



Didsbury Minor Hockey Association

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2025/2026 - For the purpose of this FYI, all second year U9s who are moving up to U11 are considered U11 players

Conditioning Camp and Evaluations FYI

Conditioning Camp - U9 and U11

Each year, DMHA provides 4 conditioning camp skates prior to evaluations for U9 and U11 players. If more than one team is formed, all players are evaluated against players in their age group and placed on tiered teams. Second year U9 players will condition and evaluate alongside U11 players.

These skates are led by the Coach-in-Chief or an appointed facilitator. The purpose is to

- shake off the "summer slide,"
- Introduce skaters to the drills they will encounter during evaluations
- receive general feedback.

Conditioning Camp is recommended but not mandatory.

Evaluations - U9* and U11

A group of impartial evaluators will score skaters on the same drills practiced during conditioning camp. These evaluators are picked carefully for their ability to remain unbiased.

Day 1 & 2: Skill Evaluations

- The on ice instructor will demonstrate each skill, organize the drill lines and manage the pacing of drills with a whistle.
- No feedback will be provided.
- Evaluators will score skaters based on performance.

Day 3 & 4: Game Play Evaluations

- Players participate in scrimmage style games with officiating.
- Volunteer parents will run the gates of a bench opposite to their own child.
- No coaching is permitted from the bench.
- Players are responsible for changing lines and may assist teammates in doing so.
- Evaluators will score players during game play.
- On day 4, players must swap Defence and Offense and repeat.

*2025/2026 season has ONE U9 team. Evaluations are not required, after conditioning camp the team may begin regular practices.

- At the Evaluation Committee's discretion, players who have already demonstrated a high level of skill during evaluations may be asked to sit out the second game. This allows other skaters the opportunity to showcase their abilities.

Formation of Tiered Teams - U9* and U11

- All scores are averaged, and players are ranked. The Evaluation Committee, including the Vice President, Coach in Chief and one additional board member, present the anonymous rankings and their recommendations to the full board of directors, which then decides how many players to assign to each team.
- **Individual rankings and scores will not be released.**

Goalie Evaluations - U11 only (including second year U9s moving to U11)

A Goalie specific evaluator will evaluate all registered goalies on a separate night. Based on their ranking and whether they registered full time or hybrid, goalies will be placed on teams at the discretion of the Evaluation Committee and/or the Board of Directors

Evaluations for U7

U7 skaters will be evaluated by knowledgeable members of DMHA, including but not limited to the DMHA Coach-In-Chief, Vice President and coaches.

Formation of U7 Teams

Teams will be created to be as balanced as possible in terms of:

- Skill level
- Number of players
- Available and willing coaches.

Please make preferences known to the Coach In Chief. While requests will be reviewed, they are not guaranteed.

Preferences that *will* be considered U7 ONLY

- Siblings (siblings WILL be placed on the same team.)
- Practice time preference
- Carpooling or transportation arrangements

Preferences that *will not* be considered U7 ONLY

- Requests for specific coaches.

PLEASE CONSIDER:

- In order to keep hockey fees down, evaluators are VOLUNTEERS.
- Players development varies through the season, comparison of player skills later in season may appear different than the beginning of the season. This is normal.
- Once teams are released, they are final. Whatever team your player is on is an opportunity for them to develop.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Do players have to attend all four conditioning skates?

No, conditioning skates are optional but strongly recommended. They help players prepare for evaluations by becoming familiar with the drills and getting back into skating shape.

2. What happens if my child misses one or more evaluation sessions?

Evaluators can only score based on what they see. Missing sessions may impact a player's overall ranking and placement. We encourage full attendance for a fair evaluation. Scores are averaged, missing a session does NOT result in 0s, however the player's score is heavily weighed on the days they're in attendance. The head evaluator may request a spot be held on the higher tiered team to further evaluate a late arrival, as [operating procedures](#) (3.3.5.1)

If evaluations are missed entirely, the player will be placed on the lower tiered team, as per our [operating procedures](#) (3.3.6.1).

3. Can parents watch conditioning camp or evaluation sessions?

Yes, parents are welcome to watch from the stands. However, coaching or interacting with players or evaluators during the session is not permitted.

4. Why are players asked to switch positions during the game evaluations?

To give evaluators a complete picture of each player's versatility, effort, and understanding of the game from both offensive and defensive perspectives.

5. Can I request that my child be placed with a specific coach or friend?

At U7 ONLY, sibling placements, practice time preferences, and carpooling arrangements may be considered. Requests for specific coaches or friends are not considered.

U9 and U11 - placement requests will only be considered if players are placed on the lower tiered team. However, this is not guaranteed. Each request at this level will require board approval.

6. Why won't the evaluation scores or rankings be shared with parents?

To maintain privacy and reduce pressure on players and families, individual rankings and scores are kept confidential.

7. Who are the evaluators, and are they trained?

Evaluators are impartial volunteers selected for their hockey knowledge and ability to fairly assess players. They are briefed on the evaluation process and scoring criteria beforehand.

8. What if my child is placed on a team that feels too advanced or not challenging enough?

Team placements are based on evaluation performance (U9 and U11) and the need to balance teams (U7). Once teams are finalized, they will not be changed. Each scenario provides your player with a chance to develop.

9. Why are some players asked to sit out the second game during evaluations?

Players who have already demonstrated a high skill level may be asked to sit out to allow others more ice time and opportunity to be seen by evaluators.

10. Can I volunteer to help during evaluations?

Yes! Parents may volunteer to help with tasks like gate-running and jersey hand out. Volunteers are not permitted to coach or influence evaluations in any way.

11. How is fairness ensured in the evaluation process?

Evaluators do not have access to player names and are instructed to assess based solely on performance. Multiple evaluators score independently to average out potential bias.

12. Are returning players guaranteed to be placed on a higher-tier team?

No. Every player is evaluated based on their current performance, not past placements or team history.

13. What if I have concerns about the evaluation or team placement?

All concerns should be directed respectfully to the Coach-in-Chief. While feedback is welcome, team placements are final and not open to appeal.

14. How will I be notified of my child's team assignment?

Team Placements will be communicated via email after evaluations are complete.

15. When will I know who my child's coaches are?

U7 - Coaches may be known at the time of team formation.

U9 and U11 - Coach placement must come after team formation. During the week after evaluations, head coach and assistant coaching roles will be assigned and shared via teamsnap or email.*

If you have any questions about the process, please don't hesitate to reach out to myself or either of the following volunteers.

Vice President & Evaluation Coordinator - Kyle Sellar - didsburyminorhockeyvicepres@gmail.com

Coach-In-Chief - Shawn Murphy - dmhacoachinchief@gmail.com

Sincerely,



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