
14. Where a conflict of interest exists, a designate from the NWR Board will take the place of the Director of Evaluations. This will usually be the President or Vice President.

**Evaluators**

15. Every effort will be made to use a minimum of five (5) evaluators at each game play evaluation with the goal of recruiting 10 or more evaluators for each game play evaluation.
16. It is recommended where possible to use the same evaluators for all game play scrimmages within a division.
17. Evaluators may not evaluate age divisions where they have a conflict of interest.
  - a. Parents at the Active Start level may evaluate their children's age division but will not evaluate their child or other children where there is a perceived conflict of interest (e.g., close family members).

**Qualifications:**

18. Applicants will be recruited and approved by the Evaluations Committee.
19. Evaluators must have a good working knowledge and understanding of ringette.
  - a. Preferably, evaluators have ringette coaching, playing, or officiating experience.
20. Coach applicants (Head & Assistant) in U12 and above are asked to volunteer as evaluators as part of their application process. In general, coach applicants should evaluate one division down from where their child is registered and the level they have coached, unless they have previous ringette experience.

**Data Entry**

**Evaluations & Team Formation**

21. Evaluators and UAA volunteers will be responsible for entering their own scores into the Association's approved scoring application.
22. Any data with significant differences from other evaluators' scoring will be reviewed by the Evaluation Committee for accuracy. Data that is determined to be either a data entry error or significant outlier may be removed by consensus.

**Team Formation Committee**

23. The Team Formation Committee is responsible for
  - a. Tiering decisions for the age division
  - b. Team size decisions for the age division
  - c. Facilitating the team formation process in a fair and impartial manner according to this policy
  - d. Validating player placement by reviewing player pathway, age progression in Children's ringette, etc.
24. The Team Formation Committee consists of at least the Division Coordinator and the Director of Evaluations, or a designate from the NWR Board when a COI exists. This will usually be the President or Vice President.
25. The Team Formation Committee will collaborate with the Goalie Evaluation Committee.

**Friend, Coach & Player Requests**

Personal requests can be difficult to manage as they may conflict with the balance of the team. Therefore, it should be noted that they may not be granted.

26. Friend requests will be considered at Active Start and U10, provided the friend evaluates to the same tier within the age division and both players submit mutual requests.
27. Friend requests will only be considered for new ringette players for U12 to U19, provided the friend evaluates to the same tier within the age division and both players submit mutual requests.
28. Requests to play for or with a specific coach will not be granted.

**Evaluations & Team Formation**

29. Requests not to play for or with a specific coach or specific player will not be routinely granted, but will be considered in exceptional circumstances and with the best interests of all those affected by any action.

**Player Attendance**

All players are expected to participate in the evaluations process. However, if a player is unable to do so, alternate tier placement processes will be employed. See Exemptions below.

**Exemptions from Evaluations*****Medical Exemptions***

In case of an injury or a medical requirement that a player is unable to partake in a part or whole of the evaluations process, the following procedures will be followed:

30. Player's parents or guardians must inform the Evaluations Committee of the planned absence, as early as possible prior to the scheduled evaluations sessions.
31. Player's parents or guardians must complete the Evaluations Exemption Form indicating the reason for absence and acknowledging the process by which their player will be placed in a tier within their division.
32. A dated note from a doctor or a certified medical professional specifying the injury or medical condition precluding the player from participating in the evaluations sessions is required to be provided to the Evaluations Committee.
33. The exempted player's placement in a tier will be determined by the **Two Above, Two Below** approach.
  - a. The exempted player will be ranked based on the evaluation ranking of the two players ranked immediately above and two players ranked immediately below the exempted player from the last stage of the current season's evaluation process in which they've partaken, or, if they have not participated in this season's evaluations, the ranking will be determined from the previous season. The exempted player will be placed in a calculated median rank (rounded down) among those four players as they progress through each remaining stage of the evaluations process.
  - b. If one or more of the "followed" players do not remain in the same game play as the rest, the game play with the most of those players will be used for the placement of the exempted player. Otherwise, the higher game play will be used.



Evaluations & Team Formation

Example:

The exempted player is ranked 18th at the time of injury or illness, in this case prior to the first round of game plays, and thus will follow players ranked 16th, 17th, 19th and 20th as shown below.

Table 1. Example of exempted player ranking process.

| Rank | Seeding  | GP Round 1 | GP Round 2 | GP Round 3                                       | Final Rank |
|------|----------|------------|------------|--|------------|
| 11   |          |            |            | Player B   | Player B   |
| 12   |          | Player A   | Player A   | Player A   | Player A   |
| 13   |          |            | Player B   | Exempted   | Exempted   |
| 14   |          |            |            | Player C   | Player C   |
| 15   |          | Player C   | Exempted   |  |            |
| 16   | Player A | Exempted   |            |  |            |
| 17   | Player B |            | Player C   |  |            |
| 18   | Exempted | Player B   |            |  |            |
| 19   | Player C |            |            |  |            |
| 20   | Player D |            |            | Player D in another GP, so no longer considered. |            |
| 21   |          |            |            |  |            |
| 22   |          |            | Player D   |  |            |
| 23   |          | Player D   |            |  |            |
| 24   |          |            |            |  |            |
| 25   |          |            |            |  |            |

After the first game play (GP Round 1), considering the ranking of the “followed” players, the exempted player is ranked 16th (Median rank = 16.5, rounded down to 16). This player proceeds to the next round of game play as a 16th ranked player would.

After the second game play (GP Round 2), the exempted player is ranked 15th. However, the ranking of Player D (22nd) places them into a lower game play, so they are no longer considered in the calculation.

After the third game play (GP Round 3), the exempted player is placed based on the median rank of players A, B and C, and are ranked 13th. As that is the last game played for these players, the final rank for the exempted player is 13th overall, and they will be eligible to be drafted accordingly.

34. If the exempted player is new to NWR, and they have not partaken in any part of the current season’s evaluation process, their previous play history will be assessed, and at the discretion of the Evaluations Committee, they will be placed into the team selection process for an appropriate tier within their division.
35. The exempted player will be listed on the most appropriate team selection list (**secured player list** or **unsecured player list**) at their determined ranking with the note, “Did Not Evaluate - Medical” without any further information provided.

***Non-Medical Exemptions***

For all circumstances due to which a player plans to miss a part or whole of the evaluations process (e.g., travel, priorities, scheduling conflicts, etc.), the following procedures will be followed:

36. Player's parents or guardians must inform the Evaluations Committee of the planned absence, as early as possible prior to the scheduled evaluations sessions.
37. Player's parents or guardians must complete the Evaluations Exemption Form indicating the reason for absence and acknowledging the process by which their player will be placed in a tier within their division.
38. The Evaluations Committee will consider the player's history, previous evaluations results, coach evaluations, and previous coaches' input to determine the appropriate placement in the draft for their division. *The decision on placement will be considered final and no appeals or grievances will be heard.*
39. The placement determination will be limited to specifying the tier which the player is deemed to be appropriate for, and whether they are to be on the secured player list or unsecured player list.
40. The exempted player will be listed last in the rankings in their determined category (secured player list or unsecured player list) in a given tier with the note, "Did Not Evaluate - Non-Medical" without any further information provided.

***No Shows***

If a player misses a scheduled evaluations session, the following procedures will be followed:

41. The player, their parent or guardian must inform the Evaluations Committee within 6 hours of the reason for absence as the subsequent evaluation placements are assigned shortly after the results of the session are compiled.
42. If the stated reason for absence is due to an injury or medical reason, procedures outlined in [Medical Exemptions](#) will be followed.
43. If the stated reason for absence is due to circumstances outside of the athlete's or their parents'/guardians' control, and at the discretion of the Evaluations Committee, procedures outlined in [Non-Medical Exemptions](#) will be followed.
44. Failure to notify the Evaluations Committee of the reason for absence within 6 hours, or providing an invalid reason for absence will result in the player being ranked last for the missed evaluation session and subsequent placement will be determined according to the evaluations procedures.

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45. In the case of a no-show where the reason is not considered a medical or non-medical exemption, the player will be listed in the rankings with the note, “Did Not Evaluate - No Show” without any further information provided.

### Evaluations and Team Formation for Children’s Ringette (Active Start and U10)

Evaluations and team placement in children’s ringette is based on the guidance provided by the age progression model outlined by Ringette Calgary. Please refer to the [Ringette Calgary AS & U10](#) webpage for more information.

An athlete’s age for the purpose of team registration is determined by their age as of December 31<sup>st</sup> of the playing season, as per [Ringette Canada’s Registration and Eligibility Policy](#).

#### Active Start

Active Start is often the first step in a player’s ringette career and is designed for players age five (5) to six (6) years old who are new to skating.

1. Six (6) year olds with one (1) year of Active Start may choose to play a second season at Active Start or to play U10.
2. It is recommended that Active Start teams have nine (9) to 11 players per team.
3. The goal for Active Start team formation is balanced teams. There is no tiering at this age division.
4. At least three (3) ice times will be provided for learn to skate and learn to play prior to any evaluation ice times.
5. Evaluation for Active Start athletes will be skills based and may include skating, ring handling (passing/ shooting), and other skills such as checking.
6. Once evaluations are completed for Active Start, teams will be formed using a **serpentine format** based on the evaluation scores/ rankings.

#### U10 Evaluations

U10 game play evaluations are intended to place players into their appropriate Steps and attempt to balance the teams at each Step. Step 1, Step 2 and Step 3 players will be grouped based on years of experience and evaluation results per criteria set out by Ringette Alberta.

## Evaluations & Team Formation

7. U10 athletes will participate in Universal Athlete Assessment (UAA) prior to game play evaluations. See [Skills Assessment: Universal Athlete Assessment \(UAA\)](#).
8. In U10 only, players with a UAA score less than or equal to eight (8) will be placed on the lowest tier team for their age division and will not participate in game play evaluations.
  - a. Players age nine (9) would be placed in Step 2 as this is the lowest tier they are eligible for. See [U10 Step 2 & 3](#).

See [Scoring and Ranking](#).

*Table 2. Game Play Evaluation Format U10*

|                        | <b>U10<br/>(highest ranked skate)</b>   | <b>U10<br/>(all other skates)</b>     |
|------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Ice times</b>       | 5 min warm-up<br><br>2 x 25-minute periods running time (may be adjusted for goaltender evaluations)<br><br>3-minute break between periods          |                                       |
| <b>Shift length</b>    | 1:30 Buzzed shifts  |                                       |
| <b>Surface area</b>    | Full ice  | Half Ice using Ringette Alberta rules |
| <b>Net Size</b>        | Small   |                                       |
| <b>Period 1</b>        | 3v3   |                                       |
| <b>Period 2</b>        | 5v5   | 3v3                                   |
| <b>Game Management</b> | On-ice helpers will control game play. A new ring will be thrown into play after a goal – there will be no referee's, no free passes or shot clocks |                                       |

### U10 Team Formation

9. Team size is based on the number of registered players in each age division and as per the following recommendations:
  - a. U10 Steps 1 and 2: 9 to 11 players per team
  - b. U10 Step 3: 12 to 15 players per team

## Evaluations & Team Formation

10. Once evaluations are completed, teams will be assigned by the Team Formation Committee using a serpentine format based on player rankings.
11. Head coach applicants will be asked to provide a list of 3 assistants they would like to work with. The Team Formation Committee will attempt to place 1 of these 3 coaches with the head coach. However, other circumstances may prevent this from happening such as where this will significantly impact the ability to form balanced teams.

### U10 Step 1

Teams should be comprised of:

12. Six-year-olds who played one (1) year of AS
13. Players from six (6) to eight (8) years old who place in Step 1 based on evaluations

### U10 Step 2 & 3

14. Teams should be comprised of players aged seven (7) to nine (9).
15. In circumstances where a nine (9) year old player is being considered for placement in Step 2 or Step 3, they may be ranked above players aged seven (7) or eight (8) during the team formation process. This prioritization acknowledges both the developmental and social maturity differences associated with the age gap and is intended to ensure the older player has the opportunity to gain full-ice experience prior to transitioning to the U12 division in the following season.
  - a. Athletes who have previously played Step 3 should not be moved to Step 2 as a result of adjusted rankings.

## Evaluations U12-U19

1. AA jerseys and pants are not to be worn to evaluations. Players may be asked to change their attire if necessary.

## Goaltender Evaluations

Refer to the [Goaltender Policy NWR105](#).

## Skater Evaluations

### Scoring and Ranking

2. UAA scores are required by Ringette Alberta for the purpose of placing teams at similar skill levels for competition according to the Ringette Alberta Tiering policy.
  - a. is one of the tools used by NWR to place players in their first game play evaluation
3. Game play evaluation scores are used to place players in a division and tier suitable to their skills and athletic developmental stage
  - a. Skaters are scored in three (3) categories on a scale of one (1) to six (6) in each game play evaluation against the other athletes on the ice at the time.
  - b. Total scores are averaged across evaluators and then used to rank the athletes for placement in the next game play evaluation.

Refer to

- [Appendix B - Evaluation Flowchart](#)
- [Appendix C - Evaluation Categories and Description](#)
- [Appendix D - Game Play Evaluation Scale](#)

### Weighting

Scores are weighted based on the development stages and their relative importance at each age group. For example, at U10, skating ability is the most significant factor in a skater's effectiveness in a game. By U14, game sense becomes more significant.

Weighting is applied to all game play evaluations.

*Table 3. Weighed scoring for each age division for game play evaluations*

|  | <b>U10</b> | <b>U12</b> | <b>U14</b> | <b>U16</b> | <b>U19</b> |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| <b>Skating</b>   | 50%        | 40%        | 30%        | 25%        | 25%        |
| <b>Ring Control (including shooting/<br/>scoring) Offensive IQ</b> | 25%        | 30%        | 35%        | 37.5%      | 37.5%      |
| <b>Defensive Play/ Game sense/<br/>Aggressiveness/ Intangibles</b> | 25%        | 30%        | 35%        | 37.5%      | 37.5%      |

**Skills Assessment: Universal Athlete Assessment (UAA)**

The UAA system is defined by Ringette Alberta and is applicable to U10, U12 and U14 only.

Refer to the Ringette [Alberta UAA](https://ringettealberta.com/content/universal-athlete-assessment) webpage. <https://ringettealberta.com/content/universal-athlete-assessment>

4. Every attempt will be made to use the same on-ice facilitators for each age division.
5. Each player will be assigned two (2) ice times dedicated to skills.
  - a. The first ice time is a practice session. Scores recorded during this ice time will not be used to evaluate players. Volunteers and athletes are using this as an opportunity to practice.
  - b. The second ice time is the UAA assessment.
6. Players will be placed in the UAA sessions based on similar play level experience. This is not a ranking system and will not have any impact on how players are placed in subsequent evaluation skates.

**Game Play Evaluation**

7. Each season, [Evaluation Flowcharts](#) will be created for each age division considering the number of athletes to be evaluated and ensuring that there is an opportunity for every athlete to advance to be considered for the highest level tier that they wish to evaluate for, regardless of where they are placed in the first evaluation skate
  - a. Flowcharts will be posted to the NWR webpage before the start of game play evaluations. Sample flowchart: See [Appendix B - Evaluation Flowchart](#).
8. For age divisions *U10, U12, and U14*, skaters are placed in the first game play evaluation based on their UAA scores and **predicted player pathway**. This is a starting point and will not have a direct impact on a player's final placement.
9. For age divisions U16/U19
  - a. Skaters will be placed in the first tiered game play evaluation based on their predicted player pathway as well as position preferences provided during registration. This is a starting point and will not have a direct impact on a player's final placement.

**Evaluations & Team Formation**

- i. Where historic information is not available, other available information will be gathered and used to place the skater into the most appropriate estimated grouping.
  - b. Players have the option to declare a desire to evaluate for the A tier during registration. However, to ensure balanced teams can be formed, all players are expected to attend assigned game play evaluations regardless of their desired tier.
  - c. There are no skills assessments at these age divisions. The evaluation for U16 & U19 will consist of game play evaluations.
- 10. In order to evaluate skaters closer in skill level together, once skaters have participated in at least one (1) game play evaluation:
  - a. Top ranked skaters in the top tiered game play evaluation may be removed from further game play evaluations if it is clear they will be placed in the highest tier.
  - b. Skaters ranked at the bottom in the lowest tier of game play evaluation may be removed from further participation if their scores and player pathway clearly support this placement. This decision will be made by consensus of the Evaluations Committee
- 11. The remaining skaters will be placed into subsequent game play evaluations based on their rankings. This step will be repeated until evaluations are completed.
- 12. Skaters who have been removed from game play evaluations may be asked to play in additional games to ensure an adequate number of skaters are present to allow adequate rest between shifts. However, once removed, they will not be evaluated.

**Game format U12 – U19**

The following table is intended to provide guidance for game formats. There may be circumstances that require an adjustment for period length, for example, to accommodate balanced goaltender evaluations. All evaluations games played within a “set” or “round” will be played using the same game format whenever possible.



**Evaluations & Team Formation**

Table 4. Game play format U12-U19.

|                 | U12  | U14  | U16 & U19          |
|-----------------|--|--|--------------------|
| Ice times       | 5 min warm-up<br><br>Periods will be running time (period length must consider goaltender evaluations and the number of periods may be adjusted for skater breaks)<br><br>3-minute break between periods |  |                    |
| Shift length    | 1:15 Buzzed shifts   |  | 1:00 Buzzed shifts |
| Surface area    | Full ice   |  |                    |
| Net Size        | Full size  |  |                    |
| Period 1        | 3v3  |  | 5 v 5              |
| Period 2        | 5v5  |  |                    |
| Game Management | Trained volunteer  | Referee(s) (see <a href="#">Game Play Format</a> ) |                    |
| Goalies         | Refer to <a href="#">Goaltender Policy NWR105</a> .  |  |                    |

U10 game format see [Children's Ringette](#).

## U12

- U12 players will have an opportunity to learn to play full ice.

## U14

- Skaters are not assigned positions.
- Skaters will be rotated between each period to mix up the lines.
- Referees will be used to control the play.

## U16 & U19

- U16 and U19 skaters will be assigned a position during evaluations based on their request made during registration wherever possible.
- Skaters will be rotated between each period to mix up the lines.
- Referees will be used to control the play.

**Referees:**

- 20. The scrimmage should feel like a regular game. However, whistles and downtime will be avoided to keep the play moving.
- 21. Shot clocks will be used during evaluations.
- 22. Officials will be asked to call penalties for dangerous play and infractions that prohibit a scoring opportunity. A penalty during game play will result in a change of possession once the penalized team touches the ring.

**Team Formation**

It is the goal of NWR to draft fair, balanced teams in all divisions.

- 23. Team tiering is based on the [Ringette Alberta Tiering Policy](#).
- 24. Team size is based on the number of registered players in each age division and as per the following recommendation:
  - a. U12: 13 to 15 players per team
  - b. U14: 13 to 16 skaters per team
  - c. U16: 14 to 17 skaters per team
  - d. U19: 14 to 17 skaters per team
- 25. When possible, teams will be formed 24-48 hours after the last game play evaluation.
- 26. Once game play is complete, teams will be formed starting with the highest tier and moving towards the lowest tier for that division.
- 27. Final rosters will be reviewed and approved by the Director of Evaluations or designate to ensure all policies have been followed and teams are balanced.

**Goaltenders**

- 28. A list of eligible goaltenders will be provided to the Team Formation Committee and made available to coaches as per the Goaltender Evaluation and Team Formation policy

**Evaluations & Team Formation**

29. The Team Formation Committee and the Goalie Evaluation Committee will review the evaluation scores for eligible goaltenders per tier. If there is a significant difference in the scores for goaltenders at the same tier, compensation for the top ranked goalie(s) will be considered prior to the skaters being placed on their teams.

- a. “Significant difference” is defined in the Goaltender policy.
- b. Compensation may be provided in the form of priority coach skater draft or in the form of up to two (2) skaters at the start of the serpentine process.

Refer to [Goaltender policy NWR105](#).

**U12-14 Team Formation**

30. Head coach applicants are asked to provide a list of 3 assistant coaches they would like to work with. The Team Formation [and Coach Selection](#) Committees will attempt to place 1 of these 3 coaches with the head coach. However, other circumstances may prevent this from happening such as where this will significantly impact the ability to form balanced teams.

31. Goaltenders:

- a. Full time goaltenders (FTG) will be assigned to teams prior to the skaters.
- b. As part time goaltenders (PTG) are assigned to teams as skaters, the Team Formation Committee will attempt to balance PTGs across multiple teams within a tier considering both full-time equivalency as well as any goaltender evaluation information provided.
- c. Refer to [Goaltenders](#) (above) and the [Goaltender Policy NWR105](#).

32. Skaters:

- a. A **secured skater list** will be created. These skaters are assigned to teams by the Team Formation Committee using the serpentine format.
- b. The **unsecured skater** list for the given tier will be created.

33. Head coaches, or a designated representative, or the Division Coordinator if there is no designated representative, will meet with the Team Formation Committee to:

- a. Review their assigned rosters (from the secured skater list and goaltenders)

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- b. Draft skaters from the unsecured list, provided in ranked order, in a serpentine format. First choice is determined by a coin flip or picking numbers if there are more than two (2) teams.
  - c. Propose any trades, up to three (3) players.
    - i. Player trades will be reviewed and approved by the Team Formation Committee for parity to ensure balanced teams are formed.
34. The following information should be provided to head coaches to assist with decision making during the team formation process where it is available and applicable:
- a. PTGs as indicated on their registration
  - b. Player pathway for the last two (2) years
  - c. Players associated with coach applicants.

**U16 & U19 Team Formation**

35. U16-19 teams will be drafted by the head coaches.
- a. Only head coaches are to be involved in the draft process. No assistant coaches or managers will be permitted unless a prior arrangement has been made between the head coach and the Board.
36. U16 and U19 players may declare during registration that they do not want to play in the A tier. These players will be removed from the eligible player lists prior to the draft.
37. Once game play is completed, a draft will be conducted by head coaches to draft their teams during a team formation meeting. The head coaches for the level, along with the Team Formation Committee, will meet to form the teams for that level.
38. Head coaches, or a designated representative, or the Division Coordinator if there is no designated representative, will meet with the Team Formation Committee to (in order):
- a. Draft goaltenders.
  - b. Draft skaters from the secured skater list, provided in ranked order in a serpentine format.
  - c. Draft skaters from the unsecured skater list, provided in ranked order, in a serpentine format.

- d. Propose any trades, up to three (3) players.
39. The following information should be provided to coaches to assist with decision making during the team formation process where it is available and applicable:
- a. The players requested positions as indicated on their registration
  - b. PTGs as indicated on their registration
  - c. Player pathway for the last two (2) years
  - d. Players associated with coach applicants.

**Draft format (more than one (1) team)**

40. The recommended time for completing the draft is one (1) hour. The draft will be deemed closed after two (2) hours. If team formation is not completed within two (2) hours, then the teams will be selected by the Team Formation Committee. If there is a conflict of interest, then team formation must be approved by the Board.
41. The draft will be conducted by selected head coaches. Once the draft begins head coaches may not communicate with anyone outside of the draft room. This includes calling or texting other people for advice.
42. The draft is to be conducted in a professional manner. Consequences of unprofessional conduct could result in the teams being chosen by the Team Formation Committee. It could also result in the draft being stopped and replacing a coach with an alternate head coach selection.
43. The first draft selection will be decided based on a coin flip (for two (2) teams) or picking numbers (for more than two (2) teams) unless the following circumstances exist:
- a. If the top ranked skater from evaluation score is the coach's athlete, then the other coach gets first goalie pick
  - b. If the top ranked goalie is the coach's athlete, then the other coach gets first skater pick.
44. The coach with first draft choice can choose the highest ranked goalie or a lower ranked goalie and the agreed number of skaters when compensation has been determined.

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45. In the case where a specific player(s) MUST be on a certain coach's team (e.g., that coach's athlete), the ranking order will dictate in which round of the draft the coach must select that player.

Example:

*if three (3) teams are being formed, and the skater is ranked 7th, that coach must select the skater in the 3rd round of the draft. (See example in [Definitions: Serpentine](#))*

46. In the case where the selection of one (1) player to a team means that another player(s) must also be placed on that same team, the ranking order will dictate in which round of the draft the coach of that team must select the other player(s). The coach will select that player(s) in the round dictated by that player's ranking, or with the next selection in the draft, whichever comes first.

Example:

*If three (3) teams are being formed, and Coach A selects Player X in the 5th round, this means that Player Y must also be placed on Coach A's team.*

*If Player Y is ranked 21st, Coach A must select Player Y in the 7th round of the draft.*

*If Player Y is ranked 4th, Coach A must select Player Y with their next pick (in the 6th round of the draft in this case). Most often, this circumstance will be used for a coach to select the sibling of a player but there may be other circumstances where players must be on the same team, as determined by the Team Formation Committee.*

**Cross-Reference**

Ringette Alberta

- [Goaltender Development Policy](#)
- [Tiering Policy](#)
- [Registration Policy](#)
- [Over Age Player Policy](#)

NWR Policies

- [Goaltender Policy NWR105](#)

**Evaluations & Team Formation****Revision History**

| Date        | Action Taken   |
|-------------|--|
| August 2025 | Content from Policy and Procedure Manual relevant sections reviewed and revised June 2024 to Aug 2025. Revisions to policy recorded in NWR records. Reformatted. Approved. |

**Appendix A - Evaluations Exemption Form**

The Evaluations Exemption Form will contain the following information:

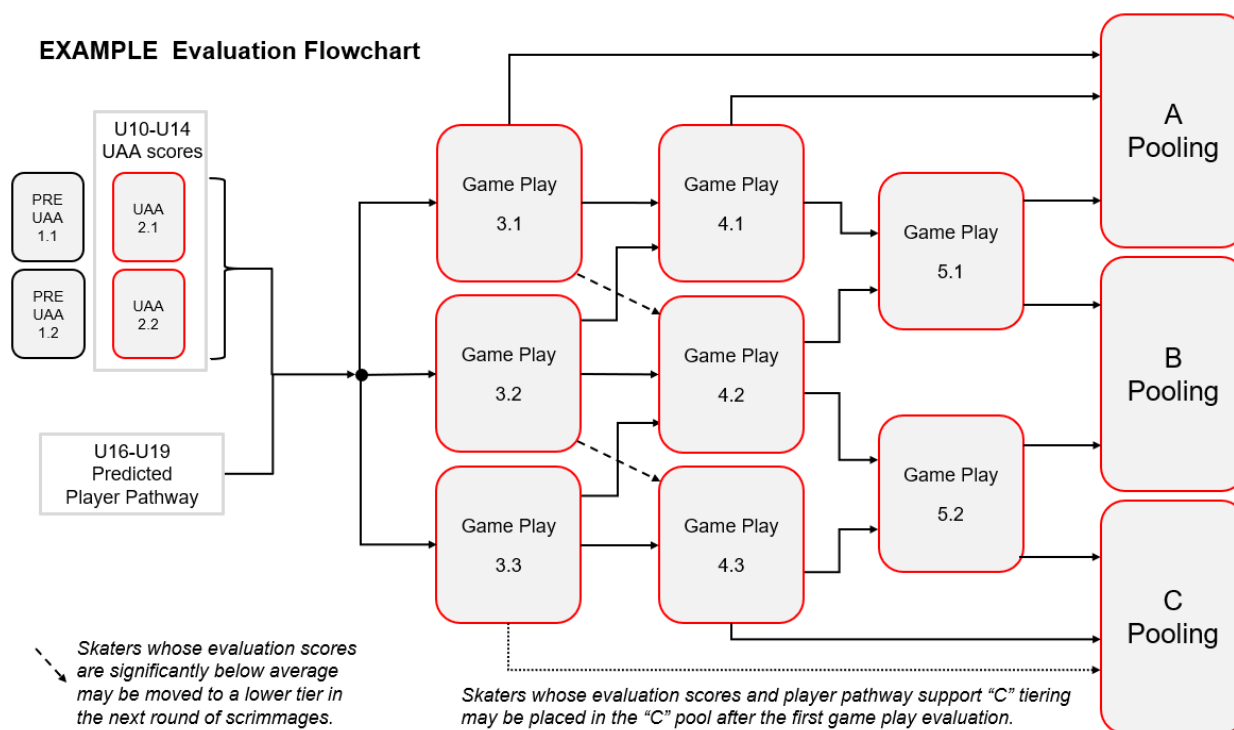
- Date
- Time
- Athlete's full name
- Contact information (email and phone number)
- Reason for Absence – provide as much information as possible
- (checkbox) Medical Exemption Request; Non-Medical Exemption Request
- Agreement Statement "I agree that my athlete will be placed on a team as per the NW Ringette Policy and Procedure."



## Appendix B - Evaluation Flowchart

This is an example of an evaluation flowchart. These will be developed for each age division each season based on the number of registered athletes and posted on the NWR webpage.

Figure 1. Example of an evaluation flowchart.



**Appendix C - Evaluation Categories and Description***Applicable to U10-U19***Ring Control (including shooting/scoring) and Offensive IQ**

- Passing/receiving, ring protection, accuracy, strength (shot and pass)
- Are they consistent at tempo and under pressure?
- Is athlete a threat to score or do they create scoring opportunities?
- Do they drive to the scoring areas?
- Do they take quality shots?
- Do they keep their feet moving with the ring while keeping their head up?
- Are they difficult to check off the ring?
- Without the ring are they getting in a supporting position, ready to attack?

**Defensive Play/ Game sense/ Aggressiveness**

- Do they try to defend? When they do, are they successful?
- Are they in control of their stick & body?
- Do they forecheck/backcheck when appropriate?
- Do they maintain good defensive body position?
- Do they win ring battles?
- Are they engaged in the play?
- Do they make smart decisions with and without the ring?
- Are they working hard and have intensity to their play?
- Do they demonstrate awareness and anticipatory skills?

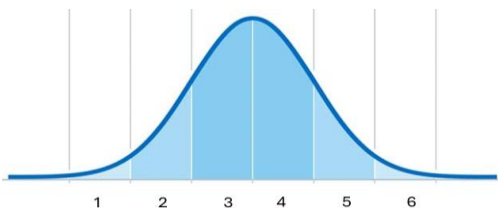
**Skating**

- Forward and backward strides
- Power, agility, balance, speed
- Change of direction

**Appendix D - Game Play Evaluation Scale**

This scale is to be used for the players on the ice at that time, and not for the expected skill range for the age group.

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| <b>6</b> | <b>Significantly above average, consistently, expert</b><br>Skills executed effectively.   |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Above average, usually, proficient</b><br>Demonstrates a slight skill deficiency compared to a 6. May be inconsistent or demonstrate strength on one side and weakness on the alternate side. Where decision making is considered, this player makes significantly more good plays/ decisions than poor ones. |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Slightly above average, often, competent</b><br>An above average performance. Demonstrates some skill deficiency compared to a 6. Where decision making is considered, this player made some mistakes / poor decisions, but they were countered by an equal number of good plays / decisions.                 |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Slightly below average, occasionally, advanced beginner</b><br>A below average performance. Demonstrates moderate skill deficiency compared to a 6. Where decision making is considered, this player made some mistakes / poor decisions, but they were countered by some good plays / decisions.             |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Below average, rarely, beginner</b><br>Skill deficiencies are obvious and significantly below a score of 6. Where decision making is considered, this player made bad plays / decisions that outnumber the good ones.   |
| <b>1</b> | <b>Significantly below average, never, novice</b><br>There are significant blatant deficiencies in all areas.  |



*It is expected that scores will generally approximate a bell curve where the majority of the participants will be scored 3 or 4.*