



**BVHS Evaluations Manual
2024-2025 Season**

Contents

The Process.....	2
Evaluators	2
Objectives of Player Evaluations.....	3
Purpose of Evaluations.....	3
Our Specific Goal	3
Guiding Principles	4
General Overview of the Skills to Play the Game	5
Skating.....	5
Passing.....	5
Puck Control.....	5
Shooting- Scoring	6
Positional Play	6
Checking Concepts	6
Individual Position Assessments for U13, U15 and U18.....	7
Evaluators Cue Cards.....	8
Rating Guide.....	9
Some Tips on How to Evaluate a Hockey Game	10
Establish a Vision of What You to Get Out of a Game	10
Where to Sit in Order to Get the Best Information.....	10
How to Keep Track of What You See	10
Helpful Hints	10
Contact	10

BVHS Evaluators Manual

The Bow Valley Hockey Society has a very structured evaluation process and bases its evaluation process on the time and dedication of the volunteers who help to make the evaluation process fair, and transparent with its membership. Each year, BVHS evaluates over 1000 kids and we do our best to ensure kids are placed fairly in accordance to their skills sets. The following document is a guideline for BVHS Evaluators to follow, and it helps to put clarity to the process.

The Process

Evaluators

BVHS hosts an evaluator meeting each August / September to discuss this manual as well as the overall process. In this meeting we also do our best to educate our evaluators and mentor these volunteers on how to properly evaluate minor hockey players.

The evaluators will arrive at the arena at least 15 minutes prior to their first ice session. Upon arriving at the arena they are required to sign in at the front registration table and initial that they have shown up for their scheduled time.

The evaluators will then meet in the “war room” (officials room) that can be found at the end of the hallway. Each evaluator will be given a cue card to use as a reference as well as a clipboard with an evaluation sheet attached to it. All evaluation sheets MUST be filled out in pen. The AGD, VP On-Ice and or MHO will give the evaluators a quick briefing prior to the ice session starting. Once the session starts we ask that the evaluators sit in the sectioned off section for evaluators, and we ask that the evaluators do not sit together. The Evaluators shouldn't be on their cell phones while evaluating their ice time.

After the ice session is over, we ask that the evaluators walk around the rink away from the lobby and meet in the “war room” where the evaluators, VP On-Ice, AGD and MHO will meet to discuss the evaluation. Evaluators will turn in their evaluator sheets and the data will be entered into the Evaluations Software. We do not share the evaluators data and or show the results of each session. In some situations, the AGD, VP On-Ice and or MHO may ask for some dialogue and or discussion regarding certain players. This discussion is to always stay confidential.

If any players in question, are a conflict of interest for one of the evaluators, we ask that he/she refrains from taking part in the discussion pertaining to that child. If the VP On-Ice, AGD and MHO has a child in that ice session, he or she will remove him or herself from that discussion. Once the final rankings are completed the Evaluations Administrator will work on getting the groupings for the next ice session in place.

Please refer to the BVHS Evaluations Operations Guidelines and Policy Documents for details on specifics for each age groups evaluations process.

Objectives of Player Evaluations

- To provide a fair and impartial assessment of a player's total hockey skills during the skating and scrimmage sessions.
- 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.
- 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 the association's programs.
- To form teams to maintain balanced and competitive play where the athletes can develop and participate equitably and have fun playing hockey during the season.
- To provide feedback in order to develop players.

Purpose of Evaluations

To evaluate all players during each player in their respective age group in a fair and consistent manner.

To evaluate their suitability and ranking for the grouping that they are currently place in. After each evaluation session players will be re ranked and placed in groups for next ice time accordingly.

Our Specific Goal

To ensure that each player is ranked fairly and to determine the team that will best suit their skill set for the 2023-2024 hockey season.

Guiding Principles

The following are 5 Guiding Principles that all volunteers, Board of Directors and staff will adhere to during their involvement in all BHV Evaluations. Administrators, coaches and evaluators are all asked to keep their attitudes, behaviours and actions in alignment with these 5 principles.

Quality

It is the parents right to be well informed in a positive and professional manner. Ethical treatment of the athletes and the development of their self-esteem must always be at the forefront.

- Build a Good Foundation

Integrity

Our stated values must be held in the highest regard and not compromised. Actions speak louder than words.

- Walk the Talk

Professionalism

A positive environment must be created through consistent and open communication. Each player deserves a fair opportunity to be successful.

- Treat People Right

Preparation

Do the work, spend the time, find the answers, and care about the results.

- Leave No Stone Unturned

Pursuit of Excellence

Being the best we can be is the fundamental issue in the pursuit of excellence. The philosophy of the program and policies of BVHS can never be compromised in the pursuit of excellence

- A Focused Approach on Process, Not Outcome

General Overview of the Skills to Play the Game

Skating

Acceleration, speed, mobility, agility, balance, stride, crossovers, pivots, acceleration out of turns, quick feet, controlled skating, change of pace.

- Can the players perform the basic forward and backward stride?
- Are the players knees well bent with the back slightly forward and the head up, or is the player hunched over, bending at the waist with little knee bend?
- Good skaters will use long strides with a complete recovery of the stride leg before striding with the other leg. Their strides will look very smooth and appear not to require much effort to move around the ice?
- Does the player look smooth when they skate or do they appear off balance?
- Can the player turn in both directions with little trouble or do they struggle to turn in one or both directions?
- Can the player stop in both directions? Younger players will often have trouble stopping in one direction?
- Can the player keep up with the play or do they struggle to stay with the other players on the ice?
- Quickness/Acceleration/Powerful Strides/speed skills
- Does the player have agility, balance, coordination
- Does the play have lateral movement/ Does he or she go to open ice

Passing

Passing, receiving, passing choices, on backhand, unselfish with the puck, presents a good target, receives and retains with control, touch passing.

- Can the player pass the puck to its intended target with minimal effort?
- Can the player make an accurate pass to a moving target?
- Can the player receive a pass on their backhand or do they tend to shift their body to receive the pass on the forehand?
- Can the player pass the puck off of the backhand with some speed and accuracy?
- Does the player call for the puck vs. banging their stick on the ice or saying nothing at all?
- Does the player passing the puck make eye contact with the intended receiver or do they just pass the puck blindly?
- Can the player pass the puck off of the boards to another player?

Puck Control

Head ups, smooth and quiet, good hands, protection, in small spaces, in traffic.

- Does the player have the basic skills to execute a forehand and backhand pass?
- When the player passes the puck do they slap at it or is the motion smooth with the player following through to the intended target?
- Does the player appear to be comfortable handling the puck while skating or do they appear to fight the puck and have trouble skating with some speed while handling it?
- Can the player keep his/her head up while carrying the puck?
- Can they execute dekes and fakes with the puck?
- Can't they stop quickly or change directions while handling the puck?
- Can the player continue to handle the puck while in traffic and under pressure?
- Deking (1 on 1)
- Puck movement (quick and crisp) playmaker
- Puck Protection- 1 on 1, along boards, out in front of the net

Shooting- Scoring

Power, accuracy, quick release, can shoot in motion, goal scorer, rebound control, variety of shots.

- Can the player execute the technique of a wrist shot and backhand?
- Does the player follow through to the target on all shots?
- Can the player raise the puck?
- Is the puck shot with some velocity?
- Does the puck sit flat in the air or does it wobble?
- Can the player execute a one-time shot?
- Is the player accurate when shooting?
- Good soft hands
- Puts puck in net
- Has a variety of shots
- Quick release
- Goes to net (net drives)
- Accuracy

Positional Play

Ability to see the play developing both offensively and defensively and moves to support, judgment, anticipation, understands systems, disciplined.

- Does the player seem to understand where he/she are to play on the ice?
- Do they support the puck in defensive and offensive situations?
- Does the player show patience or do they tend to panic when pressured?
- Do they protect the mid lane and force opposing players inside out?
- Can the player angle another player off of the puck?
- Does the player force the play or do they wait too long?

Checking Concepts

Concept of angling, good body position with balance and control, defensive side position, aggressive checker, strength, taking checks.

- Can the player execute basic stick and body checks?
- Does the player check properly with their hands down or do they get their arms up to give a check?
- Can the player receive a check properly, not turning their back and staying close to the boards?
- Can the player check and opposing player and pin them on the boards?
- Does the player shy away from other players?
- Holds pins, gets out of pins
- Physical and mental toughness
- Aggressiveness/ Soft
- Angling skills
- Various Stick Checks
- Positioning, Offensive, Neutral and Defensive Zones

Individual Position Assessments for U13, U15 and U18

Goalies

Athletic Ability

- quickness, Agility
- flexible, Mobility
- natural Movement

Positioning & Movement

- square to puck
- side to side
- recovery skills
- make 2nd & 3rd save
- covers lower part of net

Mental Toughness

- mature & poised
- focus / concentration
- re-group
- relaxed

Stops Pucks

- does he win the big game
- make key / big saves
- steals a game

Defence

- Point shot? Strong / Weak? Wrist Shot?
- Lateral mobility/turning both ways?
- **Reads the rush?**
- Checking/angling skills? Can they force and hold a pin in the corners?
- Pinching and thinking?
- Do defence pairs support each other well?
- Does he have difficulty in net front coverage? Strength/Balance? Head on a Swivel?
- Does he initiate breakout? Jump up into play?
- How is his puck movement/play making? Can he make the first pass tape to tape?
- Block shots

Puck Handling

- Passing
- Control of Loose Pucks

Communicates

- with defence

Coachability

- willingness to learn
- competes

Skills Evident

- catching hand
- feet
- stick
- skating

Style / Size

- technical (simple saves)
- instinctive (reckless)
- how does he read the play?
- Pro Fly (not butterfly)

Forwards

- Any player with exceptional 1 vs. 1 skills. Do they dominate? Can they beat the defence?
- Do they support the puck/puck carriers? How do they play away from the puck?
- Size and speed on the wings?
- Create good passing angle?
- How do forwards react with the puck under pressure?
- How committed are they to defensive play? Head on a swivel, look around?
- Do they block point shots?
- How is their playmaking and puck movement?
- Centers' face offs? Win/loss? Direct players into position? OZ, DZ, NZ. Forehand / Backhand.

Evaluators Cue Cards

Player Selection Criteria Evaluator Cue Card

Skating – speed, quickness, technique

- Forward and Backward
- Turn both directions
- Stop both directions
- Are they in a good position for stability and strength

Passing – technique, control, vision

- Forehand and Backhand
- To moving and stationary target
- Vision – do they take a look and select best option
- Advanced – board passes, chips, saucer passes

Puck Control – technique, open ice, confined space

- Open carry with speed
- Execute dekes and fakes on the 1 on 1
- Can they handle the puck in traffic and tight space
- Ability to maintain control while being checked

Shooting – technique, accuracy, velocity

- Forehand and backhand
- Wrist shot, snap shot, slap shot
- Velocity
- Accuracy
- Shot Selection – do they select the best shot for the opportunity?

Game Understanding – Principles of Offence and Defence

- Player understands positional play
- Player supports the puck on the defensive and offensive side of puck
- Player communicates with teammates
- Player has the ability to read and react.

Rating Guide

7. Excellent

An excellent performance. Player executes effectively at all times while executing the skill set. Player stands out above peer members. This is the complete gamer that everyone coach wants on his or hers team.

6. Outstanding

Player is above average, but still has skill sets to improve upon before reaching Excellent Status

5. Above Average

An above average performance. Player has excellent skills sets, but still needs work to be reach excellent standard.

4. Average

Player's skills are satisfactory and does not stand out as a top end player, but at the same time does not stand out as one of the weaker players.

3. Below Average

Player needs to work on skill set further. Struggles to perform the skill set at the same level as his or hers peer group.

2. Weak

Player has basic foundations down, but has yet to meet the average standard among peer group.

1. Poor

Player struggles with skill set, and stands out as a bottom end player in his or hers respective group. Player lacks fundamental skill sets.

Some Tips on How to Evaluate a Hockey Game

What do you see when you watch a hockey game? Do you have a vision of what it is you are looking for? What do you hope to get out of your evaluating? How are you going to keep track?

Establish a Vision of What You to Get Out of a Game

- What is it you really want to know?
- How are you going to use the information?
- What information is useful and what is merely interesting?

Where to Sit in Order to Get the Best Information

- Sit as high up as possible in the 'D' zone end behind the blue line while still being able to see players numbers, names, and if possible, facial expressions.
- Sit in the same spot for the entire session
- Don't sit with other evaluators. Give yourself space to come out with your own evaluation summary.
- Don't discuss your evaluations with other evaluators/parents!!

How to Keep Track of What You See

- Try to put all information on one page.
- Start by focusing on one thing at a time.
- Use point form; expand on your points later.

Helpful Hints

1. Follow the play away from the puck as well (Sessions 2-5).
2. Try not to get caught up in the game. Watch the players, not the game!!
3. Follow all the players, without being influenced by the winning or losing team.
4. Stay with your criteria.
5. When filling out evaluation forms, when you put a number ranking in the overall ranking please put a couple of comments as to why that player has been given the number (write notes all over the form if necessary).
6. You cannot use half points in (i.e. 1.5, 2.5).
7. Do not compare notes with other people. Some will know what you are doing and pump you for information.
8. Players from your area
 - Rate what you see today. Forget what you know from the past. Be accurate, No fudged ratings

Contact

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