



Introduction: These guidelines are designed to ensure the integrity, consistency, and professional execution of the SMHA Player Placement Program. Evaluators are expected to provide objective, expert assessments to ensure every player is placed in a tier that matches their current skill level.

EVALUATOR CODE OF CONDUCT: Absolute confidentiality and neutrality are mandatory. Evaluators must not discuss players, share scores, or display any bias (cheering/pointing) during sessions. Failure to adhere to these standards results in immediate removal.

Professional Expectations

- **Commitment:** Evaluators must attend all assigned sessions to ensure consistency in the data set.
- **Anonymity & Confidentiality:** All scores are kept strictly confidential. Evaluators remain anonymous to the membership to prevent external influence.
- **Conflict of Interest:** Evaluators are strictly prohibited from scoring their own children or family members.
- **Isolation:** No talking between evaluators while a session is in progress. Rankings must be handled privately.

Scoring System (Relative Ranking)

Players are ranked on a scale of **1 to 5** relative to the other players on the ice during that specific session. Evaluators should focus on **demonstrated skill** rather than isolated mistakes.

Score	Definition	Distribution Guide
1	Strongest Player	Top 10%
2	Above Average	~25%
3	Average	~30%
4	Below Average	~25%
5	Weakest Player	Bottom 10%

Evaluation Criteria Weighting

Weights are based on Canadian Hockey Association guidelines and evolve as players age and develop more complex tactical skills.

Age Group	Technical Skills	Ind. Tactics	Team Tactics	Team Play	Strategy
U7	85%	15%	—	—	—
U9	75%	15%	10%	—	—
U11	50%	20%	15%	10%	5%
U13	45%	20%	15%	10%	10%
U15	40%	15%	20%	15%	10%
U18	35%	20%	20%	15%	10%

Definitions of Skills

- **Technical Skills:** Skating (speed, edges, agility), puck control, shooting, passing, and checking.
- **Individual Tactics:** Winning puck battles, puck protection, and creating turnovers.
- **Team Tactics / Team Play:**
 - **Positional play**, including offensive and defensive responsibilities.
 - **On-ice offensive awareness:** The ability to create and/or support scoring chances, prolong puck possession (puck support), and extend time on offence.
 - **On-ice defensive awareness:** The ability to mitigate scoring chances against, create and/or support puck turnovers, and execute successful transitions to offence.
- **Strategy (Hockey IQ):** The player's ability to read and react to the game. This includes anticipation of play, decision-making under pressure, understanding of game situations (e.g., gap control, puck support), and overall "on-ice awareness" that allows a player to be in the right place at the right time.

Positional Integrity (U13, U15, U18)

CRITICAL DIRECTIVE:

In older age groups (U13, U15, U18), evaluators are assessing a player's ability to execute their specific position. Players should **not** be rewarded for offensive results (e.g., goals) if they are playing out of position to achieve them. Evaluators must account for positional discipline, gap control, and defensive responsibilities. A defenseman who scores but consistently leaves their defensive post vulnerable should be scored accordingly based on the requirements of the position being evaluated.