

Wolverines Hockey Club



2024-25

Player Evaluation Summary & Guide

Player Evaluation Summary & Guide



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1. Introduction

Wolverines Hockey Club (WHC) incorporates an annual evaluation process each hockey season developed in partnership with the Hockey Development Committee and based on Hockey Canada guidelines. This process facilitates the placement of players within their appropriate teams based on the combined evaluation of hockey skills and knowledge of the game through age-appropriate skills sessions and games. Please note that this document is subject to change without notice. If you have any questions about the document or process, please contact ...

Evaluations are a WHC process that affects all players and members, and as such, relies heavily on club volunteer commitment positions. The success of the process is integral to the success of the club and ultimately its players. It is expected that the more members who contribute, the more successful the outcome for everyone. Through increased member participation each member will also gain a greater understanding and appreciation of the process.

1.1. Wolverines Hockey Club Evaluation Goals

- To provide a fair assessment of a hockey player's ability and understanding of the game during both the skill and/or game sessions.
- To ensure that all players have a reasonable opportunity of being assigned to a team appropriate to their skill level as determined during the on-ice evaluations of the current year.
- To provide a consistent process from year to year as players grow into age groups and develop into different skill levels within the club.
- To form teams that maintain balanced and competitive play where the player can develop and participate equitably, while having fun playing hockey throughout the season.
- To encourage the development of culture within the Wolverines Hockey Club in which players strive toward an identity as a skilled competitor, respectful teammate, and incredible contributor.

1.2. Purpose Statement

The purpose of this document is to inform players and parents about the primary objectives of evaluations and to provide a clear outline of the evaluation process. The main goal is to offer each player an equal opportunity to secure a position on the most suitable team level based on their individual efforts and ability. WHC is committed to creating a safe and structured environment that enables players to showcase their skills and abilities effectively

2. Player Evaluation and Placement Process

2.1. New Players

For the first evaluation, players new to the Wolverines Hockey Club will be placed in the appropriate ice grouping based on the Hockey Calgary division they played in the prior season. Players new to Hockey Calgary will be placed in an appropriate group at the discretion of the President, Vice Presidents, and Manager of Hockey Development.

2.2. House League

Wolverines Hockey offers a House League option for the U9 and U11 Age Groups participating in the South Calgary Hockey House League (SCHHL). The number of preparation and balancing skates will follow Hockey Calgary guidelines. Our House League participants will take part in two evaluation sessions for their age



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category to ensure teams are created at parity and are balanced. In this evaluation session, players will be run through a series of drills and will play in small games. The evaluator(s) will assess players on their overall ability. House League teams will represent the Club and will not be combined with other associations or clubs. Players from other associations may participate on a Wolverine's House League team, space permitting, if their home club or association's House League program was full.

2.3. U7 Age Group

Players will be split into Jr. and Sr. U7 (generally 5 and 6-year old's). Ice times will be used as conditioning skates and any initial player movement if needed. Movement will be determined by the U7 Hockey Development Representative. In each ice time players will be ranked as top third, middle third or bottom third. These rankings will be used to determine the U7 teams.

The goal is to create teams that are all Jr. U7 teams of equal strength (same number of 1, 2, and 3 ranked players on each team, parity) and Sr. U7 teams of equal strength (same number of 1, 2, and 3 ranked players on each team, parity). Depending on the number of registrations it is possible that Jr. and Sr. mixed teams may exist.

Friend and Coach requests will not be available.

2.4. U9, U11, U13, U15 and U18 Age Groups Initial Player Placement

The purpose of the initial player placement in groups during the evaluation process is to establish a starting point, without any significant impact or consequences. The focus is to ensure that each player has an opportunity to showcase their skills and abilities through technical skills sessions. Following the completion of these sessions, players will be rearranged into groups based on their individual results. The technical skills sessions initiate the evaluation process, and subsequent player movements will be determined based on these assessments. It is important to note that the initial player placement groupings serve as a starting point and may be subject to change within each age group if deemed necessary.

Note: These group sizes, number of groups and placement are subject to change based on registration numbers which may cause players from the previous year's team to be in different groupings for initial placement. This is not based on any predetermined rankings from the previous season.

3. Player Identification

Players will be assigned helmet stickers at their first ice time. It is very important that all players keep this same helmet sticker on for the duration of evaluations as they will have the same number throughout and there are no replacements. Stickers should only be removed after all evaluation ice times are completed.

Note: The helmet sticker numbers do not reflect any player ranking at any time and are assigned randomly.

4. Pathway Skate

In addition to the pre-season conditioning camp provided by WHC, all players will be provided with pathway skates prior to beginning the evaluations process. The pathway skates will include age group appropriate drills and will be run by WHC. The groups based on final registration numbers for the pathway skate will be set with the recommended initial placement (as outlined above) with no predetermined rankings from the previous year. The number of pathway skates will vary by age group and be in conjunction with Hockey Calgary and Hockey Alberta guidelines.

On-ice volunteers may be required to assist with the pathway skates.



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5. Technical Skills Session

After the pathway skate, all players will partake in a technical skills session. The groups for this session will be formed based on the recommended initial placement, without any predetermined rankings from the previous year, as stated above. A third-party supplier will be responsible for conducting all technical skills sessions. Electronic timing gates will be utilized to measure technical skill drills, and the results will be recorded and reported electronically. The final rankings will be determined by calculating the average rank across all drills, with each drill's weight varying according to the age group. In the unlikely event of a tie between multiple players, overall skills will be considered to determine the final rankings.

The technical skills session will encompass appropriate drills for each age category, covering forward, backward, agility, and transition skating. Each player will have two attempts to complete each drill, with their best time recorded for each one. At the evaluator's discretion, and within reasonable limits, an additional opportunity may be granted to a player who did not perform a drill properly. The results obtained from the technical skills testing, applicable to all players, will be used to place them in the initial group level that corresponds to their skills for the subsequent game portion of the evaluation process. It is important to note that scores from the technical skills sessions will not carry over to the evaluation process.

Following the technical skills phase of evaluations, families will receive notifications regarding their next ice time through the software system. No information will be posted on the website, and email notifications will be the sole means of communication. It is advisable to regularly check the junk mail folder to ensure that no notifications are missed.

5.1. Players not able to attend the Skills Sessions

If a player is unable to make or attend the technical skills session for an Excused Absence and is a returning player to WHC, the player will be placed by WHC Hockey Development. WHC Hockey Development will confer with the player's previous season coach and place the player in the appropriate group based on comparisons with the player's peers from that previous year's team (positional peers for U13 and above). The player will have 4 evaluation movement games to change their final roster placement. This placement for the initial game will be final. For all unexcused absences and for players who were not with WHC the previous year, WHC Hockey Development will place them in the lowest group and assess their skill level within that peer group (i.e. if the age group has groups A, B, C and D the player will be placed in D). If movement is required, the player will be moved accordingly and given the opportunity for movement within the evaluation movement games.

Excused Absences can include but are not limited to; injury (doctors note may be required), sickness (doctors note may be required), school event (within reason), family emergency.

It is the **parent's responsibility** to communicate to your WHC Age Group Coordinator, or Age Group Vice President prior to any ice time that will be missed. Absences without communication from parents prior to will be treated as unexcused absences.

Unexcused Absences can include but are not limited to; participation in other sport activities, any absence not communicated to your WHC Age Group Coordinator or Age Group Vice President.

6. Evaluator Roles and Responsibilities

All Evaluators will be provided by a 3rd party provider. The main goal behind hiring external evaluators is to provide a completely fair and unbiased evaluation process. All evaluators will have played hockey at a high level, including Junior, University, and Pro, are educated, over the age of 25 and have experience evaluating hockey players at various levels.



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Under no circumstances is anyone to approach any Evaluator during the Evaluation Session in all our rinks used by WHC. *

6.1. WHC Age Group Coordinator

- Responsible for ensuring the evaluation process runs smoothly.
- Present for all ice times in their age group or has an assigned representative present.
- First contact for parent communication.
- Communicates important information pertaining to the evaluation process to members.
- Ensures all volunteers have a good understanding of their responsibilities.

6.2. WHC Bench Management Volunteers

- Manage fluid circulation between all players.
- Vary line combinations to the best of their ability, but not at the cost of any athlete missing multiple shifts.
- Ensure all shifts (U13, U15 and U18) are kept to appropriate length.
- Provide warnings to WHC Players not abiding by the appropriate shift length and provide the players identification number to the WHC Age Group Coordinator or Assistant Coordinator.

7. Player Evaluation System

All players are evaluated and ranked according to their demonstrated ability in each of the following facets of the game of hockey. External evaluators will be ranking players based on the facets that WHC thinks is important to the identity of a WHC Hockey Player. Each player will be evaluated on 3 components on a 10-point sliding scale.

7.1. Players Returning from Elite Hockey Tryouts

WHC acknowledges in the U13, U15 and U18 age groups some players may still be participating in Elite (Quadrant) tryouts during the WHC Hockey Evaluations Process. WHC will begin U13, U15 and U18 evaluations only after the final release of players from Elite evaluations.

Players that return from Elite tryouts will be required to participate in a skills session and players will still have to compete for a spot within WHC as there are no guaranteed placements for any players within WHC.

Note: Players returning from Elite Hockey tryouts during or after the WHC Hockey Evaluations Process can affect your players' final placement. Please review the Final Team Placement and Selection section of this document for further details.

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7.2. Evaluation System - U9-U11 (All Positions)

Battle and Compete (30%)

- a. Puck Pursuit
- b. Backchecking and forechecking
- c. Desire to compete
- d. Conditioning

Skills (30%)

- a. Shooting
 - i. Release
 - ii. Power
 - iii. Accuracy
- b. Skating
 - i. Edge Control
 - ii. Forward Skating
 - iii. Backwards Skating
 - iv. Transitions
- c. Passing
 - i. Does the player move the puck well?
 - ii. Accuracy and timing of the passes
- d. Do these skills transfer to the game?

Overall Impact on the game (40%)

- a. Does the player stand out?
- b. Play away from the puck
- c. Positional Impact
 - i. Offensive Abilities
 - ii. Defensive Abilities

7.3. Evaluation Rubric - U9-U11 (All Positions)

Categories	1-2 (Lowest)	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10 (Highest)
Battle and compete 30%	Limited effort or willingness to battle	Inconsistent in competing for puck	Competent in battles and board play	Strong in battles and board play	Dominant in battles and board play
Skill and Ability 30%	Limited technical skills or ability	Developing skills and abilities	Proficient in executing techniques	Advanced skills and abilities	Exceptional mastery of skills and ability
Overall Impact on Game 40%	Negligible impact on game outcomes	Minor contributions to game outcomes	Moderate influence on game outcomes	Significant impact on game outcomes	Game-changing presence in every game

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7.4. Evaluation System - U13-U18 (by position)

U13-U18 FORWARDS

- a. Battle and Compete (25%)
- b. Skills (20%)
- c. Offensive Impact (35%)
- d. Defensive Impact (20%)

U13-U18 DEFENSE

- a. Battle and Compete (25%)
- b. Skills (20%)
- c. Offensive Impact (20%)
- d. Defensive Impact (35%)

7.5. Evaluation Rubric - U13-U18

Categories	1-2 (Lowest)	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10 (Highest)
Battle and compete	Limited effort or willingness to engage in battles Lacks a competitive edge	Inconsistent in competing for possession of the puck	Competent in battles and displaying physical presence	Strong in battles, consistently demonstrating physicality	Dominant in battles, consistently imposing physical presence
Overall Skills	Limited proficiency in stickhandling and passing	Developing stickhandling and passing skills	Proficient in stickhandling and passing skills	Advanced stickhandling and passing skills	Exceptional stickhandling and passing skills
Offensive Impact	Limited ability to read and react to the flow of play Limited involvement in offensive plays Limited contribution to creating scoring opportunities	Developing ability to read and react to the play Developing involvement in the offensive zone Developing contribution to creating scoring chances	Proficient in reading and reacting to the play Proficient involvement in the offensive zone Proficient at creating scoring opportunities	Advanced in reading and reacting to the play Advanced involvement in the offensive zone Advanced at creating scoring opportunities	Exceptional in reading and reacting to the play Exceptional involvement in the offensive zone Exceptional at creating scoring opportunities
Defensive Impact	Limited effectiveness in defensive situations	Developing effectiveness in defensive situations	Proficient effectiveness in defensive situations Proficient ability to disrupt	Advanced effectiveness in defensive situations Advanced ability to disrupt	Exceptional effectiveness in defensive situations Exceptional ability to disrupt

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Categories	1-2 (Lowest)	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10 (Highest)
	Limited ability to disrupt opponent's plays Limited proficiency in shot-blocking and stick-checking	Developing ability to disrupt opponent's plays Developing shot-blocking and stick-checking skills	opponent's plays Proficient shot-blocking and stick-checking abilities	opponent's plays Advanced shot-blocking and stick-checking abilities	opponent's plays Exceptional shot-blocking and stick-checking abilities

8. Evaluation Metrics and Reporting

During the evaluation movement games evaluators will focus on the metrics outlined under the Player Evaluation System section of this document.

Players will be evaluated in game scenarios as outlined in the Movement Game Structure section of this document to determine their final rankings. **Evaluations are subjective and based on opinion** on the areas outlined in our Player Evaluation System section of this document. Our External Evaluators have been brought in for their expertise to evaluate all WHC Players.

Evaluators may have discussions during the game and/or after the game to finalize the rankings of each player. Player Evaluation Scoring from each Movement Game will be collected, after the final rankings have been determined, and provided to the President and Vice Presidents who will then submit to the WHC office for official record keeping. The final rankings will be entered into the Evaluations System by the evaluators directly using tablets provided by the club, and/or Manager, Hockey Development and approved by the Age-Group Vice-Presidents and President.

After Movement Games are completed (ex. All Movement Games 1 must be completed within a specific age group if they are being held on different days due to ice scheduling) and final rankings are determined, families will be notified by a system generated email from the evaluation software of their next ice time. There is no need to monitor the website as there will be no information posted there, you will be notified by email only. Please be sure to check your junk mail folder regularly just in case.

9. Movement Game Play Structures

9.1. U9 Age Group Half Ice 4 on 4 Games

U9 will incorporate a mix between small area compete drills (one ice time) and scrimmage games (remaining ice times). Games for this age group will be run time with 75 second intervals. The games will be half-ice between the end boards and red line with nets on both sides. Barriers will be placed at the red line. The games will be two 20-minute periods. Players will be given a 5-minute warm up with a 1-minute intermission between periods. There will be no mid-game movement of players.

9.2. U11 Age Group Full Ice 5 on 5 Games

U11 will incorporate a mix between small area compete drills (one ice time) and scrimmage games (remaining ice times). Games for this age group will be run time with 75 second intervals. Players will be given a 5-minute warm up and 1-minute intermission between periods. Each interval will start with a face off at center ice. If a goal is scored players on the scoring team are to return to the red line and set up for break-out of the opposing team. Players on the team who were scored on will retrieve the puck from their goal and initiate their break-out.



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When pucks are saved by a goalie, opposing players are to return to the offensive blue line and defending players are to retrieve the puck from their goalie and initiate a break-out.

By having each interval start with a face off it will allow players to demonstrate their abilities in more of a game setting and provide evaluators with a broader view of the players skill sets and abilities.

For the U11 age category 5 on 5 game all players will rotate through each position (i.e. forward and defense) allowing the evaluators to view them in different game situations.

WHC will follow Hockey Calgary's guidelines for evaluating players participating in the U11 Hybrid Goalie program.

9.3. U13, U15 and U18 Age Group Full Ice 5 on 5 Games

Games for this age group will be run time with full stoppage on goals, off-sides, goalie puck stoppage. **Shift lengths will be 75 seconds with a buzzer sounding and a face off at center ice after the players change.**

Players will be given a 5-minute warm up and 1-minute intermission between periods. Forwards will play wing as well as center and defensemen will play both right and left. There will be no designated center or right/left wing for positional play. This format of play will allow evaluators to see how players play in different settings similar to sessional game play. Players will play against all lines on the opposing side as line changes will be made at separate times throughout the game.

Referees will officiate all games and Hockey Calgary Rules will apply. High hits, hits from behind and major stick infractions will be dealt with as in a typical game. If a player is given an infraction like this, it will result in a game ejection and affect the players' ability to be evaluated properly. Penalties will be called and assessed with the player who was offended given a penalty shot with the penalized player chasing. Players are to use contact when appropriately in the context of the game. Players are not to use contact to make a big hit or make an impact that does not benefit play. Unnecessary contact and/or checking will negatively impact the player's evaluation rankings.

Players will be required to mix lines, as to give evaluators a perspective on how each individual plays with their peer group.

Players should be reminded that hockey is a team sport, so use your teammates on the ice. Individual play will possibly hurt you.

9.4. Movement Games Outline

All evaluation of players will be fully outsourced to a 3rd party provider.

Players will be evaluated in larger groups by 4 to 8 evaluators. Sub-groups will consist of 10 to 15 players and will be ranked within this group. The size of the group is determined by the number of registrations in each age group for the evaluation year.

Evaluators will evaluate all players throughout all games and provide scores that determine rankings.

This larger group size has been tested in other associations of similar size in Alberta and has been considered to be of best practices by 3rd party evaluation organizations.



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The **number of players moving between groups** may vary due to the 3rd parties request to see players evaluated with peer groups.

After the skills session all players will be placed into groupings based on final registration numbers. Initial placement in these groupings will be based on results from the skills session.

The movement games for each age category will be:

- U9: ONE Small area drills session and Three 4 on 4 Half Ice Game Sessions (no mid-game movement)
- U11: ONE Small area drills session and Three 5 on 5 Full Ice Games
- U13: Four 5 on 5 Full Ice Games
- U15: Three 5 on 5 Full Ice Games for contact. 2 for non-contact.
- U18: Three 5 on 5 Full Ice Games for contact, 2 for non-contact.

NOTE: Additional games will be added if deemed necessary.

There is an expectation that individuals wanting to coach are expected to volunteer. Failure to volunteer may result in an individual not being considered as a Coach or Assistant Coach.

In an effort to ensure proper movement, players may be moved upward and downward from a group at any time during the evaluation process. Evaluators will be encouraged to identify stronger players in a group that should be moved up and weaker players in a group that should be moved down a group. At all of the first movement games for each ice group, WHC Hockey Development will watch for discrepancies that have occurred as a result of the Skills Session and, at its discretion, will move a player up or down to a group more suited to their individual game play.

9.5. Players Not Attending Evaluation Movement Games

If a player is unable to attend an evaluation movement game due to an excused absence, they will remain in the group determined by their evaluations. Through their previous play or skills session and will be given an opportunity to skate at their next ice time within that grouping. This will not affect any other players' movement up or down as all players will be given the opportunity to skate in the group determined by their evaluations. For sickness or injury, a **Doctor's note may be required**.

If a player does not attend an evaluation movement game due to an unexcused absence, they will be ranked at the bottom of their current grouping and dropped down to the next grouping as per our evaluation guidelines. This will continue for all unexcused absences.

Excused Absences can include but are not limited to; injury (doctors note may be required), sickness (doctors note may be required), school event (within reason), family emergency.

It is the parent's responsibility to communicate to your WHC Age Group Coordinator, Assistant Coordinator or Age Group Vice President prior to any ice time that will be missed. Absences without communication from parents prior to will be treated as unexcused absences.

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Unexcused Absences can include but are not limited to; participation in other sport activities, any absence not communicated to your WHC Age Group Coordinator, Assistant Coordinator or Age Group Vice President.

For players who were not with WHC the previous year, WHC Hockey Development will place them on the lowest team and assess their skill level within that peer group (i.e. If the age group has teams 1 through 6, the player will be placed on 6). If movement is required, the player will be moved accordingly by WHC Hockey Development. **Doctor's note will be required.**

10. U15 and U18 Body Checking & Non-Body Checking Evaluations

In guidance from the Hockey Calgary seeding, WHC will typically have 2 to 3 U15 teams and potentially 3 U18 teams playing within Hockey Calgary body checking divisions (both to be based on final registration numbers). The remaining teams will be in divisions with non-body checking.

Those players registered for contact will then play in 3 evaluation movement games and placed on the appropriate team.

Depending on registration numbers, Hockey Calgary's grid, and ultimately the cut lines, if there are more players registered for contact than there are spots available, they will be moved into the non-contact group, placed according to their skills session results, and evaluated accordingly within that group. As a result, and if necessary, the non-contact group will be provided with 3 ice times for general conditioning while waiting for the contact evaluations to be completed.

After the 3 evaluation games for the contact group, the non-contact will play 3 evaluation movement games.

NOTE: The above is subject to change based on final registration numbers and changes to Hockey Calgary Final Seeding Grid. All changes will be communicated to WHC U15 and U18 players and families.

11. Junior C Evaluations - change to U21

WHC has one Junior C team. In the event that more players register for Junior C than allowed on the final team roster WHC will hold Junior C Evaluations to set the final team roster. The Junior C Evaluations will consist of two 5 on 5 games to evaluate the players ability to play at the Junior C level. The Junior C Evaluations will be conducted by the Junior C Evaluations Committee which will consist of the Age Group Vice-President, Junior Age Group Coordinator, WHC Hockey Development Representative, Junior C Head Coach and Assistant Coach. WHC reserves the right to add, change or delete members from the Junior C Evaluations Committee.

As Hockey Calgary rules allow for players at the Junior C level to play outside of their community association boundaries the following criteria may also be used as part of the Junior C Evaluations Process:

- Over age player allowance. Hockey Calgary allows for a maximum of four (4) over age players to be on a final Junior C team roster. If more than four (4) over age players register, WHC will need to cut these players down to a maximum of four (4) players regardless of the final number of players registered.
- Existing WHC players, i.e. individuals who have played the majority of their minor hockey within the WHC.
- Previous level of play ex. U18 Division 1, U18 Division 2, U18 Division 3, U18 Division 4, U18 Division 5.
- Returning players to the WHC Junior C Team



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- New players to the WHC Junior C Team who have not played within the WHC previously.

These **Junior C Evaluations will only be conducted** if deemed necessary by WHC Hockey Development based on the final registration numbers

12. Final Team Selection and Placement

After each age group has completed the entire evaluation process, the Age Group Coordinator, both Vice Presidents and the President meet to place the players on teams based on their evaluation results.

At this point in the process **sick, injured or returning Quadrant Hockey players** will be placed in the appropriate evaluation ranking and special requests are approved. This may cause player movement and could change your assumption of your players' final roster placement.

Due to family and player confidentiality, we are unable to release any details on these placements or requests. Final roster sizes are determined based on final registration numbers and Hockey Calgary roster guidelines and +/- roster requirements and careful consideration of what is best for WHC.

This process may take 48 to 72 hours to complete after the final evaluation movement games are completed for each age group. Head Coaches are provided with their rosters, and in turn will notify players by email (most common) or phone as to which team they are on

13. Coach Selection

All coaches should ensure they have filled out the online coach application in the registration package on the WHC website, www.wolverineshockey.ca, to be included in the coach selection process.

During the Team Selection meetings Head Coaches are finalized. Head Coaches are selected using several different criteria including coaching philosophy, coach survey feedback, coaching training/certification, previous coaching experience within the WHC, have they met the Evaluation Volunteer Requirements, previous coaching experience in other sports, etc. The Age Group Coordinators, both Vice Presidents and the President will participate in the Head Coach Selection. Assistant Coaches are selected by the Head Coach with the approval of the appropriate age group Vice President.

Age Group Coordinators will contact the Head Coaches to advise them of their final team roster. All potential coaches should ensure the Age Group Coordinators for the Age Group they would like to have their cell phone number to be contacted should any questions, etc. arise during the coach selection process.

14. Grievances

With the evaluation of players being fully outsourced and controls in place to identify anomalies through our electronic systems, there is no longer a grievance process.

15. Abuse or Harassment

WHC has a zero-tolerance policy for abuse of any kind or format towards volunteers and Board Members. Any individuals not acting in accordance with this policy may have a Game and Conduct investigation or hearing being initiated.

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16. Summary of Updates

June 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Updated U9/U11 Cross Ice vs. Half Ice language- Add Small area games to U9/U11
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