



RED DEER MINOR HOCKEY

Tryouts/Team Selection HANDBOOK

Red Deer Minor Hockey Association

2024–2025

INTRODUCTION

The tryout process is a fundamental component of our program. This document will act as the general guideline for all involved to ensure consistent application of the tryout principles are applied throughout the process. **The process aims to provide players with the best possible experience in an environment where they can grow as hockey players and individuals.** This document aims to make it a more fulfilling and positive experience for all. All the information in this document shall set an understanding for the tryout process and increase the transparent nature of the process.

After completion of the tryout process, we will be gathering feedback from coaches, participants, and evaluators to provide what worked well and what could be improved. This feedback will help us identify strengths and areas for enhancement, ensuring that our process remains fair, transparent, and effective for future tryouts.

EVALUATION OBJECTIVES

Red Deer Minor Hockey Association remains committed to supporting the following objectives throughout the evaluation process:

- Provide an impartial, consistent, and comprehensive selection process of a player's total hockey skills, resulting in the best chance to develop.
- To form teams that maintain a skill balance where players can develop, participate, and have fun playing hockey.
- To develop a transparent and trusted evaluation process by players, parents, and coaches.



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Frequently Asked Questions

Why does Red Deer Minor Hockey evaluate players?

This is a requirement of Hockey Alberta. Using a tryout process and the *Hockey Alberta One Player Development* model, the Association places players of similar ability and skill into hockey tiers.

Learn more: <https://www.hockeyalberta.ca/members/alberta-one/standardized-tiering/>

How many evaluation sessions will there be?

Each player will have a minimum of 2 tryout sessions for U9 – U18.

What is being evaluated?

If you would like more information on the specific skills, tactics, and behaviors being evaluated, please refer to the section on Player Selection Criteria (pages 5-6).

Who will do the evaluations?

The key groups involved in the evaluations:

- Off-ice evaluators will evaluate every player on the ice during the allotted time. There may also be on-ice evaluators if deemed necessary.
- Independent evaluators will not have any child(ren) in the age group they are an independent evaluator for.
- During the tryout process the association may use some of the volunteer coaches who submitted applications to coach and were interviewed. That does not guarantee their child a spot on a specific team but allows them an opportunity to be part of the process in a timely manner. Coach assignments will be made once player placements are determined during the tryouts.
- Association staff will coordinate the tryout process, track evaluations, oversee team selection, update lists on website, and schedule sessions.



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GUIDELINES FOR THE EVALUATION PROCESS

Overall Structure

The players within the division are ranked based on the evaluator's assessments. Each player is evaluated on different skills over the skills/scrimmages. In divisions U11 - U18, players declare their preference to play forward, defense, and goaltender in the registration process but coaches may adjust positions if playing strengths and skills are identified. Players are ranked by the position which is used to build our teams except at the U11 age group, where overall skill as a skater or goaltender will be the final selection criteria.

Timelines

Evaluation timelines will be set annually based on ice availability and in conjunction with league start dates for each division. Every effort is made to ensure that teams are finalized at least a week before league play, allowing time for practice(s) before gameplay but may not be possible in some cases.

Below is the tryout start dates for the 2024-25 season:

Goaltender Session Dates	
U18 AAA/U17 AAA	September 2, 2024
U18 AA/U16 AA	September 9, 2024
U15 AAA	August 27, 2024
U15 AA	September 5, 2024
U13 AA	September 3, 2024
U11 AA	September 12, 2024
Tryout Camp Start Dates	
U18 AAA	September 3, 2024
U17 AAA	September 9, 2024
U18 AA	September 16, 2024
U18AAA Female	August 27, 2024
U18 AA Female	September 8, 2024
U18 A Female	September 22, 2024
U16 AA	September 14, 2024
U16 AA	September 20, 2024
U15 AAA	August 28, 2024
U15 AA	September 7, 2024
U15 AA Female	August 31, 2024
U15 A Female	September 16, 2024
U13 AA	September 2, 2024
U13 AA Female	September 7, 2024
U13 A Female	September 18, 2024
U11 AA	September 14, 2024
U11 Female	September 19, 2024



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Parental Involvement

To ensure that we can provide a fair evaluation and minimize stress during the evaluation process, we ask that parents refrain from distracting any skaters or evaluation personnel during the sessions. Please be guided by the following:

- If a player is unable to attend a session, please contact RDMH office as soon as possible.
- Please keep away from the glass, benches, and boxes during evaluations sessions.
- Parents may not contact evaluators before, during or after evaluations to discuss any part of the process or results.
- Parents are asked only to watch sessions when their player is participating.
- Please refrain from yelling from the stands during the sessions. Players should be ready and focused on the on-ice proceedings without external influences.
- Players may experience anxiety during evaluations. Please keep the emphasis on having fun and provide a supportive environment for your player(s).

We value your help in ensuring a transparent, thorough, and balanced process that will result in a successful and enjoyable season.

***Parents who do not adhere to the above will be asked to leave the arena building.**

Guidelines for Contacting Players and Parents

All communication will be via association email and division level website page.

- Advise players and parents of the date, time, and location of their scheduled evaluation.
- Advise players to arrive a minimum of 30 minutes prior to the evaluation to register and assign the proper jersey.



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PLAYER SELECTION CRITERIA

The following general overview of the skills is a reference that will be provided to evaluators prior to the player selection process. Modifications to the list will be made based on the age group being evaluated.

<p>Skating</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forward • Backward • Tight Turns • Balance • Starts • Speed • Quickness • Agility • Edge Control • Cross Overs • Foot Speed • Stops • Edge balance 	<p>Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stick handling / Dekes • Forehand / Backhand • Dekes / Protection • Creativity • Shooting – different types of shots • Quick release • Point shots/Walking the line. • Accuracy of shot • Shooting in stride • Passing – choice of pass • Receiving pass/ accuracy of pass • Saucer pass / lateral pass • Checking (U18 & U15)
<p>Offensive / Defensive Tactics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positional Play • Knowing rules of game • Angling and Gap Control • Hockey Sense / IQ • Passing / Making Plays • Net drive • Attack triangle -Zone entries • Delays / Cycling • Timing • Support teammates • Pinching • 1vs1 / 2vs1 • Stick checking • Sharing of puck 	<p>Intangibles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work ethic • Battle • Communication • Back-Checking • Hard on and off the ice • Unselfish play - Sacrifice • Sharing of puck • Involved in play • Anticipation • Showing interest in the game



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EVALUATION FORMS AND SCORING

Evaluation forms will use a 1-10 scale (1-2 = NOT AT LEVEL, 3-4 = BELOW AVERAGE, 5-6 = AVERAGE, 7-8 = ABOVE AVERAGE, 9-10 = OUTSTANDING).

The 1-10 scale has several purposes. It will allow evaluators to sort and group players into similar categories. We want to ensure that the evaluation scores accurately reflect the comparability of players and believe the 1-10 scale accomplishes that goal. Players will receive 1 or 2 scores based on age group and level for each of their skates. Players are scored relative to other players within their on-ice grouping.

GOALTENDER EVALUATIONS

The evaluation of goaltenders requires specific attention outside of the regular player evaluation sessions. The Association will make every attempt to include the goaltenders in all sessions and will also schedule separate goaltender specific evaluations. Not all groups will have an individual goalie session based on numbers.

The goaltender specific evaluations shall include the following basic progression of skills:

1. Basic Skating Skills
2. Position-Specific movement skills
3. Positional/Save movement skills
4. Rebound – Control/Recovery/Tactical
5. Transitional Play
6. Advanced Positioning

Depending on the level of play and the age and development of the goaltender, the evaluation process for goaltenders may incorporate all 6 of these basic areas. Goalie experienced evaluators will be used in as many opportunities as possible during the tryouts. All on-ice goalie evaluation sessions will be run by external goalie specialists.

POSITIONS

U9 - positions will not be assigned to players.

U11 – players will be required to indicate their position (forward, defense, or goaltender) at the time of registration and will be provided with an opportunity to be evaluated at that position. Final selection though will be based on overall skill and not on position. Goalies at the AA/Tiered level will play that position exclusively for the year. Goalies at the city league will have the opportunity/option to play as a 'Skater' as well.

U13, U15 and U18 - players will be required to indicate their position (forward, defense, or goaltender) at the time of registration and will be evaluated according to their position.



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EVALUATION OF PARTICIPANTS BY DIVISION

U7

The objective of evaluations at this age is to evenly balance our teams which will allow a focus on skill development and sharing of resources.

Players will be evaluated by volunteer coaches and will focus on fundamental skills.

Information for Parents of U7 Players

- Players should plan to arrive 20-30 minutes prior to their skate time.
- Only one parent per player in the dressing room.
- Upon arrival players will receive an evaluation jersey to ensure they can be easily identified on the ice.
- Players at this age can anticipate playing a scrimmage session to evaluate their fundamental skills.
- The session is 40 minutes long.
- Parents are not permitted on the ice.

U9

The objective of the evaluation process is to evaluate a player's skating ability, puck possession skills and competitive spirit. Players at this age are taking their early strides in the game. Our focus is to ensure this is a positive experience and a place to form friendships and develop hockey skills, through fun and fair play.

The objective of evaluations at this age group is to find two groups of liked skilled players to create skill development sessions where they will be challenged and find success. Regardless of ability, all players will receive the same number of ice sessions.

Players are encouraged to attend all sessions of the evaluation to ensure they are properly assessed by the team of evaluators.

Players will participate in two (2) evaluations sessions:

Session 1	Skills Session
Session 2	Scrimmage

PART 1 - SKILL EVALUATION

Players in U9 will take part in one 30-minute skills session. The focus of this session is to evaluate the fundamental skills of each player. Players will be put through drills to test their skating speed, agility, edge control and puck handling. The purpose of this assessment is to determine their fundamental skill level before moving to the second part of evaluations.



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- Players will be grouped based on last names.
- The group sizes will range between 20 - 30 players.
- Players will be placed into groupings based on their skill evaluation score.

PART 2 - HALF-ICE SCRIMMAGE

Evaluation teams will be created to the best of our ability with desired roster sizes. These teams will be split into two groups for each game. These two groups will participate in two simultaneous half-ice games with another team. The format will be 4 on 4 and/or 5 on 5 hockey with no designated positions. Shifts will run in 90-second intervals, giving each player the same amount of gameplay.

The rules of gameplay will follow the Hockey Alberta Intro to Hockey Half-Ice gameplay model. Players will not be required to participate as a goaltender during the evaluation game process; however, if players would like to, they must notify the office prior to the start of evaluations. When possible, evaluation games will utilize shooter tutors (if available) instead of goaltenders.

Information for Parents of U9 Players

- Players should plan to arrive 30 minutes prior to their skate time.
- Upon arrival players will receive an evaluation jersey to ensure they can be easily identified on the ice.
- Only one parent per player in the dressing room.
- Skill Evaluation: Players at this age can anticipate moving through a series of stations to evaluate their fundamental skills. (30 minutes)
- Scrimmage: Players will have a 5-minute warm-up and 45-minute scrimmage.
- The session is 30 min skills sessions and 45 min scrimmage sessions.
- Parents are not permitted on the ice unless they are on-ice volunteers assigned by Red Deer Minor Hockey.



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U11

The objective of the tryout process is to evaluate a player's skating ability, puck possession skills and competitive spirit. Our focus is to ensure this is a positive experience and a place to form friendships and develop hockey skills, through fun and fair play. The tryout process will provide the very best conditions for players to showcase their skills and provide an equal opportunity for them to be seen on the ice and in as many situations as possible.

Players are to attend all sessions of the evaluation to ensure they are properly assessed by the team of evaluators.

Information for U11 Players and Parents

- Players should plan to arrive a minimum of 45 minutes prior to their skating time.
- Upon arrival players will receive an evaluation jersey to ensure they can be easily identified on the ice.
- **Jerseys will be checked in and out each session. Please make sure to check out with the volunteer and hang your jersey back up on the way out.**

Elite/Tiered Tryout & Team Selection Format

Players will participate in two (2) large group tryout skates after which a group of like players will be selected to skate in three (3) team selection skates, for the opportunity to be selected to an Elite/Tiered team. Those players not selected during the two large group tryout skates and those not selected during the three team selection skates will come back together and restart the process over for the B/C tryouts once all the Elite/Tiered teams are filled.

E.g. Tryout/Team Selection Structure

Session 1 Large Group	Scrimmage
Session 2 Large Group	Scrimmage
Session 3	Group 1 – SAG (skills/small area games) Group 2 vs. 3 Scrimmage
Session 4	Group 2 – SAG (skills/small area games) Group 1 vs. 3 Scrimmage
Session 5	Group 3 – SAG (skills/small area games) Group 1 vs. 2 Scrimmage

Player evaluations will be performed by a minimum of 3 independent evaluators (which may include the GM/Division Director), named coach(s) and/or volunteer parent coaches. Volunteer parent coaches that have applied to coach at this level and have been through an interview may be invited to participate at the appropriate time based on an estimate of their child's tiering. Having those coaches' part of the process early will give them an opportunity to be involved in the final team selection process and provide additional evaluation data for the age group.

AA/A Format

The first two (2) large group skates will be evaluated by a minimum of 3 independent evaluators (which may include the GM/Division Director) and the named AA coach. Once the top 45-51 skaters have been identified and moved to the three (3) team selection skates additional volunteer parent coaches may be brought into the process.



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The AA team will be selected by the named head coach and GM/Division Director using the following criterion; Forward/Defense roster spots available plus the next five (5) ranked players and at Goalie roster spots available plus the next three (3) ranked players. E.g. 9 forward roster spots - selected from the top 14 ranked forwards, 6 defense roster spots - selected from the top 11 ranked defense, etc.

The A team will be selected from the remaining players based on their scores provided by the independent evaluators, AA coach and the volunteer parent coaches invited into the tryout process. The top **6 forwards, 3 defense and 1 goalie**, from the remaining players, will automatically be selected to the A team. The A head coach will then be named and given the opportunity to select the final players from the same evaluation criterion of available roster spots plus five (5). E.g. 9 forward roster spots, coach selects from players ranked 7-14, 11 forward roster spots, coach selects from players ranked 7-16, 6 defense spots, coach selects from players ranked 4-9, etc. This criterion validates the independent scores but still gives the coach some autonomy to finalize his team.

B/C Format

The second large group tryout skate will continue the process for the B/C tryouts for those players not selected during the first large group skate and those not selected during the AA/A team selection skates. Player's evaluation scores from the first large group skates will be used with this next large group skate. Player evaluations will be performed by a minimum of 3 independent evaluators (which may include the GM/Division Director) and volunteer parent coaches invited into the tryout process. The top 45-51 skaters will be identified and moved to the three (3) team selection skates.

This group of players will skate three more times and be evaluated by the same group. Based on current registration numbers we are planning to have two B teams and one C team for the 2024-25 season. The top **12 forwards, 6 defense and 2 goalies** will automatically be selected to Each of the B teams. Head coaches will then be named for each B team, who will then draft players from that list of players. The coaches will then continue the draft based on the same criterion as previously described, e.g. 9 forward roster spots, coaches will select from players ranked 13-23, etc. Those players not selected for either B team will automatically be placed onto the C team. The C team coach will then be announced.

City Tryout & Team Selection Format

Players will participate in two (1-2) large group tryout skates made up of those players who registered for the city league and those players that were not selected to an Elite/Tiered team.

Player evaluations will be performed by a minimum of 3 independent evaluators (which may include the GM/Division Director). Volunteer parent coaches that have applied to coach at this level will be asked to watch and independently evaluate on their own, but their scores will not be included in the overall player scores. Those players that have scored in the top half will be equally divided amongst the number of teams we can accommodate based on registration numbers. For the 2024/25 season we are planning to have eight (8) teams. Head coaches will then be named and given an opportunity to select one player, outside of their own child, who they can select/move to their team before the player draft (to accommodate assistant coach/manager they may be familiar with). Coaches will then select their final players for their team from the remaining players through a coach draft process.



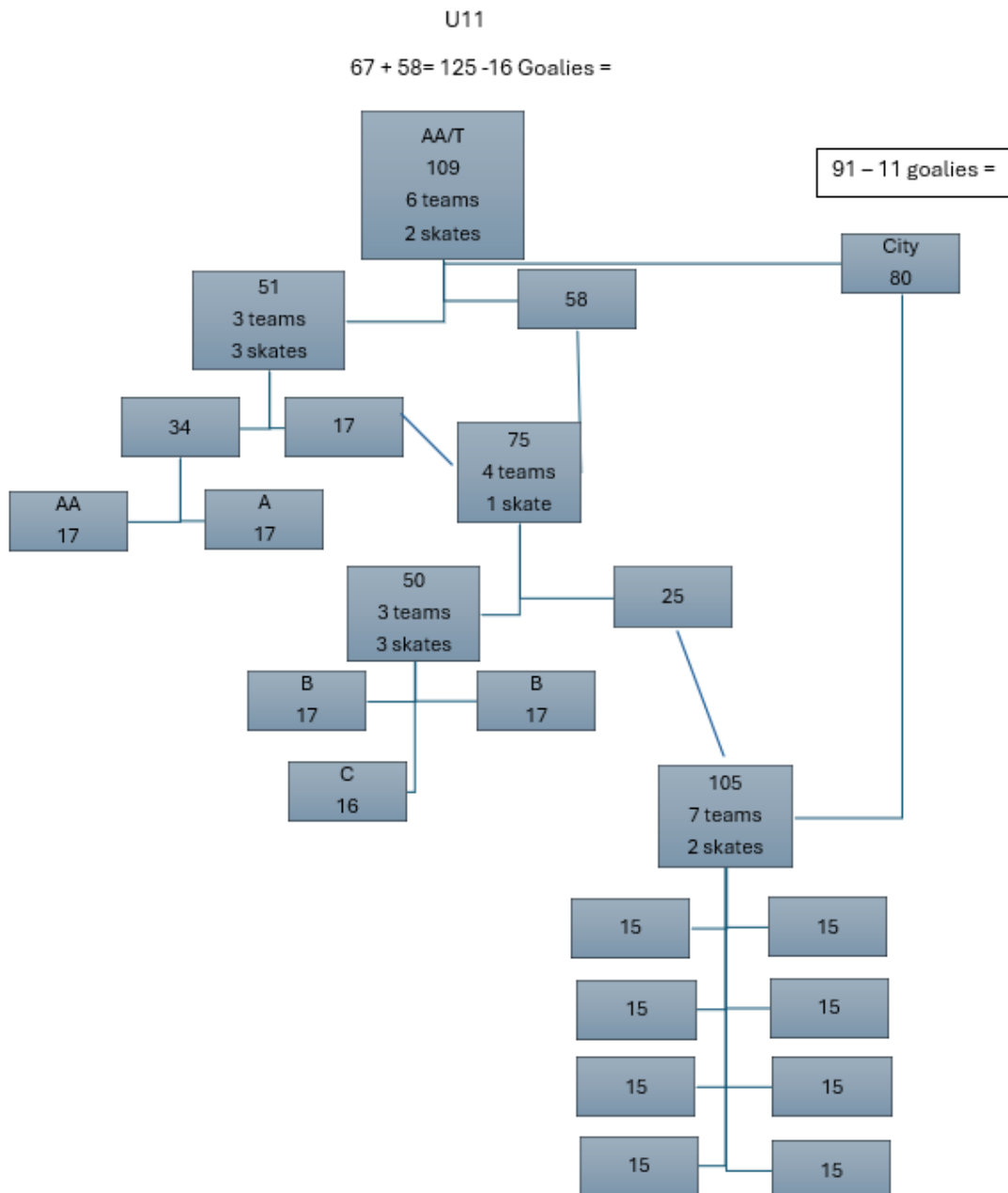
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Scrimmage Format

Evaluation teams will be created to the best of our ability with desired roster sizes. The format will be 5-on-5 hockey. Shifts should run roughly 90-second intervals, giving each player the same amount of gameplay. Parent volunteers will help supervise dressing rooms and monitor the bench (No coaching will occur on the benches. Supervision is for shift length, positions and playing rules).

Players will have a 5-minute warm-up and 50-minute scrimmage.

Tryout/Team Selection Flowchart – Example only – team make up and roster sizes may change based on final registration numbers.





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U13

The objective of the tryout process is to evaluate a player's skating ability, puck possession skills and competitive spirit. Our focus is to ensure this is a positive experience and a place to form friendships and develop hockey skills, through fun and fair play. The tryout process will provide the very best conditions for players to showcase their skills and provide an equal opportunity for them to be seen on the ice and in as many situations as possible.

Players are to attend all sessions of the evaluation to ensure they are properly assessed by the team of evaluators.

Information for U13 Players and Parents

- Players should plan to arrive a minimum of 45 minutes prior to their skating time.
- Upon arrival players will receive an evaluation jersey to ensure they can be easily identified on the ice. **This number and jersey will stay with the player for the remainder of the tryouts and will be their responsibility to bring to all skates. If a player forgets their jersey, they will not be allowed to skate.**
- All jerseys will be collected after they have been assigned to a team by the team manager.

Elite/Tiered Tryout & Team Selection Format

Players will participate in two (2) large group tryout skates after which a group of like players will be selected to skate in three (3) team selection skates, for the opportunity to be selected to an Elite/Tiered team. Those players not selected during the two large group tryout skates and those not selected during the three team selection skates will come back together and restart the process over for the B/C tryouts once all the Elite/Tiered teams are filled.

E.g. Tryout/Team Selection Structure

Session 1 Large Group	Scrimmage
Session 2 Large Group	Scrimmage
Session 3	Group 1 – SAG (skills/small area games) Group 2 vs. 3 Scrimmage
Session 4	Group 2 – SAG (skills/small area games) Group 1 vs. 3 Scrimmage
Session 5	Group 3 – SAG (skills/small area games) Group 1 vs. 2 Scrimmage

Player evaluations will be performed by a minimum of 3 independent evaluators (which may include the GM/Division Director), named coach(s) and/or volunteer parent coaches. Volunteer parent coaches that have applied to coach at this level and have been through an interview may be invited to participate at the appropriate time based on an estimate of their child's tiering. Having those coaches' part of the process early will give them an opportunity to be involved in the final team selection process and provide additional evaluation data for the age group.

AA/A Format

The first two (2) large group skates will be evaluated by a minimum of 3 independent evaluators (which may include the GM/Division Director) and the named AA coach. Once the top 45-51 skaters have been identified and moved to the three (3) team selection skates additional volunteer parent



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coaches may be brought into the process.

The AA team will be selected by the named head coach and GM/Division Director using the following criterion; Forward/Defense roster spots available plus the next five (5) ranked players and at Goalie roster spots available plus the next three (3) ranked players. E.g. 9 forward roster spots - selects from the top 14 ranked forwards, 6 defense roster spots - selects from the top 11 ranked defense, etc.

The A team will be selected from the remaining players based on their scores provided by the independent evaluators, AA coach and the volunteer parent coaches invited into the tryout process. The top **6 forwards, 3 defense and 1 goalie**, from the remaining players, will automatically be selected to the A team. The A head coach will then be named and given the opportunity to select the final players from the same evaluation criterion of available roster spots plus five (5). E.g. 9 forward roster spots, coach selects from players ranked 7-14, 11 forward roster spots, coach selects from players ranked 7-16, 6 defense spots, coach selects from players ranked 4-9, etc. This criterion validates the independent scores but still gives the coach some autonomy to finalize his team.

B/C Format

The second large group tryout skate will continue the process for the B/C tryouts for those players not selected during the first large group skate and those not selected during the AA/A team selection skates. Player's evaluation scores from the first large group skates will be used with this next large group skate. Player evaluations will be performed by a minimum of 3 independent evaluators (which may include the GM/Division Director) and volunteer parent coaches invited into the tryout process. The top 45-51 skaters will be identified and moved to the three (3) team selection skates.

This group of players will skate three more times and be evaluated by the same group. Based on current registration numbers we are planning to have two B teams and one C team for the 2024-25 season. The top **12 forwards, 6 defense and 2 goalies** will automatically be selected to one of the B teams. Head coaches will then be named for each B team, who will then draft players from that list of players. The coaches will then continue the draft based on the same criterion as previously described, e.g. 9 forward roster spots, coaches will select from players ranked 13-23, etc. Those players not selected for either B team will automatically be placed onto the C team. The C team coach will then be announced.

City Tryout & Team Selection Format

Players will participate in two (2) large group tryout skates made up of those players who registered for the city league and those players that were not selected to an Elite/Tiered team.

Player evaluations will be performed by a minimum of 3 independent evaluators (which may include the GM/Division Director). Volunteer parent coaches that have applied to coach at this level will be asked to watch and independently evaluate on their own, but their scores will not be included in the overall player scores. Those players that have scored in the top half will be equally divided amongst the number of teams we can accommodate based on registration numbers. For the 2024/25 season we are planning to have six (6) teams. Head coaches will then be named and given an opportunity to select one player, outside of their own child, who they can select/move to their team before the player draft (to accommodate assistant coach/manager they may be familiar with). Coaches will then select their final players for their team from the remaining players through a coach draft process.



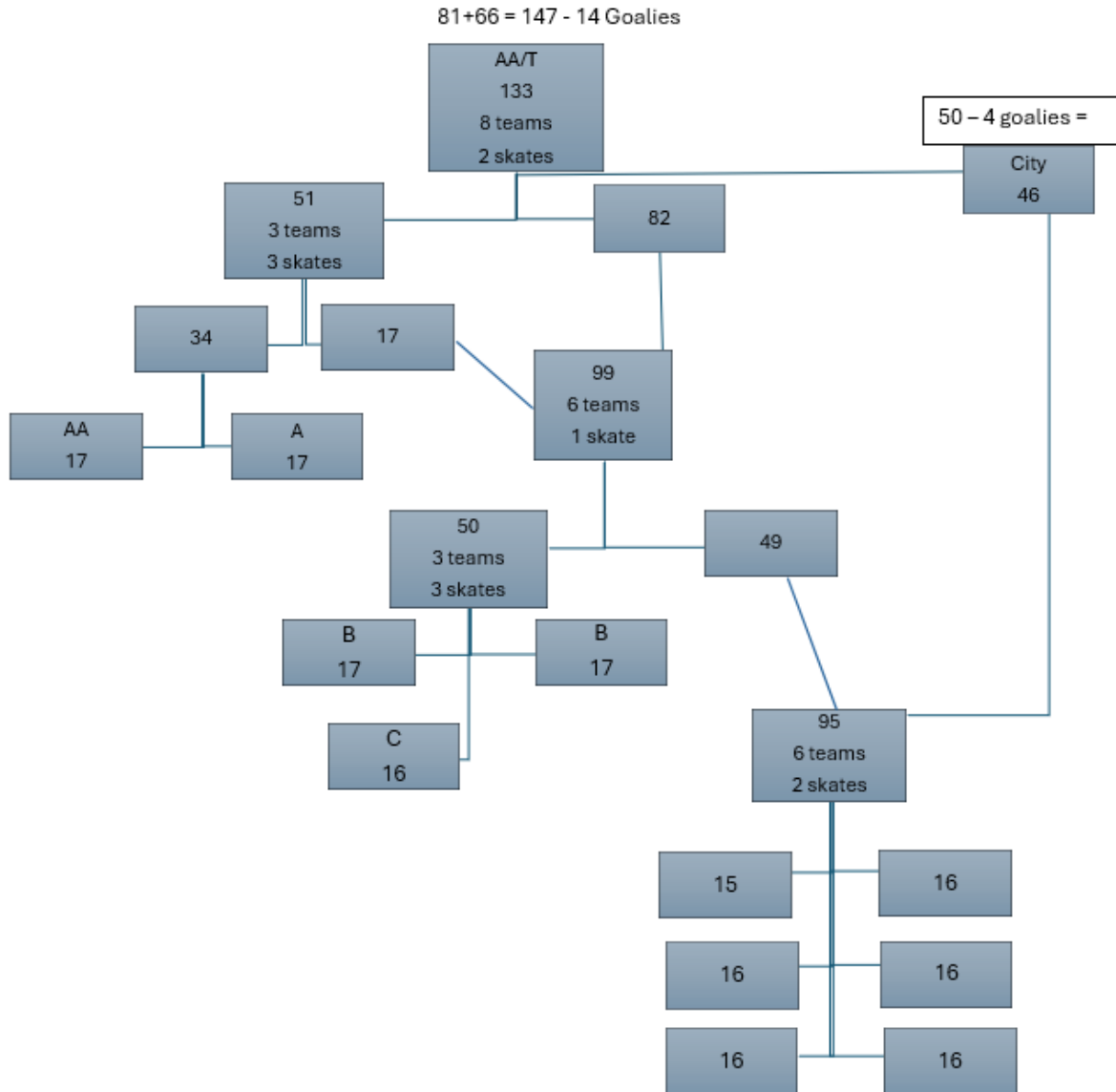
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Scrimmage Format

Evaluation teams will be created to the best of our ability with desired roster sizes. The format will be 5-on-5 hockey. Shifts should run roughly 60-90 second intervals, giving each player the same amount of gameplay. Parent volunteers will help supervise dressing rooms and monitor the bench (No coaching will occur on the benches. Supervision is for shift length, positions and playing rules).

Players will have a 5-minute warm-up and 50-minute scrimmage.

Tryout/Team Selection Flowchart – Example only – team make up and roster sizes may change based on final registration numbers.





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U15

The objective of the tryout process is to evaluate a player's skating ability, puck possession skills and competitive spirit. Our focus is to ensure this is a positive experience and a place to form friendships and develop hockey skills, through fun and fair play. The tryout process will provide the very best conditions for players to showcase their skills and provide an equal opportunity for them to be seen on the ice and in as many situations as possible.

Players are to attend all sessions of the evaluation to ensure they are properly assessed by the team of evaluators.

Information for U15 Players and Parents

- Players should plan to arrive a minimum of 60 minutes prior to their skate time.
- Upon arrival players will receive an evaluation jersey to ensure they can be easily identified on the ice. **For U15AAA jerseys will be checked in and out each session. Please make sure to check out with the volunteer and place them back on the hanger.**
- **For U15AA/A/B/C/City this number and jersey will stay with the player for the remainder of the tryouts and will be their responsibility to bring to all skates. If a player forgets their jersey, they will not be allowed to skate.**
- All jerseys will be collected after they have been assigned to a team by the team manager.

Elite/Tiered Tryout & Team Selection Format

Players will participate in two (2) large group tryout skates after which a group of like players will be selected to skate in three (3) team selection skates, for the opportunity to be selected to an Elite/Tiered team. Those players not selected during the two large group tryout skates and those not selected during the three team selection skates will come back together and restart the process over for the B/C tryouts until all the Elite/Tiered teams are filled.

E.g. Tryout/Team Selection Structure

Session 1 Large Group	Scrimmage
Session 2 Large Group	Scrimmage
Session 3	Group 1 – SAG (skills/small area games) Group 2 vs. 3 Scrimmage
Session 4	Group 2 – SAG (skills/small area games) Group 1 vs. 3 Scrimmage
Session 5	Group 3 – SAG (skills/small area games) Group 1 vs. 2 Scrimmage

Player evaluations will be performed by a minimum of 3 independent evaluators (which may include the GM/Division Director), named coach(s) and/or volunteer parent coaches. Volunteer parent coaches that have applied to coach at this level and have been through an interview may be invited to participate at the appropriate time based on an estimate of their child's tiering. Having those coaches' part of the process early will give them an opportunity to be involved in the final team selection process and provide additional evaluation data for the age group.



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U15 AAA Format

The first two (2) large group skates will be evaluated by independent evaluators (which may include GM/Division Director) AAA head coach and assistant coaches. The top 45-51 skaters will then be identified and moved to the three (3) team selection skates who will be evaluated by the same group of evaluators.

The AAA team will be selected by the head coach and GM/Division Director with consideration given to the player evaluation scores. The AAA team may carry additional players to exhibition games to provide additional time to evaluate players and/or cover players away at junior camps. Any extra players carried to exhibition roster and released will be guaranteed a position on the next lower age group team. The players not selected to the exhibition roster will be moved to the AA/A large group skate and all non-resident players will be released.

AA/A Format

The second two (2) large group skates will be evaluated by a minimum of 3 independent evaluators (which may include the GM/Division Director) and the named AA coach. Once the top 45-51 skaters have been identified and moved to the three (3) team selection skates additional volunteer parent coaches may be brought into the process.

The AA team will be selected by the named head coach and GM/Division Director using the following criterion; Forward/Defense roster spots available plus the next five (5) ranked players and at Goalie roster spots available plus the next three (3) ranked players. E.g. 9 forward roster spots - selects from the top 14 ranked forwards, 6 defense roster spots - selects from the top 11 ranked defense, etc.

The A team will be selected from the remaining players based on their scores provided by the independent evaluators, AA coach and the volunteer parent coaches invited into the tryout process. The top **6 forwards, 3 defense and 1 goalie**, from the remaining players, will automatically be selected to the A team. The A head coach will then be named and given the opportunity to select the final players from the same evaluation criterion of available roster spots plus five (5). E.g. 9 forward roster spots, coach selects from players ranked 7-14, 11 forward roster spots, coach selects from players ranked 7-16, 6 defense spots, coach selects from players ranked 4-9, etc. This criterion validates the independent scores but still gives the coach some autonomy to finalize his team.

B/C Format

The second large group tryout skate will continue the process for the B/C tryouts for those players not selected during the first large group skate and those not selected during the AA/A team selection skates. Player's evaluation scores from the first large group skates will be used with this next large group skate. Player evaluations will be performed by a minimum of 3 independent evaluators (which may include the GM/Division Director) and volunteer parent coaches invited into the tryout process. The top 45-51 skaters will be identified and moved to the three (3) team selection skates.

This group of players will skate three more times and be evaluated by the same group. Based on current registration numbers we are planning to have one B team and one C team for the 2024-25 season. The top **6 forwards, 3 defense and 1 goalie** will automatically be selected to B team. The head coach will then be named who will then select the remainder of their roster based on the same criterion as previously described, e.g. 9 forward roster spots, coaches will select from players ranked 7-14, etc.



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The top **6 forwards, 3 defense and 1 goalie** from the remaining players will be automatically selected to the C team. The head coach will then be named who will then select the remainder of their roster based on the same criterion as previously described, e.g. 9 forward roster spots, coaches will select from players ranked 7-14, etc.

All remaining players will be moved to the City League Tryouts.

City Tryout & Team Selection Format

Players will participate in two (2) large group tryout skates (subject to ice availability) made up of those players who registered for the city league and those players that were not selected to an Elite/Tiered team.

Player evaluations will be performed by a minimum of 3 independent evaluators (which may include the GM/Division Director). Volunteer parent coaches that have applied to coach at this level will be asked to watch and independently evaluate on their own, but their scores will not be included in the overall player scores. Those players that have scored in the top half will be equally divided amongst the number of teams we can accommodate based on registration numbers. For the 2024/25 season we are planning to have six (6) teams. Head coaches will then be named and given an opportunity to select one player, outside of their own child, who they can select/move to their team before the player draft (to accommodate assistant coach/manager they may be familiar with). Coaches will then select their final players for their team from the remaining players through a coach draft process.

Scrimmage Format

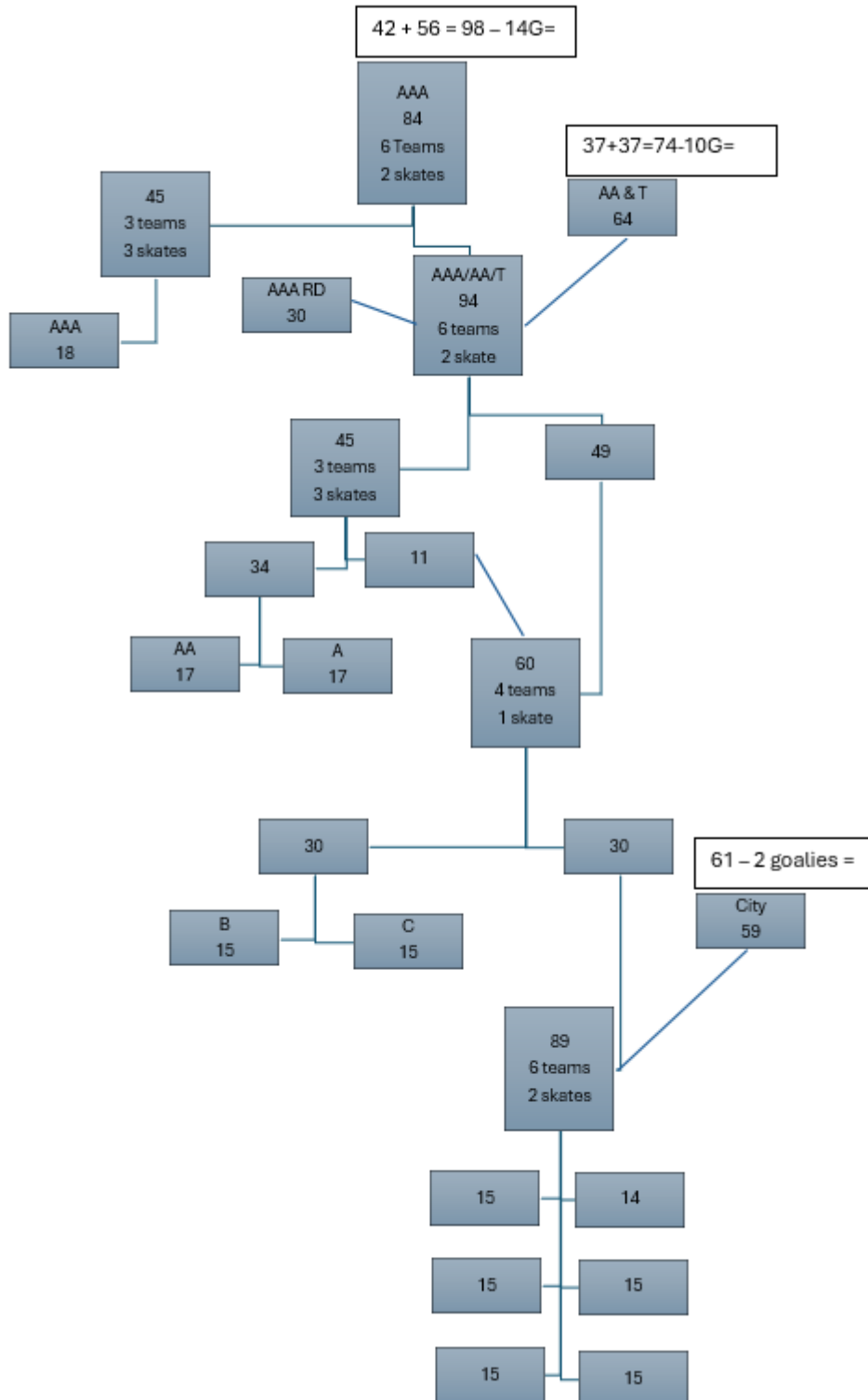
Evaluation teams will be created to the best of our ability with desired roster sizes. The format will be 5-on-5 hockey. Shifts should run roughly 60-90 second intervals, giving each player the same amount of gameplay. Parent volunteers will help supervise dressing rooms and monitor the benches (No coaching will occur on the benches. Supervision is for shift length, positions and playing rules).

Players will have a 5-minute warm-up and 50-minute scrimmage.



RED DEER MINOR HOCKEY

Tryout/Team Selection Flowchart – Example only – team make up and roster sizes may change based on final registration numbers.





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U18, U17, U16

The objective of the tryout process is to evaluate a player's skating ability, puck possession skills and competitive spirit. Our focus is to ensure this is a positive experience and a place to form friendships and develop hockey skills, through fun and fair play. The tryout process will provide the very best conditions for players to showcase their skills and provide an equal opportunity for them to be on the ice and in as many situations as possible.

Players are to attend all sessions of the evaluation to ensure they are properly assessed by the team of evaluators.

Information for U18 Players and Parents

- Players should plan to arrive a minimum of 60 minutes prior to their skate time.
- Upon arrival players will receive an evaluation jersey to ensure they can be easily identified on the ice.
- **Jerseys will be checked in and out each session. Please make sure to place them back on the hanger and hand them to the volunteer on the way out.**

Elite/Tiered Tryout & Team Selection Format

Players will participate in two (2) large group tryout skates after which a group of like players will be selected to skate in three (3) team selection skates, for the opportunity to be selected to an Elite/Tiered team. Those players not selected during the two large group tryout skates and those not selected during the three team selection skates will come back together and restart the process over for the B/C tryouts until all the Elite/Tiered teams are filled.

E.g. Tryout/Team Selection Structure

Session 1 Large Group	Scrimmage
Session 2 Large Group	Scrimmage
Session 3	Group 1 – SAG (skills/small area games) Group 2 vs. 3 Scrimmage
Session 4	Group 2 – SAG (skills/small area games) Group 1 vs. 3 Scrimmage
Session 5	Group 3 – SAG (skills/small area games) Group 1 vs. 2 Scrimmage

Player evaluations will be performed by a minimum of 3 independent evaluators (which may include the GM/Division Director), named coach(s) and/or volunteer parent coaches. Volunteer parent coaches that have applied to coach at this level and have been through an interview may be invited to participate at the appropriate time based on an estimate of their child's tiering. Having those coaches' part of the process early will give them an opportunity to be involved in the final team selection process and provide additional evaluation data for the age group.

U18 AAA Format

The first two (2) large group skates will be evaluated by independent evaluators (which may include GM/Division Director) AAA head coach and assistant coaches. The top 45-51 skaters will then be identified and moved to the three (3) team selection skates who will be evaluated by the same group of evaluators.



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The AAA team will be selected by the head coach and GM/Division Director with consideration given to the player evaluation scores. The AAA team may carry additional players to exhibition games to provide additional time to evaluate players and/or cover players away at junior camps. Any extra players carried to exhibition roster and released will be guaranteed a position on the next lower age group team they are eligible to play on. The players not selected to the exhibition roster will be moved to U17AAA or U18AA tryouts and third year non-resident players will be released to their home association.

U17 AAA Format

Those players signed up for U17AAA and those released from U18AAA will begin their two (2) large group skates and will be evaluated by a minimum of 3 independent evaluators (which may include the GM/Division Director), U17AAA coaches and U18AAA coaches. The top 45-51 skaters will then be identified and moved to the three (3) team selection skates who will be evaluated by the same group of evaluators.

The AAA team will be selected by the head coach and GM/Division Director with consideration given to the player evaluation scores. The AAA team may carry additional players to exhibition games to provide additional time to evaluate players and/or cover players still at U18AAA or Junior Camps. Any extra players carried to exhibition roster and released will be guaranteed a position on the next lower age group team they are eligible to play on. The players not selected to the exhibition roster will be moved to U18AA or U16AA tryouts and second year non-resident players will be released to their home association.

U16 AA Format

Those players signed up for U16AA will start with a prequalification skate. They will have two (2) large group skates and be evaluated by a minimum of 3 independent evaluators (which may include the GM/Division Director) and the named head coach. The top 20 skaters from the U16AA prequalification skate will be identified and join the first-year players released from the U17AAA tryouts and hold another two (2) team selection skates. Additional volunteer parent coaches may be brought into the process at this time.

The AA team will be selected by the named head coach and GM/Division Director using the following criterion; Forward/Defense roster spots available plus the next five (5) ranked players and at Goalie roster spots available plus the next three (3) ranked players. E.g. 9 forward roster spots - selects from the top 14 ranked forwards, 6 defense roster spots - selects from the top 11 ranked defense, etc.

The A team will be selected from the remaining players based on their scores provided by the independent evaluators, AA coach and the volunteer parent coaches invited into the tryout process. The top **6 forwards, 3 defense and 1 goalie**, from the remaining players, will automatically be selected to the A team. The A head coach will then be named and given the opportunity to select the final players from the same evaluation criterion of available roster spots plus five (5). E.g. 9 forward roster spots, coach selects from players ranked 7-14, 11 forward roster spots, coach selects from players ranked 7-16, 6 defense spots, coach selects from players ranked 4-9, etc. This criterion validates the independent scores but still gives the coach some autonomy to finalize his team.



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Those players not selected will join the U18 B/C tryouts.

U18AA/A Format

Those players signed up for U18AA and the resident second and third year players released from the AAA tryouts will begin their two (2) large group skates and will be evaluated by a minimum of 3 independent evaluators (which may include the GM/Division Director), the named AA head coach and additional volunteer parent coaches as needed. The top 40 skaters will be identified and moved to the two (2) team selection skates.

The AA team will be selected from the top 40 skaters by the named head coach and GM/Division Director using the following criterion; Forward/Defense roster spots available plus the next five (5) ranked players and at Goalie roster spots available plus the next three (3) ranked players. E.g. 9 forward roster spots - selected from the top 14 ranked forwards, 6 defense roster spots - selected from the top 11 ranked defense, etc. Those players not selected to the AA team will automatically be placed onto the A team. The A team coach will then be announced.

B/C Format

Players not selected to the AA/A selection skate plus the players not selected to the U16AA/A team and the non-tryout U18 players will do two (2) large group tryout skates and will be evaluated by a minimum of 3 independent evaluators (which may include the GM/Division Director) and volunteer parent coaches invited into the tryout process.

Based on current registration numbers we are planning to have two B teams and two C teams for the 2024-25 season. The top **12 forwards, 6 defense and 2 goalies** will automatically be selected to one of the B teams. Head coaches will then be named for each B teams, who will then draft players from that list of players. The coaches will then continue the draft based on the same criterion as previously described, e.g. 9 forward roster spots, coaches will select from players ranked 13-23, etc. Those players not selected for either B team will automatically be placed onto the C team.

Those players not selected will be moved to the C teams. C team head coaches will be named and will then draft players to their teams.

Scrimmage Format

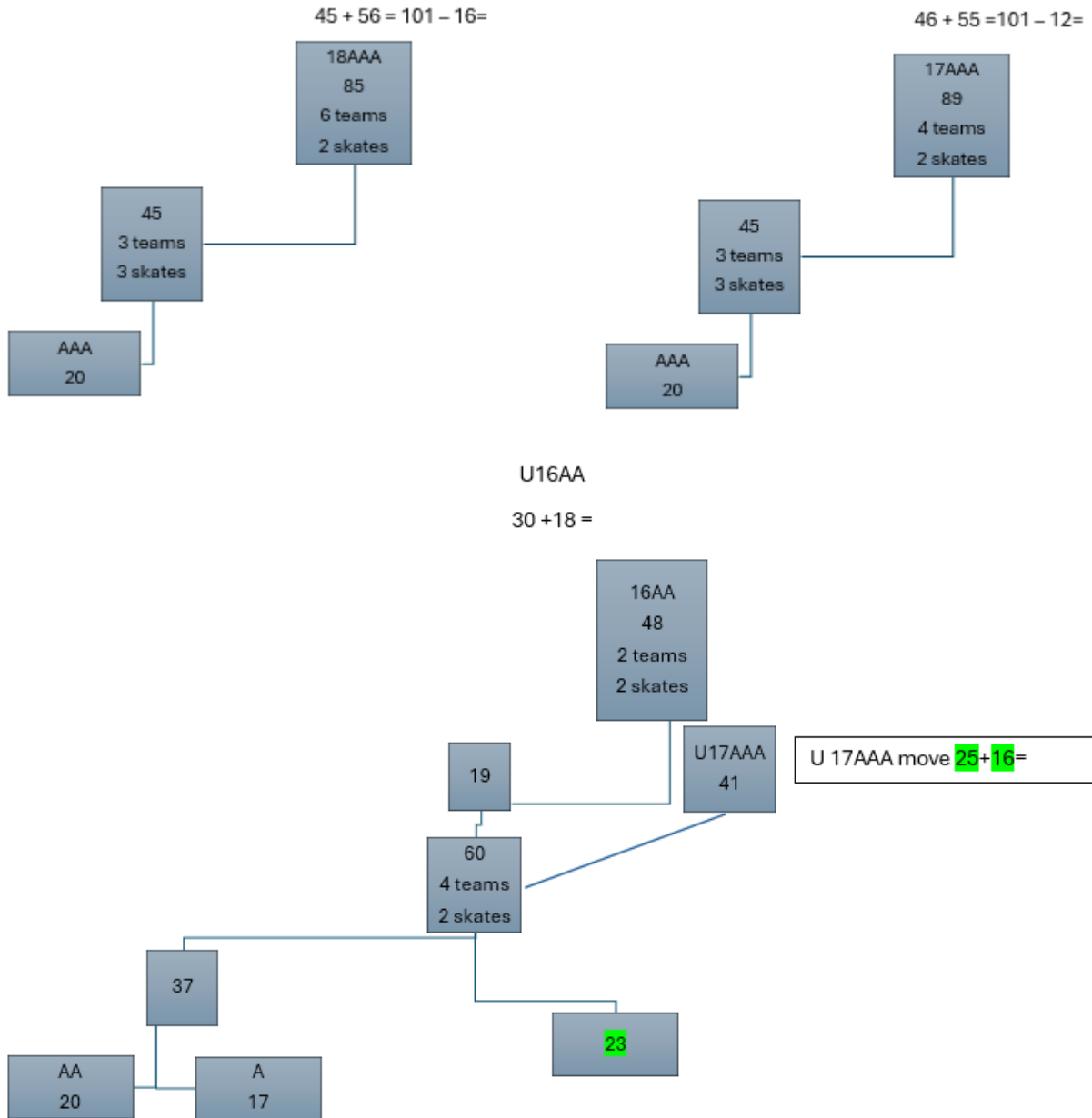
Evaluation teams will be created to the best of our ability with desired roster sizes. The format will be 5-on-5 hockey. Shifts should run roughly 60-90 second intervals, giving each player the same amount of gameplay. Parent volunteers will help supervise dressing rooms and monitor the bench (No coaching will occur on the benches. Supervision is for shift length, positions and playing rules).

Players will have a 5-minute warm-up and 50-minute scrimmage.



RED DEER MINOR HOCKEY

Tryout/Team Selection Flowchart – Example only – team make up and roster sizes may change based on final registration numbers.



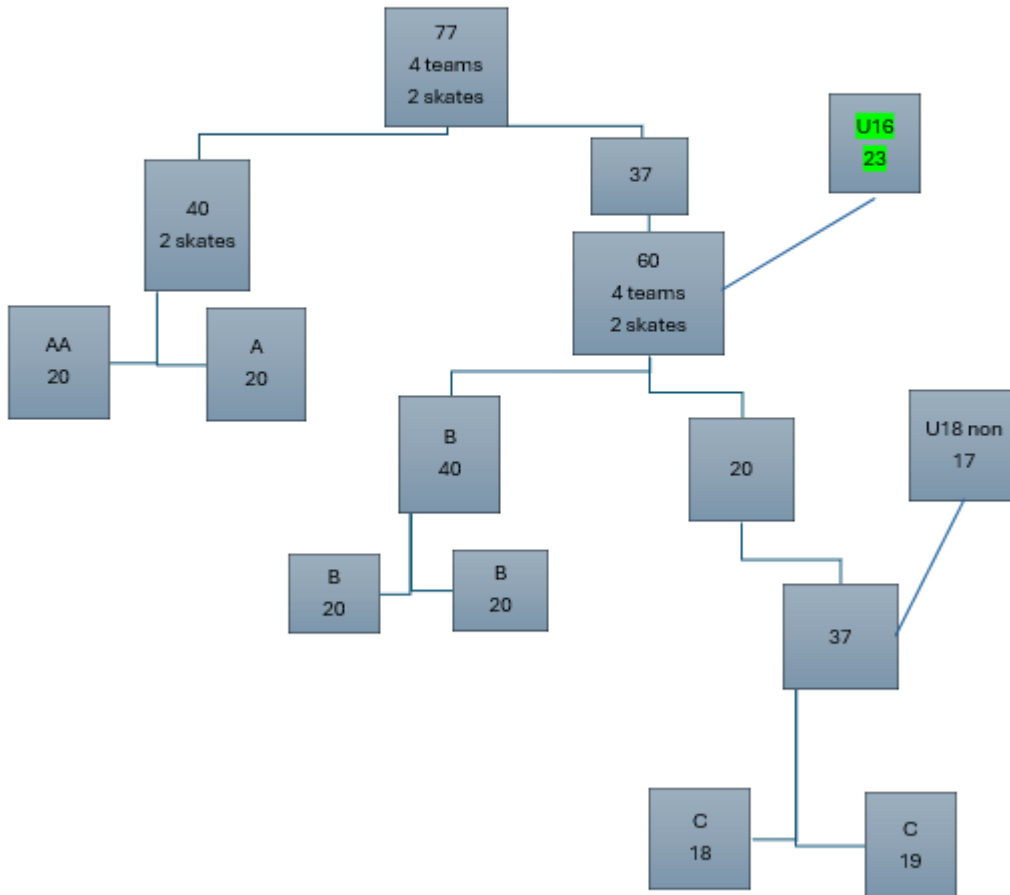


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U18AA

26+18=

44+17+16=





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Female Divisions

All female divisions will attempt to use the following format where registration numbers permit. The tryout process may use parts of the format, and every effort will be made to use the spirit of the structure in any changes.

Tryout Format

Players will participate in two (2) large group tryout skates after which a group of like players will be selected to skate in three (3) team selection skates, for the opportunity to be selected to an Elite/Tiered team. Those players not selected during the two large group tryout skates and those not selected during the three team selection skates will come back together and continue the process for the remaining tiers until all teams are filled.

E.g. Tryout/Team Selection Structure

Session 1 Large Group	Scrimmage
Session 2 Large Group	Scrimmage
Session 3	Group 1 – SAG (skills/small area games) Group 2 vs. 3 Scrimmage
Session 4	Group 2 – SAG (skills/small area games) Group 1 vs. 3 Scrimmage
Session 5	Group 3 – SAG (skills/small area games) Group 1 vs. 2 Scrimmage

Example - U15 Female

Based on registration numbers for this age group the process will move directly to the three (3) team selection skates and plan to have an AA, A and B team. This tryout will be evaluated by a minimum of 3 independent evaluators (which may include the GM/Division Director), AA coach and the volunteer parent coaches invited into the tryout process.

The AA team will be selected by the head coach and GM/Division Director using the following criterion; Forward/Defense roster spots available plus the next five (5) ranked players and at Goalie roster spots available plus the next three (3) ranked players. E.g. 9 forward roster spots - selects from the top 14 ranked forwards, 6 defense roster spots - selects from the top 11 ranked defense, etc.

The A team will be selected from the remaining players based on their scores provided by the independent evaluators, AA coach and the volunteer parent coaches invited into the tryout process. The top **6 forwards, 3 defense and 1 goalie** will automatically be selected to the A team. The A head coach will then be named and given the opportunity to select the final players from the same evaluation criterion of available roster spots plus five (5). E.g. 9 forward roster spots, coach selects from players ranked 7-14, 11 forward roster spots, coach selects from players ranked 7-16, 6 defense spots, coach selects from players ranked 4-9, etc. This criterion validates the independent scores but still gives the coach some autonomy to finalize his team.

The remaining players will automatically be placed on the B team. The head coach will then be named.



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Information for Players and Parents

- Players should plan to arrive a minimum of 60 minutes prior to their skate time.
- Upon arrival players will receive an evaluation jersey to ensure they can be easily identified on the ice.
- **Jerseys will be checked in and out each session. Please make sure to check out with the volunteer and place them back on the hanger.**

PLAYER EVALUATION FEEDBACK/QUESTIONS/CONCERNS

As this is our first year drafting a tryout handbook and structure there will be an opportunity provided once tryouts are completed to provide feedback on the process. Every effort will be made this year to follow the process put in place but as we move through the tryouts, situations may arise that need modifications or changes based on player numbers, ice availability, etc. Please be patient with the staff as we work through a new process and structure, with new staff in place.

During the actual tryout process if you feel that the player selection was not made according to the rules or processes described in the handbook parents can contact the GM or Division Director to discuss.

If you would like to get further clarity on the player placement a meeting can be booked with the GM to discuss. Parents can email the GM their request for a meeting, which will need to include a short write-up on the clarity or concern with the placement.



RED DEER MINOR HOCKEY

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

General Manager

- Act as an impartial representative on behalf of RDMH Association, its members, and its players
- Responsible for overall coordination and oversight of player evaluations
- Participate in the ongoing review of the evaluation process and present proposals to the RDMH board for changes to the player evaluation process
- Periodically attend evaluation sessions for all age groups and provide guidance ensuring the ongoing integrity and consistent application of processes as outlined in the Association's policies
- Ensure that any behavior inconsistent with the Association's policies, Respect in Sport is immediately dealt with.
- Arbitrate any disputes arising during players' evaluations
- Coordinate all on-ice coaches and evaluators.
- Work with each Division Director to ensure coordination of volunteers for the following: Check-In Desk, Jersey Check out/in, Dressing Room/Bench Supervision and time clock.
- Act in an unbiased and impartial manner during the evaluation process

Office Staff

- Provide registration information with regular updates to GM and evaluators when needed.
- Advise GM of all pertinent timelines and procedures.
- Post evaluation information on the website/evaluation software as required.
- Participate in the selection process to support the transfer of players.
- Always ensure data integrity and confidentiality throughout the process.
- Work with the GM to schedule the appropriate number of skates per Age Group at the appropriate times.
- Provide appropriate intervals between skates to accommodate data entry, review and posting of future skate times.
- Liaison between the Association and the City of Red Deer facility operations.



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Division Directors

- Work with GM and Office Staff to coordinate the volunteer scheduling.
- Consistently ensure compliance with Policies and Rules/Regulations.
- Act in a confidential manner ensuring the integrity of the evaluations process.
- Be visible and accessible throughout the process to answer general questions from parents and players.
- Communicate the process and skate times with the players and/or parent/guardians in a timely manner.
- Responsible for notification of injured, absent or late players to the GM and Office Staff.
- Ensure that all necessary equipment including pucks, pylons, clip boards and other on-ice equipment are present for the beginning of each session and in good, working condition

Volunteer On-ice Coaches

- Report to the GM/Division Director.
- Consistently ensure compliance with Association Rules and Regulations.
- Review and understand the drills and skills identified within the practice plans to ensure a clear understanding of the on-ice process.
- Act in an unbiased and impartial manner during the evaluation process.
- Keep the pace and flow of the drills to finish within the allocated ice time providing equal opportunity to all players.
- Encourage players to perform to the best of their ability.
- Ensure that players understand the drills and have equal opportunity to participate.
- Officiate scrimmages to maintain a safe and competitive environment.



RED DEER MINOR HOCKEY

Check-Out/In Desk & Jersey Coordinator

- Each Division will have a Check-in Desk /Jersey Coordinator
- Check-in Desk/Jersey Coordinator reports to the office staff for that specific age group
- Pick-Up tryout jerseys at the Red Deer Minor Hockey Office for the tryout session. Ensuring arrival at the assigned arena 45 minutes prior to first ice time.
- Manage the “check-out/in desk” process and ensure any player absences are immediately reported to the office staff.
- Hand out jerseys and inform skaters of dressing room assignment, jersey number and color.
- Maintain confidentiality of the team and number list, do not permit photos of players lists to be taken.
- Collect all jerseys after each skating session and at the end of the day (except U13 & U15).
- Provided returned jerseys to storage room so they can be washed at the end of each session.

Dressing Room & Bench Supervisors

- Reports to the GM and Office staff.
- Provide supervision in the dressing rooms prior to and after each session.
- Manage the benches i.e., shift changes, player position rotation, player conduct (No Coaching allowed)
- Consistently ensure compliance with RDMH Rules and Regulations.
- Act in an unbiased and impartial manner during the evaluation process.
- Encourage players to perform to the best of their ability.
- Responsible to not be on the same bench as their own child.

Evaluators

- Review and understand the drills and skills identified within the practice plans to ensure a clear understanding of the on-ice process.
- Review the evaluation criteria prior to the process to ensure they are evaluating the same skill with the same intent as the other evaluators.
- Stay physically separate and independent from all other Evaluators and parents during the evaluation program.
- Provide a fair, unbiased and thorough analysis of all players.
- Does not compare notes, scores or rankings with other Evaluators during sessions.
- Will not share comments or opinions with any parents/players or other interested observers.



RED DEER MINOR HOCKEY

- Always maintain confidentiality of player scores and/or rankings.
- Review evaluation rankings at the end of each session.
- Submit evaluation data immediately following the completion of each ice session. (Leave with Director, GM or office staff only.)
- Refer questions, comments or complaints that you may receive to the GM without offering comment on the question or complaint.
- Immediately inform the GM of any potential conflicts of interest prior to the start of a session, or as soon as it has been identified.
- Will not evaluate their own child.
- Do not take any photographs of evaluation materials, team lists, sign in sheets etc.

Parent Responsibilities

- Practice what you have learned in Respect in Sport.
- Do not take any photographs of evaluations materials, team lists, sign in sheets etc.
- Be aware of the importance of evaluations and the corresponding schedules.
- Players are required to attend all scheduled sessions, missed sessions may alter the placement of a player

Help your player to be prepared:

- Be at the rink early enough for your child to be completely ready before the ice time starts.
 - Make sure all their equipment fits, skates are sharpened, and all items are in the equipment bag when you leave your home.
 - Full equipment including neck and must be in place for your child to participate in the evaluation process.
 - At the U13 & U15 age groups make sure they don't forget their assigned jersey.
-
- Promote positivity and support.
 - Understand the process yourself.
 - Be as informed as possible about the association's evaluation process.
 - Contact the Association early if you have a question or if your player is sick or injured.
 - Respect the Association Evaluators and do not ask Evaluators for player information.
 - Promote and support having fun throughout the process.