



**Knights Hockey Club
2021/22 Placement
Program Operations
Manual**

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Placement Program Objectives and Philosophy

The Knights Hockey Club placement process is a fundamental component of the overall hockey program. The Placement Program Operations Manual (the “Manual”) is approved by The Knights Hockey Club in accordance with the Hockey Calgary “Return to Play” program. We recommend all members read the manual thoroughly and contact the VP On-Ice or the Evaluation Team to answer any questions you may have.

The objective of the Placement Program is to provide each player with a fair, impartial, and consistent process to be placed with players of like skill, resulting in the best chance to develop their hockey skills and understanding of the game. Teams will be formed which maintain a skill balance where players can develop, participate equitably and have fun playing hockey. All placement policies and processes are developed to ensure players are given opportunity and are in the best interests of every Knights Hockey player.

This document is based on information available to the Knights Hockey Club via Hockey Calgary and Hockey Alberta, in accordance with Alberta Health Services (AHS). Being that the state of sport participation is fluid as a result of the COVID-19 virus, these plans could change without warning.

Parent Expectations:

- a. We have instituted a **no spectator policy** for the KHC player placement program for the U9 to U18 age groups. We ask that parents respect this policy and do not attempt to enter the ice surface area during the player placement skates.
 - i. Any spectator issues arising will be sent to VP of Safety and Governance for review.
- b. Read all communication distributed by the Evaluation Team and The Knights Hockey Club. Attend the mandatory Evaluation Town Hall.
- c. Ensure you and your player understand the process.
- d. Practice proper sports etiquette and adhere to the principles outlined in Respect in Sport. Each family is required to have a complete update RIS certification.
- e. Abide by any special facility guidelines regarding pre and post ice time process and parent attendance.
- f. **DO NOT** approach evaluators with questions about rankings or marks. Evaluation information is kept confidential. Should you have questions, please contact your Division Age Group Coordinators.
- g. Assist your player in being prepared. Ensure your player is at the rink 30 minutes before their scheduled ice time and be ready 5 minutes before their ice time. This will give on-ice instructors and age group coordinators the chance to explain the session to the players.



- h. Check equipment fits properly, and skates are sharpened before their session. Kids change sizes over the summer and their safety is important.
- i. Stay positive and support your player through the process. They will perform at their best when stress is lower.

Due to the no spectator policy, KHC will have LIVEBARN available for viewing during the placement program. If there is a placement review requested, no video from live barn will be allowed to be submitted or reviewed.

As per the Knights Hockey Club Electronic Device Policy, no photos or video inside the players dressing room are permitted. Photos of sign in and door sheets is prohibited.

Player Expectations:

- a. Be prepared for evaluation skates by arriving 30 minutes early and be fully dressed on the bench inside the dressing room 5 minutes prior to start time
- b. Be respectful to volunteers and other players. Demonstrate good sportsmanship on and off the ice.
- c. Do YOUR best and have fun. Perform the drills to the best of your ability.
- d. Understand the process for your age-appropriate level. Ask questions of the on-ice volunteers and evaluation volunteers when you need clarification.
- e. No alcohol, marijuana (in any form), other illicit drugs, nicotine or vaping is permitted in the rink. Suspensions will occur if this policy is not followed.



The Process

Initial Placement:

A pre-seeding process will be utilized to ensure efficient and effective placement of players in all age groups. These groups provide the opportunity for evaluators to assess the players during the process. Target group sizes will be between 20-30 players. Initial pool sizes will vary based on final registration numbers, consideration of previous team numbers, coach evaluations, and in the case of U13, U15 & U18, position declaration. Preliminary evaluation pools are capable of movement following the skate with attention to preserving the integrity of the pool

1. U11 – U18: Players will be placed in pools (groups) to begin the evaluation process. These pools will be created utilizing the previous season's age category, team, and coach postseason evaluations.
2. U9: Players will be divided alphabetically and placed into groups.
3. U7: Players will be divided by junior and senior and divided alphabetically for their initial evaluation sessions. U7 will participate in 2 skates for their evaluations. These skates will consist of various age appropriate drills. The objective of U7 is to create parity teams for optimal development. This is in accordance with Hockey Canada and Hockey Calgary process and procedures.

INITIAL POOL POPULATION

NOTE: Number of groups, sizes and placement are subject to change based on final registration numbers and the ice schedule. The teams are numbered in the order pools are filled.

U9 Grouping

- The timed skills sessions will determine placement in game play sessions and there will be no predetermined groupings

U11 Grouping

- Players will be initially placed in groups depending on which team they played on last season. The order for group placement is:

U11-1, U11-2, U11-3, U9-1, U11-4, U9-2, U11-5, U11-6, U9-3, U11-7, U9-4. There were 4 u9 divisions and 7 divisions in U11 in 2020-2021



U13 Grouping

- Players will be initially placed in groups depending on which team they played on last season. The order for group placement is:

U13-AA, U13-1, U13-2, U11-1, U13-3, U11-2, U13-4, U11-3, U13-5, U11-4, U11-5, U13-6, U11-6, U11-7.

U15 Grouping

- Players must designate body checking or non-body checking at registration.
- There will be body checking and non-body checking streams.
- Players who designate the body checking stream can be placed in non-body checking stream based on their rankings.
- Players designating non-body checking **WILL NOT** be placed in body checking stream.
- Rankings will determine a player's final placement. Therefore, a player can be placed in a non-body checking team even if the body checking stream is designated at registration.
- Players will be initially placed in groups depending on which team they played on last season. The order for group placement is:

U15-BC1, U15-BC2, U13-AA, U15-BC3, U13-1, U15-NBC1, U13-2, U15-NBC2, U13-3, U15-NBC3, U13-4, U15-NBC4, U13-5, U13-6.

U18 Grouping

- Players must designate body checking or non-body checking at registration.
- Players who designate the body checking stream can be placed in non-body checking divisions based on their rankings.
- Players designating non-body checking **WILL NOT** be placed in body checking divisions.
- Rankings will determine a player's final team placement. Therefore, a player can be placed on a non-body checking team and team even if the body checking stream is designated at registration.
- Players will be initially placed in groups depending on which team they played on last season. The order for group placement is:

U18-BC1, U18-BC2, U15-BC1, U18-BC3, U15-BC2, U18-NBC1, U15-BC3, U15-NBC1, U18-NBC2, U15-NBC2, U18-NBC3, U15-NBC3, U15-NBC4.



Number of Sessions:

1. U7 – Players will participate in 2 placement skates
2. U9 – Players will participate in 4 placement skates (2 skills skates and 2 game play skates)
3. U11 – Players will participate in 4 placement skates (1 skills skate and 3 game play skates) with 4 optional pathway pre skates
4. U13 – Players will participate in 4 placement skates (1 skills skate and 3 game play skates)
5. U15 – Players will participate in 4 placement skates (1 skills skate and 3 game play skates)
6. U18 – Players will participate in 4 game play placement skates

Free Skates will be offered to all age groups based on ice availability and placement skate ice requirements. Age group coordinators will schedule the free skates for their age groups in conjunction with the ice scheduler.

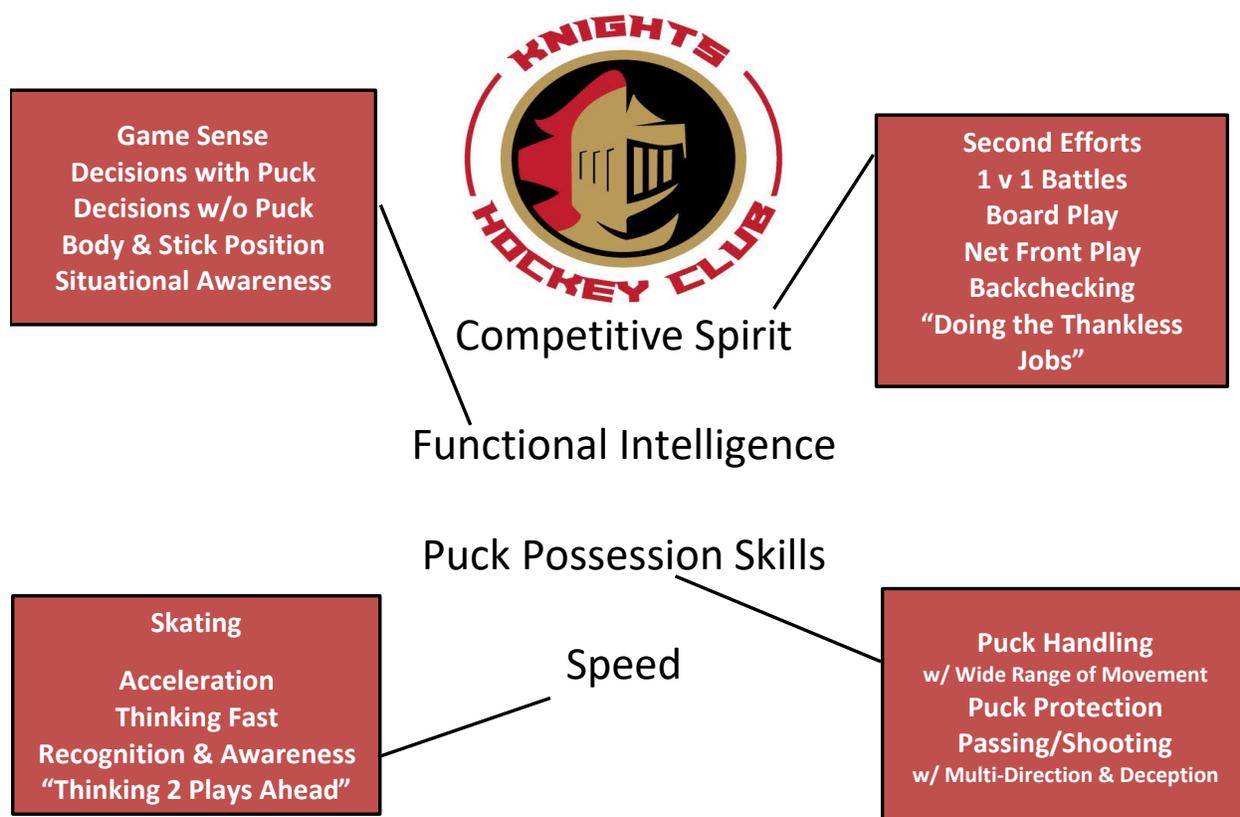
Evaluation Skates:

1. All Evaluation Sessions will be in accordance with Hockey Calgary's "Return to Play" program. Players will be evaluated on their individual skills during skill skates.
2. Knights Hockey Club will be utilizing age-specific, pre-approved drills from the director of player development. These drills are designed to highlight player's skills while remaining in a safe, socially distanced environment.

Scoring (ranking):

1. Players are ranked according to the number of players in the age group (example: if there are 100 players in U11, the players will be ranked 1-100).
2. In U13, U15, and U18 players are ranked within the position they are evaluating for (example Forwards: 1-60 & Defense: 1-40).
3. Criteria: Evaluators will evaluate players using the following criteria:
 - a. Speed
 - b. Puck Possession skills
 - c. Functional Intelligence
 - d. Competitive Spirit





Movement (U9 – U18):

- A. **Following each evaluation session** players may move up or down in their respective pools. Players are capable of movement **up and down** throughout the **entire evaluation process**. This provides players the opportunity and ability to continuously improve their final ranking and impact their final team placement.
- B. In rare cases, a player may be asked to skate twice in the same day. The purpose of this movement is to see if player/players in one group have similar or different skills than players in another group. Same day movement will be solely at the discretion of the Director of Evaluations in discussions with the VP On Ice.
- C. Player movement is dependent on evaluations score/rankings therefore the outcomes of each evaluation session will determine the number of players moved up and down from each pool. Following the completion of all sessions, evaluation scores are reviewed and the capacity for movement assessed.

Pulling Players:

- A. At the discretion of the VP On Ice and the Director of Evaluations, top players from the top group may be removed from the evaluation process. This is referred to as pulling the player/players. If this is done it will **only** be after the 3rd skate. The player/players pulled will be asked to not attend the 4th placement skate. The only



reason for pulling players is for allowing additional evaluations of players from the top of group 2 with the group 1 players. Again, the pulling of players is at the sole discretion of the VP On Ice and the Director of Evaluations.

Evaluators:

- A. Evaluators will be assigned to specific age groups by the Evaluation Team.
- B. All attempts will be made to have 4 to 6 evaluators for each session. This may consist of a combination of independent evaluators and coaches.
- C. Evaluators will be identified after registration and assigned to a specific age group for the duration of the process.
- D. Evaluators will not be permitted to evaluate age groups that they have a player or a relative competing in.

Team Placement

After the 4th placement skate, players will be assigned to tiered teams based off of their final ranking in the last skate. We will not be averaging the results from each skate to allow more potential movement.



Goalie Evaluations (U11 – U18):

Designation of goaltenders in U11 – U18 Groups is mandatory on the official Hockey Calgary rosters. It is important for goalies to be aware that when they elect to evaluate at the goaltender position, they will be expected to remain at that position through the balance of the year. The exception is for the U11 hybrid pathway, a goalie may also participate as a player if they evaluate within the same division as a goalie and player.

- A. **Process:** Goalies will be pre-seeded based on last year's age group and team. Goalies will participate in a goalie specific skills session, at the beginning of the evaluation process. A goalie's initial pool placement in game play will be determined by the pre-seed and the skills evaluation skate. Final team placement will be based on the results from the initial skills skates and the game play skates.
- B. **Skills Session:** The skills evaluation session will be weighted and count for a significant portion of the goaltenders final ranking. Drills will be used which highlight modern goaltending techniques and attributes.
- C. **Evaluators:** It is important individuals evaluating goalies have a strong understanding and knowledge of the specific and unique skill set to this position. To ensure effective and optimal evaluation of goaltenders, outside accredited goalie evaluators will be utilized in the goalie skills sessions.



Absentee/Sick Policy ALL Players:

Skaters and Goaltenders are required to attend ALL their respective evaluation sessions. It is the responsibility of the player/family to notify their Evaluation Team and the VP On Ice **prior** to their scheduled evaluation if they are unable to attend an evaluation session. Notifications should be via email, phone or in person. Any player who misses an evaluation session will have their next placement reviewed by the VP On Ice and Evaluation Team.

- A. When players miss an evaluation session without a legitimate reason, they will receive the lowest ranking within their designated pool. This can adversely affect their overall ranking and impact their final cohort placement
- B. A player who misses the first evaluation session without a legitimate reason may be moved down to another group based upon receiving the lowest ranking and the movement of their peer group from the previous season. In addition, players who miss the session following movement up to a pool may be moved down based on the movement of their peer group from the previous session and their lowest ranking.

Legitimate and Excused Absence:

When a player misses due to legitimate reasons, policies are followed, documentation is provided and approved by the Evaluation Team and the VP On Ice, the player will not receive a score for that session. Sessions they participated in will be averaged to determine team placement.

- A. Injury or Illness: Medical notes are required for any player missing all or any evaluations due to sickness or injury. Medical notes **MUST** be presented within 48 hours of a missed session (24 hours of the last evaluation skate)
- B. Players who are injured during evaluations will be placed on a team based on their performance/rankings during evaluations.
- C. Players who are not able to participate in the evaluation process due to illness/injury will be placed on a team based upon their peer group from the previous season with input from their coach from the previous season. Players that are unable to attend an evaluation session with an excused absence, will be given the average score of the 2 players ranked above them and 2 players ranked below them for the session.
- D. All decisions on team placement due to injury or illness will be done in collaboration with the Evaluation Team and VP On Ice.
- E. Legitimate personal, family and medical emergencies are situations that will also not count in the final player ranking. Each case will be reviewed separately by Evaluations Team and the VP On Ice.



Evaluation Apparel:

- A. Evaluation jerseys will be provided for players.
- B. Knights' socks are required for U9 – U18 placement sessions (and can be purchased from Play It Again Sports - Shawnessy).
- C. No Helmet stickers from other teams (example spring hockey) or any tape or markings are permitted during placement sessions.

Audits/Reviews:

- A. A Review of a player's placement can be requested 24 hours after final team placement notification. There will be a review fee of \$250 payable before the review will begin. A review looks at a player's progression throughout evaluations to ensure that process errors did not occur. We do not change actual evaluators rankings during a review. Feedback from Independent Evaluators will also be reviewed and discussed. Video from LIVEBARN cannot be submitted and if it is submitted will not be reviewed by the player placement review group. If it is determined that an error has occurred in the player's placement, a player may be added to the correct team if there is room for an additional player following the Hockey Calgary guidelines and requirements for team sizes. In no circumstances will a player on a team be moved down a team to correct the error.

Evaluation Dates and Times:

- A. Evaluations will commence and end in September for all age groups except U18 that will finish in early October. The U13, U15, and U18 skates will begin later in the month to accommodate quadrant tryouts
- B. Please refer to the website for general evaluation times for each age group
- C. Parents/Players will receive emails with their specific ice time closer to the start of evaluations

Please feel free to contact the Director of Evaluations – evaluations@knightshc.ca or VP On Ice – vponice@knightshc.ca with questions and inquiries prior to and during evaluations.

This document will act as the general guidelines for all involved to ensure a consistent, integral application of the principles of evaluation are applied throughout the process. All comments, questions, and concerns for improvements should be forwarded to the VP On Ice and the Evaluation Team for consideration.

