



Cloquet Amateur Hockey Association

Player Evaluation Policy

Effective Date: September 21, 2025 *(to be reviewed annually)*

Approved By: Cloquet Amateur Hockey Association (CAHA) Board of Directors

I. Purpose

This policy outlines the player evaluation process for Cloquet Amateur Hockey Association (CAHA), in alignment with Minnesota Hockey and District 11. Evaluations ensure fair, transparent, and developmentally appropriate team placements to support every athlete's growth and development.

II. Guiding Principles

- **Development-Focused:** CAHA places long-term player development above short-term wins.
- **Fairness & Transparency:** A standardized, unbiased process ensures equitable placement.
- **SafeSport Compliance:** It is recommended that all evaluators or volunteers involved in evaluations that have direct contact with the players meet SafeSport certification and screening requirements.
- **Merit-Based Placement:** No teams are pre-selected. All players earn their spot through evaluation.

Evaluation Timing

Evaluations are conducted during the Fall Pre-Season Period, timed with District 11's declaration window to ensure compliance and appropriate scheduling.

Age Levels & Team Structure

Evaluations will be held at the following levels:

- 10U/12U Girls, Squirt/Peewee/Bantam (10U–14U) – Tiered (A, B1, B2, C) per District 11
- 15U, Junior Gold – As required by District 11 and Minnesota Hockey

Team tiers and rosters will follow official District 11 rules and deadlines.

Registration & Eligibility

To participate in evaluations, players must:

- Be registered with USA Hockey and CAHA
- Have completed all necessary waivers
- Be current on all association dues or on an approved payment plan

Evaluation Committee

CAHA will assemble a neutral Evaluation Committee consisting of:

- Coach and Player Development Chair or designee appointed by CPD Chair
- Independent evaluators (non-parent)
- Non-conflicted coaches or board members

It is recommended that all committee members complete SafeSport certification and submit a Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure when appropriate. (see Appendix D).

Evaluation Format

A. Skills Assessment

Evaluators will score each player on:

- Skating (stride, edge control, transitions)
- Stickhandling
- Shooting (accuracy, technique, power)
- Passing and receiving

B. Game Scenarios

Players will participate in:

- Full-ice or half-ice scrimmages
- Small-area games to evaluate game sense, positioning, decision-making, and compete.

C. Goalie Evaluations

Goalies will be evaluated separately using:

- Rebound control
- Positioning and lateral movement
- Save techniques and tracking

Evaluators will use player numbers, not names, to maintain objectivity.

8. Scoring & Evaluation Tools

- All scoring is done on a 1-5 or 1–10 scale (see Appendix A)
- Evaluators record scores and notes independently
- All evaluation forms are confidential and maintained by CAHA's Coach and Player Development Committee Chair or designee.

9. Team Placement

Final team placements are made by the Evaluation Committee, Coach and Player Development, and approved by the CAHA Board of Directors based on:

- Evaluation scores
- Position-specific needs (especially for goalies)
- Roster size and balance
- Input from coaches (non-binding and used only when necessary)

All placements will comply with District 11 tiering rules (see Appendix B).

10. Communication & Appeals

- Team rosters will be released within 72 hours of final evaluations.
- Parents may request a clarification meeting within 48 hours of posting. Such requests shall be made in writing (email or hard copy) to the CAHA President.
- No formal appeals will be accepted after that window.
- All placement decisions are final.

11. Confidentiality

Evaluation data, scoring, and deliberations are strictly confidential. No evaluator or committee member may disclose individual results or rankings outside the committee without approval from the CAHA Coach and Player Development Chair.

12. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the CAHA Board of Directors and updated in accordance with Minnesota Hockey and District 11 guidance.

This policy was presented to and approved by the CAHA Board of Directors on September 21, 2025, at its regular meeting.

By: 
Jeff Leno
President, CAHA Board of Directors

Date: 9-30-25

Appendix A: Sample Evaluation Rubric

Skill Area	Criteria	Score Range(s) (1-5 or 1–10)
Skating	Speed, balance, edge control	1 = Needs Development, 5/10 = Elite
Stickhandling	Control, creativity	
Passing	Accuracy, timing, vision	
Shooting	Accuracy, power, release	
Game Awareness	Positioning, reads, anticipation	
Effort/Work Rate	Compete, Forechecking/backchecking, attitude	

Evaluators should write brief comments as needed for context.

Appendix B: District 11 Tier Definitions

Tier Description:

- A Highest competitive level
- B1 Intermediate tier with good skill depth
- B2 Developmental team with growing players
- C Recreational and emerging skill level

CAHA will only declare tiers approved and permitted by District 11 and Minnesota Hockey based on roster depth and skill parity.

Appendix C: SafeSport Requirements for Coaches

All Coaches must:

- Complete current USA Hockey SafeSport Training
- Undergo and pass a USA Hockey background screening
- Avoid participation if they have a conflict of interest (see Appendix D)
- Follow ethical standards: no favoritism, no public commentary on player placements

Appendix D: Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form

Cloquet Amateur Hockey Association (CAHA)

Evaluator Conflict of Interest Statement

- Name: _____
- Evaluating Level: _____
- Do you have a child, sibling, or stepchild at this level? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Are you coaching this level? ☐ Yes ☐ No

I affirm that I will conduct evaluations fairly, without bias, and keep all scoring confidential. I understand that any breach may result in removal from the evaluation process.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Appendix E: Injured Player Evaluation Protocol

CAHA recognizes that injuries may prevent some players from participating in scheduled evaluations. This appendix outlines the procedure for evaluating and placing injured players in a fair and developmentally appropriate manner.

1. Notification Requirements

- The player's parent or guardian must notify CAHA Coach and Player Development in writing prior to evaluations beginning. The request must detail:
 - Nature of the injury
 - Date of injury
 - Estimated return-to-play timeline

2. Placement Process for Injured Players

The Evaluation Committee, with input from the Coach and Player Development and Age-Level Coordinator, will determine placement based on the following factors:

- Documented coach evaluations from the previous season (if available)
- The player's prior team level and performance history
- Development trajectory and overall age-level parity
- Roster needs, particularly for positions like goalie

Note: No team placement is guaranteed. Every effort will be made to place the player appropriately based on available and relevant data.

3. Post-Evaluation Return-to-Play

If an injured player returns before the District 11 roster freeze date and placement is determined to be significantly mismatched based on their skill level:

- CAHA may request a roster change or reassignment through District 11, if allowed.

- If the roster freeze has taken effect or no reassignment is permitted, the player must remain on the originally assigned team.

4. Optional Mid-Season Evaluation

Injured players who miss evaluations may be subject to a mid-season skill review (non-binding) for:

- Long-term development tracking
- Possible future placement discussions (if rules permit)

This review will not guarantee reassignment but may inform offseason planning.