



St. Boniface Minor Hockey Association

Player Evaluation & Team Formation Process

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St. Boniface Minor Hockey Association (hereafter referred to as **SBMHA**)

Player Evaluation & Team Formation Process

Introduction:

The goal of this document is to provide a well-defined and unified program that establishes procedures regarding key aspects of team formation in accordance with the **Hockey Winnipeg Rule Book**.

This document forms the basis of the **SBMHA** player evaluation & team formation process, along with the following guidelines as set for by **Hockey Canada & Hockey Manitoba**:

- To ensure that players have a reasonable opportunity of being selected to a team appropriate to their skill levels
- To provide coaches with the opportunity and flexibility to build a team based, in part, on their own coaching philosophy and knowledge of player skills and attitude
- To provide a fair and impartial assessment of a player's total hockey skills during the tryout sessions

Player Evaluations

SBMHA is to use Independent Instructors to run the on-ice portion of our tryouts; Program Director and approved prospective Coaches will attend all sessions related to their age group to complete player evaluations. Evaluators will be asked to submit their evaluations for all players trying out for the age division (A1, A2 and A3) that they have been selected to evaluate within the respective U9 Novice A up to U18 divisions. This policy covers all age divisions for "A Hockey" as well as all ages divisions of "Direct Entry," and allows for smooth transition to the city-wide **Hockey Winnipeg** program.

For the U9 A division, this only applies to the U9 Novice A division. The House League IP program will continue to be used for U9 Novice House League team formation.

For players in the U11 to U18 divisions, it is the responsibility of the appropriate Program Director, an appointed Executive member, and in conjunction with the prospective Head Coaches assigned to that division, as selected by the Coach Selection Committee, to evaluate and select the players that form teams that may not yet have a Head Coach in place at time of team placement.

SBMHA employs a fair and impartial player evaluation process that provides a comprehensive assessment of the skills of each player. An independent company provides on-ice personnel who are expected to conduct all on-ice activities professionally. On-ice sessions are held according to predefined practice plans that allow for the effective and developmentally correct assessment of all players. The team of evaluators, not necessarily affiliated with the on-ice independent company or its personnel, utilize a thorough player assessment strategy to complete the evaluation of player skills. The resulting player assessment evaluations are made available to the appropriate Program Director during team formation. **SBMHA** does not disclose players evaluations to anyone outside of the team formation meetings. Each year, **SBMHA** will review the performance of the Evaluators and assess whether changes are required to the process or the Evaluating Team.

To properly facilitate player evaluations, all minor hockey registration within **SBMHA** boundaries must be completed no later than September 2nd of any given year if they would like their player(s) to attend player evaluations for team placement.

As per the **Hockey Winnipeg Rule Book**, tryouts require a minimum of two (2) ice sessions be granted to all players who have registered for A1 evaluations. **SBMHA** will conduct a maximum of five (5) ice sessions to determine player evaluation standing which will become the basis for team formation.

For players in the U9A to U18 divisions, the Evaluators will assess the skills of each player in the following basic areas:

- Skating
- Passing
- Puck Control
- Shooting
- Battle/Compete
- Hockey IQ

Goaltenders will be assessed according to the following criterion:

- Stance
- Mobility
- Positioning
- Saves
- Game Situations
- Hockey IQ

Please note the above criterion will be applied and assessed as appropriate for each age division. Players will be scored based on the **SBMHA Evaluation Team's** (comprised of Program Director and selected Head Coaches) assessment of the above skills. The player's score will serve as a guide when conducting team formation.

After each ice session, players may be reassigned to different groups to facilitate further evaluation of skills. Such reassignments will take place according to the assessments performed by the **SBMHA Evaluation Team** and under the supervision of the **SBMHA Executive Council**. Any such reassignment does not exclusively determine the team to which the player is ultimately assigned.

In the U15 and U18 divisions, all A1 on-ice evaluations shall be conducted with body checking. All players choosing A2 non-body checking, will have separate on-ice evaluations from those that choose the body checking stream.

SBMHA strives to meet the needs & interests of all players in our area association. To that end, should a family feel that playing at a higher level of hockey is not right for their child, please advise the **SBMHA** Vice President by email at vicepresident@sbmha.ca. The **SBMHA** Vice President will advise the appropriate Program Director and President of the request, and this will be taken into consideration for team formation.

Team Formation:

The following processes have been established for team formation to try to ensure teams are formed as

equally as possible in the SBMHA:

All players in the U9A to U18 divisions will be assessed by the **SBMHA Evaluation Team**, specific to that age group, to help determine their placement on the appropriate team for their skills & abilities – ie. A1, A2 or A3. At the U9A level, players that are not selected to a U9A team, or those who may decide not to try out for U9 Novice A, will be automatically assigned to their respective U9 Novice House League team.

Depending on the number of goaltenders and the caliber of goaltenders participating in the player evaluations for each age division, teams will be required to carry 1 or 2 goalies. This determination will be made by **SBMHA** prior to team formation. Goaltender selection will take place in conjunction with player selection during the team formation process.

According to the **Hockey Winnipeg Rule Book**, the specific number of A1, A2 & A3 teams to be formed is determined by the total number of players registered with **SBMHA** in each age division. These rules take into consideration the minimum and maximum roster sizes as defined by the **Hockey Winnipeg Rule Book**. All roster size determinations will be completed by **SBMHA** prior to the team formation process and according to the **Hockey Winnipeg Rule Book**.

Per **Hockey Winnipeg**, where more than one team is formed at a particular age & level, roster sizes must not vary by more than two (2) skaters between all teams for U11 and U13. Roster sizes may not vary by more than one (1) for all other age groups.

The Team Formation Process

At the conclusion of the player evaluation process, the **SBMHA Player Evaluation team** will have evaluated all players within their age division. These evaluations will be used by the Head Coaches at a team formation meeting to help select the players for each team within their age division.

Every team formation meeting will include at least one member of the **SBMHA Executive Council**, the **Head Coach** of each team, and a **Program Director**. If the **SBMHA Executive Council Member** has a child available for selection during the team formation of that age and are not the Head Coach for one of the teams, they shall vacate the room and another representative of the **SBMHA Evaluation Team, SBMHA Executive or Program Director**, depending on role in conflict, shall preside over the team formation meeting on their behalf. When team formation takes place, it is **SBMHA** policy that only the Head Coach is allowed in the team formation meeting, as approved by **SBMHA** during the coach selection process. **There are no exceptions to this policy.**

At the start of the team formation meeting for the U9A through U15 Peewee age divisions, the Program Director, under the supervision of the **St. Boniface Minor Hockey Association Executive Committee**, will first identify 50% of the players who must be selected to play at the A1 level based on available roster spots and specifically on the evaluations from the player evaluation process as supplied by the **SBMHA Player Evaluation team**. The balance of each team will be formed by Head Coach selection from all remaining players at that age division.

In the event there is no Head Coach assigned to a team or if the assigned Head Coach is unable to attend the team formation meeting for any reason, the **SBMHA Player Evaluation team** will make the player selections for that team, at the meeting, based upon the Player Selection evaluation information provided over the duration of the evaluation period.

For the U18 divisions, the teams shall be formed solely (100%) by Head Coach selections, with the full support and consent of **SBMHA**. All other aspects of the team formation process shall apply. In the

event there is only one (1) team in a division, The Head Coach of that team will form the team in accordance with the team formation process.

A1 Player Draft:

In the event there are two (2) or more teams in a division, there will be a player draft using the following directions:

To start the team formation process for each age division, the A1 Head Coaches will meet to form the A1 teams.

At the outset of each team formation meeting, the children of the coaches will be assigned to their corresponding teams. Coaches shall be deemed to have drafted their children (and the child of their assistant coach) in the round that the child's scores would suggest. For example, if a coach's child is ranked first, that coach shall be considered to have drafted their child first overall. This ensures that the subsequent teams have available the top-ranked talent of the remaining players. For head coaches whose children rank at other spots, they shall draft their children in the round most closely matched to their children's scores and shall not draft again until the subsequent round. For example, if a coach's child's score places him mathematically in the third round of drafting, the coach shall pick their child in the third round and await the next draft round.

Goaltenders: Goaltenders will be drafted separately following the drafting of skater positions. Goalies will be drafted in the reverse order of the player draft. The coach with the first player pick would have the last goalie pick and the coach with the last player pick would have the first goalie pick.

In the SBMHA's ongoing pursuit to provide the best coaching available to our players and to establish a culture of 'continuous learning and continuous improvement,' Head Coaches will pick in descending order that they are ranked according to the **SBMHA Coach Selection Process** as detailed and outlined by the SBMHA Coach Selection Committee; to clarify, the top ranked coach will select first in all age groups and divisions.

The Head Coach with the first selection will choose any one player from the identified list of 50% of players that must play at the A1 level or may select any other player available at that age division. From there, the coaches take their turns in drafting players in snake order (ie. 1-2-3-3-2-1) from that point on until the prescribed roster size has been attained.

For clarity, all players in the identified list of 50% of players that must play at the A1 level, will be drafted to the A1 teams. No team formed shall have more Head Coach selections than as permitted by the team formation scenario currently in play.

A2 Player and Goaltender Draft: Once the A1 teams have been formed, the **SBMHA Player Evaluation team**, under the supervision of the **SBMHA Executive Council**, will then identify 50% of the players and goaltenders who must play at the A2 level, again based specifically on the evaluations from the player evaluation process. A new team formation meeting will be conducted to form the A2 teams, following the same process as the A1 selection criteria.

A3: Players not selected for an A1 or A2 team will be assigned to an A3 team. If there are to be two (2) A3 teams, then the same draft style selection as outlined above will be used to form the teams.

Upon completion of the team formation meeting for each age division and level, the **SBMHA Program Director** will make a copy of the rosters and ensure all meeting participants, including Head Coaches, sign off to confirm team formation was conducted according to the rules defined above. Copies of the

roster will be forwarded to the **Head Coaches** and the **SBMHA Registrar**. Trading of players will only be considered for ensuring balanced & even teams and for special considerations. All coaches, the Program Director and the Executive present all need to agree that trade is fair and appropriate and is in the best interest for all teams and SBMHA.

Upon completion of the team formation meeting for each age division, the **Head Coaches** will notify their players of team placement by phone call, at a prearranged date and time that corresponds with all other Teams at the same age level. In the event there is no assigned Head Coach in place, the **SBMHA Program Director** will email notification to the players of that team and indicate that a **Head Coach** is still required for that team.

Upon completion of the team formation meeting for each age division, the **Head Coaches** will complete their selections for roster team officials such as remaining Assistant Coaches, Managers (if not already selected), and Safety Person. The **Head Coaches** must submit the team official's names and other information to the **SBMHA Registrar** for roster approval and submission to Hockey Winnipeg.

Please contact the **SBMHA Executive Committee** by email at secretary@sbmha.ca with any questions or concerns regarding the player evaluation or team formation process. **SBMHA** will have final say regarding player evaluations and/or team assignments.

Coaches:

SBMHA recognizes the important role that coaches perform in the development of our children in and out of hockey. As such, it is the duty of **SBMHA** to select the best applicants to become the Head Coach of each team. SBMHA reserves the right to confirm or deny coaches at all levels.

All coaches must meet the minimum coaching requirements as established by **Hockey Canada, Hockey Manitoba and Hockey Winnipeg**. All coaches will be subject to a Criminal Background and Vulnerable Sector Check.

All Head Coaches must attend a mandatory meeting (if called by **SBMHA**) prior to the beginning of the player evaluation process. During this meeting, **SBMHA** and the **SBMHA Player Evaluation team** will review the processes described in this document to ensure there is a common understanding of player evaluation and team formation.

The process for approving Head Coach candidates is to be completed before the beginning of the player evaluation sessions. Coaches will be approved to be a SBMHA coach but will not be assigned a division at this time. We will strive to have coach candidates approved by September 1. Coaches will be selected to a specific division after the second evaluation skate. In some cases, the decision may need to be made after the third evaluation.

As previously mentioned, Coaches will be awarded teams based on their highest coach level obtained, coach experience, player/official/hockey operations experience and continual learning opportunities that have been achieved (additional courses); in some cases, however, a lack of volunteers for Head Coaching positions makes this impossible and potential teams may be formed without a Head Coach in place. In such a case, **SBMHA Player Evaluation team** will work with the affected parent group to identify a candidate to Head Coach the team. Where a suitable Head Coach cannot be identified, team formation for that age division & level may not be possible. Players in this situation may need to be transferred to another area to play hockey.

Any parent interested in coaching (Head or Assistant Coach) should make their intentions known on or before the time of player registration. An application for Head Coaches can be found online at the

SBMHA website at www.sbmha.ca. Due to turn around time on Child Abuse Registry forms, unless the SBMHA Board identifies a vacant coaching role (Head or Assistant Coach), only coaches who apply before the deadline posted on the SBMHA website will be considered for rostered team positions.

To ensure that our Head Coaches are supported properly throughout the season, **SBMHA** policy dictates that the Head Coach can assign one (1) Assistant Coaches prior to the draft. It is important to note that the Head Coach and Assistant Coach must be in good standing with the SBMHA, Hockey Winnipeg and Hockey Manitoba for the coach alliances to be recognized; as per SBMHA policy, all assistant coaches must be vetted by **SBMHA Executive Council**, any past discipline infractions can and will be considered.

Assistant Coaches must have their appropriate coaching levels at the time of the team selection draft so that the alliance can be considered. The Head Coach and Assistant Coaches of any potential alliance must email the Program Director for that age group prior to the draft commencing to let them know of the arrangement; if the request is not reciprocated by the Head Coach AND the Assistant Coach, the request will be considered null and void. If the Assistant Coach has a player trying out for the team, that player will be assigned to the same team if the **SBMHA Executive Council** verifies that the player is of the appropriate skill level to be at that level. Again, Coaches shall be deemed to have drafted the child of their assistant coach in the round that the assistant coaches child's score would suggest. Coach Alliances are not to be formed until after the final tryout so that the integrity of the process can be maintained.

Team Name & Colors

All U9 Novice A through U18 A1, A2 and A3 teams registered by **SBMHA** shall be called the **St. Boniface Seals**.

Where there are two (2) teams registered in one age division, one team shall be known as Seals White and the other team as Seals Red.

Where there are three (3) teams registered in one age division, one team shall be known as Seals White, one team shall be known as Seals Red, and the third team shall be known as Seals Black.

Where there are four (4) teams registered in one age division, one team shall be known as Seals White, one team shall be known as Seals Red, one team shall be known as Seals Black and the fourth team shall be known as Seals Grey.

The colors worn by the St. Boniface Seals are red, white, black & grey. The uniforms were redesigned in 2019 and the crest features the SBMHA Mascot "Celly the Seal" balancing a puck on his nose, along with the iconic landmark of the Esplanade Riel Bridge in the background. Each team will be provided with 2 sets of game sweaters and socks (home & away).

Guidelines and standards regarding all Seals team apparel (jackets, clothing, etc.) will be set by **SBMHA**. Any inquiries regarding uniforms and team apparel can be directed to SBMHA Equipment Chair by email at equipment@sbmha.ca