



CENTRAL ALBERTA SELECTS



CAS Player Evaluation Selection Process

Updated Evaluation Structure

Forwards, Defence, and Goalies | All AA Divisions

This section is intended to replace or supplement the existing "Evaluation Skates and Skills for Players - Forwards & Defence" language while preserving the overall CAS selection process.



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Evaluation Methodology

Players will be evaluated through a combination of structured technical skill sessions and game-play evaluations.

The purpose of the evaluation process is to assess not only a player's individual skill set, but also the player's ability to apply those skills effectively in competitive hockey situations.

Evaluations will be completed using a standardized scoring matrix and will include objective performance metrics and independent evaluator observations. The evaluation process is designed to identify players whose skills, habits, decision-making, competitiveness and hockey sense best translate into successful team play.

Evaluation principle: controlled skill assessment establishes what a player can do; game evaluation determines how consistently those skills transfer into live play.

Technical Evaluation Session

Technical evaluation sessions will contain standardized drills designed to isolate specific hockey skills. The same drill order, instructions, and scoring criteria will be used for each applicable evaluation group.

1. Skating and Edgework

- Speed and acceleration
- Edge control, balance and efficient movement patterns
- Forward-to-backward transitions, pivots, tight turns and lateral movement
- Stops and starts

2. Puck Skills

- Puck control while skating at speed
- Head-up puck handling
- Ability to maintain possession and manage the puck through changes of direction

3. Passing and Receiving

- Accuracy, pace and timing of passes
- Ability to lead a moving teammate into space
- Receiving posture, hands in front and control of the first touch
- Communication, awareness and ability to execute while moving

4. Retrieval and Transition Skills

- Shoulder-checking and awareness before a puck retrieval
- Footwork and body position during retrievals
- First-pass execution and support positioning
- Transition decision-making



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5. Offensive Skills

- Shooting mechanics, accuracy, release and shot quality
- Shot selection and the ability to create a better shooting lane
- Zone-entry habits and the ability to generate offensive opportunities

6. Hockey Sense

- Ability to read and anticipate the play
- Support positioning, spacing and timing
- Decision-making with and without the puck
- Ability to adjust to changing situations and understand the purpose of the drill

7. Competitive Habits

- Work ethic, urgency and repeated effort
- Coachability and attention to instruction
- Battle level and willingness to compete under pressure
- Body position and second effort during puck battles

8. Body Contact - U15 and U18

- Proper and legal body positioning when giving or receiving contact
- Angling and containment
- Effectiveness in one-on-one puck battles
- Ability and willingness to engage safely and within the rules

Objective Performance Metrics

Timed skating and puck-skill components may be used to establish measurable baselines. Results may include recorded times, head-to-head results, and ranked performance. Objective metrics must be recorded consistently for all players in the same division and evaluation group.

Objective data forms part of the technical evaluation and may also be used to establish balanced groupings or competitive pairings later in the evaluation session.



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Game Evaluation Sessions

Game-play evaluations are designed to determine how effectively players transfer technical skills into competitive situations. Scrimmage rosters will be balanced using position and available evaluation information, so every player has a reasonable opportunity to demonstrate the required habits.

#	Game Evaluation Category	Evaluator Focus
1	Stops and Starts / Engagement	Stops on pucks, re-engages after the first effort, finishes routes and avoids fly-bys or unnecessary turns away from pressure.
2	Reloads and Neutral-Zone Transition	Recognizes turnovers, reloads through the middle, gets above the puck and tracks with purpose.
3	Puck Retrievals and Forechecking Habits	Arrives with speed and purpose, understands F1/F2/F3 responsibilities, angles effectively and does not consistently arrive late to pressure.
4	Zone Entries	Attacks with control, uses available support and looks to threaten inside the ice rather than defaulting to low-threat perimeter entries.
5	Line Decisions and Game Management	Makes responsible decisions at the defensive blue line, red line and offensive blue line while managing risk under pressure.

Position-Based Evaluation

Players will be evaluated and ranked within their designated position group:

- Forwards will be evaluated against other forwards.
- Defense will be evaluated against other defensemen.
- Goaltenders will be evaluated separately through the goaltender evaluation process.

Final evaluator rankings and evaluator-selected roster positions will be based on comparisons within the player's designated position group, rather than one combined ranking of all skaters.

Evaluation Weighting

The following weighting will be applied to the evaluator score for all AA divisions unless otherwise approved and published by CAS before evaluations begin:

Division	Technical Evaluation	Game-Play Evaluation
U11	20%	80%
U13	20%	80%
U15	20%	80%
U18	20%	80%

Game play remains the most heavily weighted component because it demonstrates how a player applies skill, pace, decision-making and competitive habits in live situations. Technical sessions provide a controlled and objective assessment of the underlying skills.



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Evaluation Integrity and Administration

- A minimum of three independent evaluators will be used. CAS may use additional evaluators when available.
- Evaluators will review the practice plan, scoring matrix, and game-evaluation criteria before each session.
- No single evaluator will determine a player's outcome.
- Evaluator scores will be entered electronically using the CAS-approved workbook or platform.
- Once entered, results must be reviewed by a second authorized member of the CAS Operating Committee before progression; cuts or final selections are confirmed.
- Evaluators must disclose any family relationship or other conflict involving an evaluated player. A conflicted evaluator shall not score that player.
- Evaluator scores and comments are confidential and shall not be shared with players, parents, or observers.
- Impact tags or short-form evaluator notes provide context only and do not independently add or subtract points from the player's score.

Score Review and Evaluator Agreement

CAS may review evaluator agreements, score ranges, and ranking differences as an internal quality control measure. A material difference between one evaluator and the evaluator group will trigger a review to confirm that the score was entered correctly and that the approved criteria were applied.

A score may be corrected only where a data-entry or scoring-application error is documented. Legitimate differences in hockey opinion will remain part of the evaluation record.

Minimum Observation Requirement

A player must receive a minimum of three valid independent evaluator submissions during each scored phase. If the minimum cannot be met because of injury, absence, evaluator conflict or administrative error, the Director shall document and arrange an appropriate supplemental evaluation before a final decision is made.

Head Coach Role in the Evaluation and Selection Process

The Head Coach may assist in the development of drills and may complete a separate observation form. Head Coach observations shall not be included in the independent evaluator average or the evaluator-selected portion of the roster.

During the coach-selection portion, the Head Coach may consider the documented evaluation results together with team composition, positional balance, player role, versatility, coachability, attitude, and the Head Coach's approved coaching philosophy.

Where a lower-ranked player is selected ahead of a higher-ranked player at the same position, the Head Coach must provide a written hockey-related rationale. Coach selections and supporting rationale must be reviewed by the Governor, Director and one additional non-conflicted member of the CAS Operating Committee before the final roster is announced.

Late Returning Players from Higher-Level Tryouts (AAA or Equivalent)

Players returning from higher-level tryouts are encouraged to pursue the highest level of hockey available to them. However, participation in a higher-level tryout does not guarantee placement on a Central Alberta Selects roster.

To be eligible for selection, a returning player must participate in a minimum of two evaluated ice sessions with the CAS coaching staff. When practicable, CAS may also include independent evaluator observations during those



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sessions. The requirement may only be modified where extraordinary circumstances are documented and approved by the Governor and Director.

The evaluated sessions will consider:

- Current skill level, conditioning and readiness;
- Hockey habits, decision-making and ability to play at the required pace;
- Competitiveness, coachability and response to instruction;
- The role the player may fill within the roster; and
- The player's effect on team composition, chemistry, and overall team dynamics.

A returning player will not automatically displace an already selected player solely because the returning player attended a higher-level tryout. Any addition or roster adjustment must be supported by the completed evaluation, the needs of the team, and the documented selection process.

Before approving the returning player, the Head Coach, Director and Governor must be satisfied that the addition is in the best interests of the team and will not unreasonably disrupt established roles, player development, team chemistry or the overall team dynamic.

Where the addition of a returning player would require the release of an already selected player, the hockey-related reasons for the change must be documented and reviewed by the Governor, Director and one additional non-conflicted member of the CAS Operating Committee before the roster change is communicated.

Evaluation Records and Confidentiality

- Completed evaluator forms and electronically entered results will be retained by CAS for the period established by the Operating Committee.
- Parents or players may request an explanation of the evaluation process and the player's own general areas of strength and development after the applicable cooling-off period.
- CAS will not disclose another player's scores, rankings, evaluator comments or personal information.
- Questions, complaints and appeals will follow the conflict-resolution process contained in the CAS Player Evaluation and Coach Selection Process.

Summary of Evaluation Components

Component	Method	Primary Evidence
Technical - Objective	Timed straight-up race and skating/puck-skill circuit	Speed, acceleration, edgework, transitions and puck control
Technical - Evaluated	Passing, breakout, cycle, defense movement and compete drills	Passing, receiving, retrievals, first pass, shooting, hockey sense, battle and coachability
Game Play	Balanced scrimmages and applicable exhibition games	Stops/starts, reloads, forecheck/retrieval habits, entries and line decisions
Final Evaluator Result	Position-specific weighted score	20% technical evaluation and 80% game-play evaluation

Implementation note: This updated section should be read together with the existing CAS provisions governing Directors, on-ice coaches/helpers, evaluators, goaltender evaluations, team selections, head coach selections and
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conflict resolution. The late-returning player provisions apply to players returning from AAA or equivalent higher-level tryouts.