ORONO WESTONKA GIRLS HOCKEY COOPERATIVE

TRAVEL PLAYER EVALUATION PROCESS & CRITERIA 2026-2027

The Orono Westonka Girls Hockey Cooperative is committed to supporting our athletes throughout the team placement process. This document is intended as a guide to help you understand what to expect before, during, and after evaluations.

Our goal is to ensure a fair and impartial approach that results in players being placed at the level best suited to support their skill development and love of the game.

The Warrior Co-op Committee wishes all players the very best in the upcoming hockey season.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Before Evaluations **Page 2**
- Closed Evaluations
- Warrior Training Camp
- Evaluation Dates/Location
- Equipment

Absence Policy/FAQ **Page 3**

During Evaluations **Pages 4-6**
- Core Competencies
- Evaluator Quick Guide
- What to Wear
- How will I be Evaluated
- What to Expect
- Goalies
- Negative Contributions

After Evaluations **Page 7**
- Final Determination
- Notification
- Questions/Comments

DISCLAIMER: THE INTENT OF THIS DOCUMENT IS TO SUPPORT THE EVALUATION PROCESS. IF ANYTHING HEREIN INADVERTENTLY CONFLICTS WITH THE WARRIORS COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT, THE OFFICIAL POLICIES AND/OR PRACTICES OF THE COOPERATIVE SHALL REMAIN IN EFFECT.

BEFORE EVALUATIONS

All player evaluations are closed to parents and the public. Any arena video equipment will be disabled or covered during this time. To maintain the integrity of the process and ensure a fair experience for all Warriors players, only non-conflicted level leads, evaluators, non-conflicted volunteers, and on-ice personnel are permitted in the arena. Parents and guardians may assist with skates before promptly exiting the facility.

WARRIOR PRE-SEASON TRAINING CAMP

Pre-season Warrior training camp clinics are optional sessions for all skaters and goalies in order to prepare for tryouts. The intent of the training camp sessions is to sharpen skills and provide on ice opportunities prior to evaluation sessions. Participation and performance in the training camp will not be used in evaluations in any way. The Warrior Co-op Committee recognizes that participation in multiple sports/activities is beneficial for the kids in our community. We also recognize that schedule conflicts are inevitable when kids are enrolled in multiple sports/activities, and that kids make participation choices based on priority and interest.

The second and fourth preseason sessions will be an opportunity to practice the skills drills that will be used in evaluations. Please monitor the Warrior Travel Program Page for information on training camp clinics.

EVALUATION DATES AND LOCATION

Travel evaluations will generally begin in late September and be completed by mid-October. Dates and times for evaluations are posted to the Warrior Travel Program Page. Please monitor the website and understand which session you must attend.

EQUIPMENT

Please make sure all equipment is in good condition and is the Warrior hockey color scheme (blue, black, red, white, or similar). All players will need to have neck protection on in order to play. All non-Warriors stickers must be removed prior to taking the ice for the first evaluation session. No AAA team, all-star team, or choice league stickers are allowed. Please ensure that all players have a generic or Warriors water bottle. Non Warriors stickers and AAA team stickers may be removed at the discretion of volunteers in the arena.

ABSENCE POLICY AND FAQ

Absence from player evaluations is strongly discouraged as it not only affects the missing player, but also the Warriors Association and the quality of the evaluation process.

What if I can't participate in evaluations?
The following are considered excused absences for missing an evaluation session: Injury, illness, religious conflict, mandatory school function, a Tier 1/Tier 2 game, or specific approval from the Warrior Co-op Committee. Fatigue from participation in another sport/activity is not considered an excused absence.

What if I have an excused absence and am unable to participate?
It is critical to notify the Warrior Co-op Committee in writing of an excused absence. It is expected that families will notify the Committee 14 days before the evaluation session.

What if I cannot attend due to another reason?
If missing an evaluation session for a non-excused reason, contact the Warrior Co-op Committee in writing immediately providing details. The Committee's email address is oronowestonkagirlshockey@gmail.com. In fairness to all players trying out, the reason will be considered and either approved or denied by the Warrior Co-op Committee.

What team will I be placed on if I completely miss evaluations due to an excused absence?
Warrior Co-op Committee members, with feedback from applicable coaches and/or evaluation committee level leads, will determine team placement.

What happens if I miss an evaluation session due to an excused absence?
Warrior Co-op Committee members, with feedback from applicable coaches and/or evaluation committee level leads and available session scores will be used to determine the next session or team placement.

What happens if I miss an evaluation session due to an unexcused absence?
If the Warrior Co-op Committee was not notified or the absence was not approved, the evaluation score can be negatively impacted. Feedback from applicable coaches, evaluation committee level leads, and available session scores may still be considered. If a player misses due to illness or injury and is not injured or ill, the evaluation score will be negatively impacted.

Can I opt out of player evaluations completely and still play hockey for the Warriors?
Yes. Players have the option to opt out of player evaluations completely and be automatically placed on the lowest level team for their age group. Players who would like to opt out of player evaluations should notify the Warrior Co-op Committee in writing.

DURING EVALUATIONS

CORE COMPETENCIES

Evaluators will look for complete hockey players, with strengths balanced across skating skills, puck skills (puck handling, passing, shooting), and competitiveness.

WHAT TO WEAR

Please wear a Warrior colored jersey and socks with no team names, last names, or other identifiers on them. Prior Warrior practice jerseys are okay. If you are new and in need of a Warrior jersey/pair of socks please contact the Warrior Board. No AAA team, all-star team, or choice league stickers or identifiers of any kind are allowed. All players will need to have neck protection.

DURING EVALUATIONS

HOW WILL I BE EVALUATED?

During each evaluation session, a panel of non-conflicted evaluators (as defined in the Warrior Co-op Agreement) will score each player based on a preset number of drills and weighting specific to each session. Evaluators are chosen for their hockey knowledge, are trained in the process in order to fairly evaluate players, and do not have a player participating at the level they are evaluating.

The Warrior Co-op Committee has appointed an Evaluation Committee to assist with the tryout process. The Evaluation Committee members serve as the level leads for all travel levels where they are not conflicted. Members are responsible to secure additional non-conflicted evaluators at their level. These could be association coaches, coaches from the high school programs, or individuals from outside the association. Our goal is to have a minimum of 4 evaluators for every session. Independent, goalie-specific evaluators are used during the goalie-only sessions and the regular evaluation sessions/scrimmages.

WHAT TO EXPECT?

Players are expected to arrive at the arena no more than 30 minutes before their evaluation session. Upon arrival, players will be given a pinnie to wear over their jersey. Pinnie assignments will remain the same and can be kept throughout the evaluation process.

As we have in previous years, levels will be split into multiple groups or “pools”. Pool assignments for Evaluation Day 1 are based on an alphabetical split and not tiered. As such, pool assignments must be followed in order to avoid overcrowding.

Evaluation Day	Pool Split	Skills/Scrimmage	Grading
Day #1 Pre-Split	Group 1, Group 2 (see website)	45 min skills 45 min scrimmage	33% Skating 33% Puck Skills 33% Competitiveness
Day #2 Post-Split	A & B Pool	60 min scrimmage	33% Skating 33% Puck Skills 33% Competitiveness

DURING EVALUATIONS

WHAT TO EXPECT, CONTINUED

After Evaluation 1, players will be separated into A and B pools. You will be notified of your placement via email. The scores are zeroed out after day one and rescored for the post-split sessions in accordance with the appropriate pool. Levels with more or fewer teams will be pooled appropriately.

Evaluation Day	Pool Split	Skills/Scrimmage	Grading
Day #3 Post-Split	A & B Pool	60 min scrimmage	33% Skating 33% Puck Skills 33% Competitiveness
Day #4 Post-Split	A & B Pool	60 min scrimmage	33% Skating 33% Puck Skills 33% Competitiveness

Based on the number of players and/or player scores, some players may be asked not to participate in certain scrimmages or a portion of certain scrimmages. The intent of removing some players from certain scrimmages is to give evaluators additional time to evaluate other players.

GOALIES

The Warrior program uses an independent third party for the purpose of goalie evaluations. An independent, goalie specific evaluator will be part of Day 2 and Day 3 Evaluations . Goalies will participate in all 4 sessions but will be evaluated only during days 2 and 3. Goalies will also attend a goalie-only session.

NEGATIVE CONTRIBUTIONS

The safety of our players is the top priority of the Warrior Co-op Committee. Any dangerous or negative conduct can impact an evaluation score. This includes flagrant penalties, use of foul language on/off the ice, play intended to injure, or issues on the bench regarding bullying or jumping the line in order to play with preferred teammates.

AFTER EVALUATIONS

Evaluations can be an anxious time for our players and their families. As parents/guardians, the words we choose and the feelings we reflect upon our kids have lasting impressions. In the end, all kids will have the opportunity to participate in this great game, and the parents will have the opportunity to cheer for their favorite hockey player. Once teams are formed and the schedule is set, the focus quickly shifts to having a fun and successful season.

FINAL DETERMINATION

In the unlikely event that a first year and second year players are a statistical tie, the tiebreaker will go to the second-year player at the particular level. This applies to both the A/B pool splits and the final team placement.

There will be no discretion in team placement except for teams with a non-parent head coach. The coach in this situation has the opportunity to adjust player placement within 2 players of the split and within 10% of the margin. If the non-parent coach elects to utilize this discretion, they will present the reasons to the Warrior Board for approval.

NOTIFICATION

After team selections are complete, you will be notified via email. You will also be contacted by your team's coach providing information about the schedule and first practice.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

The Warrior Co-op Committee is committed to continuously improving evaluations. It is one of the most critical functions of the Committee to run a fair and consistent process. Comments, concerns or questions regarding evaluations can be directed in writing to the Committee at oronowestonkagirlshockey@gmail.com. Do not bring questions/comments to coaches, evaluators, or evaluations committee members.

The Warrior Co-op Committee understands that there will be disappointments. However, team selections are final.