



**Knights Hockey Club
2020/21 Placement
Program Operations
Manual**

Table of Contents

Placement Program Objectives and Philosophy	2
Parent Expectations:	3
Player Expectations:	4
The Process	5
Initial Placement:.....	5
Initial Pool Population	5
U9 Grouping	5
U11 Grouping	5
U13 Grouping	6
U15 Grouping	6
U18 Grouping	6
Number of Sessions.....	7
Placement Skates:	7
Scoring (ranking).....	7
Movement (U9 – U18).....	7
Pulling & Locking.....	8
Evaluators	8
Cohort Placement.....	8
Team Placement	8
Goalie Evaluations (U11 – U18).....	9
Absentee/Sick Policy ALL Players	10
Placement Apparel.....	11
Audits/Reviews.....	11
Placement Dates and Times	11



Placement Program Objectives and Philosophy

The Knights Hockey Club placement process is a fundamental component of the overall hockey program. The Placement Program Operations Manual (the “Manual”) is approved by The Knights Hockey Club in accordance with the Hockey Calgary “Return to Play” program. We recommend all members read the manual thoroughly and contact the VP On-Ice or the Director of Evaluations to answer any questions you may have.

The objective of the Placement Program is to provide each player with a fair, impartial, and consistent process to be placed with players of like skill, resulting in the best chance to develop within a cohort structure. Additionally, to form teams which maintain a skill balance where players can develop, participate equitably and have fun playing hockey. All placement policies and processes are developed to ensure players are given opportunity and are in the best interests of every Knights Hockey player.

This document is based on information available to the Knights Hockey Club via Hockey Calgary and Hockey Alberta, in accordance with Alberta Health Services (AHS). Being that the state of sport participation is fluid as a result of the COVID-19 virus, these plans could change without warning.



Parent Expectations:

- a. Read all communication distributed by the Placement Team and The Knights Hockey Club. Attend the mandatory Evaluation Town Hall.
- b. Ensure you and your player understand the process.
- c. Practice proper sports etiquette and adhere to the principles outlined in Respect in Sport. Each family is required to have a complete update RIS certification.
- d. Abide by special facility guidelines for AHS Phase 2 regarding pre and post ice time process and parent attendance.
 - i. Parents will only be admitted to the building to tie skates and must leave the building immediately after.
- e. **DO NOT** approach evaluators with questions about rankings or marks. Placement information is kept confidential. Should you have questions, please contact your Division Age Group Coordinators, Director of Evaluations and/or the VP On Ice.
- f. Assist your player in being prepared. Ensure your player is at the check-in desk no earlier than 30 minutes before their ice time. Your player will be allowed into the arena 15 minutes before their scheduled ice time in full equipment (except for helmets, gloves, and skates); Skates and helmets on and ready 5 minutes before their ice time. This will give on-ice instructors and age group coordinators the chance to explain the session to the players.
**Goalies will have a room to dress and will be permitted access 30 minutes prior to their ice times.
- g. Check equipment fits properly, and skates are sharpened before their session. Kids change sizes over the summer and their safety is important.
- h. Stay positive and support your player through the process. They will perform at their best when stress is lower.

Due to compliance with facility policy regarding COVID-19 procedures, there will be no attendance permitted for parents/guardians and no visibility to the ice surface during the 2020/21 placement program.

As per Knights Hockey Club evaluation process, LIVEBARN will be disabled during the placement program.

As per the Knights Hockey Club Electronic Device Policy, no photos or video inside the players dressing room are permitted.

Photos of sign in and door sheets is prohibited.



Player Expectations:

- a. Be prepared for placement skates by arriving 15 minutes early and fully dressed (besides skates, gloves, and helmets); be dressed and seated on the bench inside the dressing room 5 minutes prior to start time
- b. Always maintain social distancing.
- c. Be respectful to volunteers and other players. Demonstrate good sportsmanship on and off the ice.
- d. Do YOUR best and have fun. Perform the drills to the best of your ability.
- e. Understand the process for your age appropriate level. Ask questions of the on-ice volunteers and evaluation volunteers when you need clarification.
- f. No alcohol, marijuana (in any form), other illicit drugs, nicotine or vaping is permitted in the rink. Suspensions will occur if this policy is not followed.



The Process

Initial Placement:

A pre-seeding process will be utilized to ensure efficient and effective placement of players in all age groups. These groups provide the opportunity for evaluators to assess the players during the process. Target group sizes will be between 10-15 players. Initial pool sizes will vary based on final registration numbers, consideration of previous team numbers, coach evaluations, and in the case of U13, U15 & U18, position declaration. Preliminary placement pools are capable of movement following the skate with attention to preserving the integrity of the pool.

1. U11 – U18: Players will be placed in pools (groups) to begin the placement process. These pools will be created utilizing the previous season's age category, team, and coach postseason evaluations.
2. U9: Players will be divided alphabetically and placed into groups.
3. U7: Players will be divided by junior and senior and divided alphabetically for their initial placement sessions. U7 will participate in 2 skates for their placements. These skates will consist of various age appropriate drills. The objective of U7 is to create parity teams for optimal development. This is in accordance with Hockey Canada and Hockey Calgary process and procedures.

Initial Pool Population

NOTE: Number of groups, sizes and placement are subject to change based on final registration numbers and the ice schedule. The groups are numbered in the order pools are filled.

U9 Grouping

- The skills sessions will determine placement and there will be no predetermined groupings

U11 Grouping

- Players will be initially placed in groups depending on which division they played in last season. The order for group placement is:

Atom 1, Atom 2, Atom 3, Novice 1, Atom 4, Novice 2, Atom 5, Atom 6, Novice 3, Atom 7, Novice 4.



U13 Grouping

- Players will be initially placed in groups depending on which division they played in last season and their declared position. The order for group placement is:

PeeWee AA, PeeWee 1, PeeWee 2, Atom 1, PeeWee 3, Atom 2, PeeWee 4, Atom 3, PeeWee 5, Atom 4, Atom 5, PeeWee 6, Atom 6, Atom 7.

U15 Grouping

- Players must designate body checking or non-body checking at registration.
- There will be body checking and non-body checking cohorts.
- Players who designate the body checking stream can be placed in non-body checking cohorts based on their rankings.
- Players designating non-body checking **WILL NOT** be placed in body checking cohorts.
- Rankings will determine a player's final cohort placement. Therefore, a player can be placed in a non-body checking cohort and team even if the body checking stream is designated at registration.
- Players will be initially placed in groups depending on which division they played in last season and their declared position. The order for group placement is:

Bantam 1, Bantam 2, PeeWee AA, Bantam 3, PeeWee 1, Bantam 4, PeeWee 2, Bantam 5, PeeWee 3, Bantam 6, PeeWee 4, Bantam 7, PeeWee 5, PeeWee 6.

U18 Grouping

- Players must designate body checking or non-body checking at registration.
- There will be body checking and non-body checking cohorts.
- Players who designate the body checking stream can be placed in non-body checking cohorts based on their rankings.
- Players designating non-body checking **WILL NOT** be placed in body checking cohorts.
- Rankings will determine a player's final cohort placement. Therefore, a player can be placed in a non-body checking cohort and team even if the body checking stream is designated at registration.
- Players will be initially placed in groups depending on which division they played in last season and their declared position. We are merging players from 3 different organizations this season. The order for group placement is:

Midget 1, Midget 2, Bantam 1, Midget 3, Bantam 2, Midget 4, Bantam 3, Bantam 4, Midget 5, Bantam 5, Midget 6, Bantam 6, Bantam 7.



Number of Sessions

Note: All age groups will have optional pre-skate ice times available

1. U7 – Players will participate in 2 placement skates
2. U9 – Players will participate in 3 placement skates
3. U11 – Players will participate in 3 placement skates with 2 pathway pre-skates
4. U13 – Players will participate in 3 placement skates
5. U15 – Players will participate in 3 placement skates
6. U18 – Players will participate in 3 placement skates

Placement Skates:

1. All Placement Sessions will be in accordance with Hockey Calgary's "Return to Play" program. Players will be scored on their individual skills during skill skates.
2. Knights Hockey Club will be utilizing age-specific, pre-approved drills from Hockey Calgary during the placement process. These drills are designed to highlight player's skills while remaining in a safe, socially distanced environment.

Scoring (ranking)

1. Players are ranked according to the number of players in the age group (example: if there are 100 players in Atom, the players will be ranked 1-100).
2. In the U13 through U18 age groups, players are ranked within the position they have declared for (example Forwards: 1-60 & Defense: 1-40).
3. Criteria – Evaluators will evaluate players using the following criteria:
 - i. Speed
 - ii. Edge work
 - iii. Stick handling
 - iv. Passing
 - v. Shooting
 - vi. Effort

Movement (U9 – U18)

- A. **Following each placement session** players may move up or down in their respective pools. Players are capable of movement up and down throughout the **entire placement process**. This provides players the opportunity and ability to continuously improve their final ranking and impact their final cohort placement.
- B. Player movement is dependent on placement score/rankings therefore the outcomes of each placement session will determine the number of players moved up and down from each pool. Following the completion of all sessions, placement scores are reviewed and the capacity for movement assessed.



Pulling & Locking

- A. Due to the nature of the Hockey Calgary mandated placement program in the 2020/21 season, no players will be locked or pulled.

Evaluators

- A. Evaluators will be assigned to specific age groups by the Evaluation Team.
- B. All attempts will be made to have 4 to 6 evaluators for each session. This may consist of a combination of Independent evaluators and coaches.
- C. Evaluators will be identified after registration and assigned to a specific age group for the duration of the process.
- D. Evaluators will not be permitted to evaluate age groups that they have a player or player's relative competing in.

Cohort Placement

- A. A player's rankings throughout the process will determine their initial cohort placement. A player's pre-seed and scores from all skates will be utilized to determine placement.

Team Placement

- A. Final team placement will depend on AHS and Hockey Calgary guidelines for "Return to Play" for post-December participation.
- B. If Hockey Calgary can allow for tiering of players, there will be no additional formal evaluation sessions.
- C. To select final team placement, cohort coaches and independent evaluators may be consulted based on player performance and skill as demonstrated during the development phase.



Goalie Evaluations (U11 – U18)

Designation of goaltenders in U11 – U18 Groups is mandatory on the official Hockey Calgary rosters. It is important for goalies to be aware that when they elect to evaluate at the goaltender position, they will be expected to remain at that position through the balance of the year. The exception is for the U11 hybrid pathway, a goalie may also participate as a player if they evaluate within the same cohort as a goalie and player.

- A. **Process:** Goalies will be pre-seeded based on last year's age group and team. Goalies will participate in two goalie specific skills sessions, one at the beginning of the placement process and one at the end. A goalie's cohort placement will be determined by and pre-seed and the skills placement process. Final team placement will follow the same principles as outlined in the previous section (Team Placement).
- B. **Skills Session:** The two skills placement sessions will be weighted and count for a significant portion of the goaltenders final ranking. Drills will be used which highlight modern goaltending techniques and attributes.
- C. **Evaluators:** It is important that the individuals evaluating goalies have a strong understanding and knowledge of the specific and unique skill set to this position. To ensure effective and optimal evaluation of goaltenders, outside accredited goalie evaluators will be utilized in the goalie skills sessions.
- D. **Cohort Placement:** The number of goaltenders per cohort will be determined based on the number of designated goalies and the number of cohorts in an age group.
- E. **Hybrid Goalies:** U11 Hybrid goalies will only be evaluated at the goalie specific skills sessions. They will skate as players for the 3 general skills sessions.



Absentee/Sick Policy ALL Players

Skaters and Goaltenders are required to attend ALL their respective placement sessions. It is the responsibility of the player/family to notify their Evaluation Team and the VP On Ice **prior** to their scheduled evaluation if they are unable to attend an evaluation session. Notifications should be via email, phone or in person. Any player who misses an evaluation session will have their next placement reviewed by the VP On Ice and Evaluation Team.

- A. When players miss an placement session without a legitimate reason, they will receive the lowest ranking within their designated pool. This can adversely affect their overall ranking and impact their final cohort placement
- B. A player who misses the first placement session without a legitimate reason may be moved down to another group based upon receiving the lowest ranking and the movement of their peer group from the previous season. In addition, players who miss the session following movement up to a pool may be moved down based on the movement of their peer group from the previous session and their lowest ranking.

Legitimate and Excused Absence:

When a player misses due to legitimate reasons, policies are followed, documentation is provided and approved by the Evaluation Team and the VP On Ice, the player will not receive a score for that session. Sessions they participated in will be averaged to determine team placement.

- A. Injury or Illness: Medical notes are required for any player missing all or any evaluations due to sickness or injury. Medical notes **MUST** be presented within 48 hours of a missed session (24 hours of the last evaluation skate)
- B. Players who are injured during evaluations will be placed on a team based on their performance/rankings during evaluations.
- C. Players who are not able to participate in the evaluation process due to illness/injury will be placed on a team based upon their peer group from the previous season with input from their coach from the previous season. Players that are unable to attend a placement session with an excused absence, will be given the average score of the 2 players ranked above them and 2 players ranked below them for the session.
- D. All decisions on team placement due to injury or illness will be done in collaboration with the Evaluation Team and VP On Ice.
- E. Legitimate personal, family and medical emergencies are situations that will also not count in the final player ranking. Each case will be reviewed separately by Evaluations Team and the VP On Ice.



Placement Apparel

- A. Due to the current situation with COVID-19, KHC cannot provide players with evaluation jerseys for the placement program. Players will be wearing their own practice jersey for their sessions (these are available from Play It Again if required).
- B. Knights socks are required for U9 – U18 placement sessions (and can also be purchased from Play It Again).
- C. Helmet stickers will be utilized to identify the players and must remain on the player's helmet for the duration of the placement process.
- D. No Helmet stickers from other teams (example spring hockey) or any tape or markings are permitted during placement sessions.
**Knights team logo helmet stickers are permitted.

Audits/Reviews

- A. Due to following Hockey Calgary's "Return to Play" program, no auditing will be available for cohort or final team placement for the 2020/21 season.

Placement Dates and Times

- A. Placements will commence and end in September for all age groups. The U15 and U18 will begin later in the month to accommodate quadrant tryouts
- B. Please refer to the website for general placement times for each age group
- C. Parents/Players will receive emails with their specific ice time closer to the start of the placement process

Please feel free to contact the Director of Evaluations – evaluations@knightshc.ca or VP On Ice – vponice@knightshc.ca with questions and inquiries prior to and during evaluations.

This document will act as the general guidelines for all involved to ensure a consistent, integral application of the principles of placement are applied throughout the process. All comments, questions, and concerns for improvements should be forwarded to the VP On Ice and the Director of Evaluations – evaluations@knightshc.ca for consideration.

Hockey Calgary Return to Play Document:

https://www.hockeycalgary.ca/assets/file/Operations/covid/Return_to_Play_-_Community_July.pdf

