

Rogers Otsego Youth Lacrosse (ROLAX)

Evaluation/Team Placement Policy

This document outlines the policies regarding evaluations and team placements.

General Information

Purpose: The goal of team evaluations is to ensure:

- Fair and unbiased team placements
- Place players on the team that is the best fit for their safety and skill level
- Provide opportunities for player development and growth
- Maintain a competitive balance

The number of teams at each age level will be determined by the number of player registrations. ROLAX follows the current recommended roster sizes and guidelines for team placement from the [Great Northern Lacrosse League](#) (GNLL), if registration numbers support having 2 teams, the following will apply:

- 6U–8U: Two balanced B-level teams will be formed.
- 10U: Two teams assigned to Novice and/or Experienced divisions.*
- 12U–14U: Two or more teams will be formed based on skill level as determined through evaluations. Per GNLL, balanced/equal skill teams are not permitted at 12U/14U

*10U note: Our goal is to place each team in the division that provides the best opportunity for development and meaningful, competitive games, not lopsided blowouts, and to do so without implementing individual tryouts at this age.

Dates: Evaluation dates, times, locations, and general criteria will be published on the ROLAX website **at or before** player registration.

Required Equipment: All players must have appropriate lacrosse equipment to participate in evaluations. Players without the necessary equipment will not be allowed to participate. See <https://www.usalacrosse.com/equipment>

Attendance:

- All players are required to attend all scheduled evaluations
- Evaluations will only be held on the dates and times published with registration.

Absences:

Any player unable to participate in tryouts due to injury, illness, or other Board approved absence will be evaluated on prior year performance, previous coaching recommendations, and current coach recommendation to determine the most likely team placement.

- Parent/Player must complete the [Evaluation Absence Request](#) form at least 2 weeks prior to the first day of evaluations or as soon as the need arises due to injury or emergency.
- Failure to submit the form may result in an automatic placement on a lower-level team

Before the first day of evaluations, the board will review all absence requests to determine if absence will be excused or un-excused.

Evaluations

Players will be evaluated on the following:

- Stick skills (passing, catching, cradling)
- Coachability & attitude
- Communication on the field

- Shooting accuracy & power
- Ground ball technique & hustle
- Defensive positioning & footwork
- Lacrosse IQ / decision-making
- Speed, agility, and overall athleticism
- Effort, intensity, and consistency
- Teamwork and sportsmanship

Evaluators:

ROLAX will make reasonable efforts to use independent, outside evaluators, such as high school coaches, neighboring association coaches, or other neutral lacrosse personnel, to score players during evaluations.

If outside evaluators are not available, evaluations will be conducted by a ROLAX Evaluation Committee consisting of trained evaluators who are not a parent of any player in the age group being evaluated.

To maintain fairness, consistency, and a bias-free evaluation environment, the following rules apply:

- **No Parents Evaluating Their Child's Age Group:** Parents may not score, observe for evaluation purposes, advise, or assist in any evaluative capacity for their child's age and position group.
- All evaluation sessions are closed to parents and spectators to ensure a focused, unbiased environment.
 - Coaches assigned to the age group are allowed to observe but cannot formally score or evaluate any players. The head coach will be allowed to participate in team placement decisions.
 - A parent who is the Head Coach of that age group may be present to observe but may not score or influence scoring and placement for their child's age and position group.
 - Parent board members:
 - Must recuse themselves completely from the evaluation process whenever possible.
 - If full recusal is not possible due to logistical needs, the parent board member may only participate in evaluations for age groups where their child is not playing, and may not provide input, advice, or influence regarding their child's age group.

Teams/Placements: Teams are formed based on evaluation scores, developmental needs, player safety, balance, coach input, and what is determined to be the best fit for each player. Players will be grouped and ranked by declared positions; the top scorers in each position will automatically be placed on the higher-level team.

Parents and players will be notified about team placement as soon as possible following evaluations.

Questions/Concerns: There is a 24-hour "cooling off period" following evaluations and the announcement of team placements. Under no circumstances should a parent or player initiate contact regarding evaluations or placements with an evaluator. After observing the 24-hour cooling off period, questions or concerns must go through the Boys/Girls Director and/or the President and Vice President.

Once rosters are announced, all placements are final.

The Rogers-Otsego Youth Lacrosse Board reserves the right to place any player on the best fit team regardless of evaluation attendance or scores.