

MN River – Evaluation Process (2025)

Who: Squirts, PeeWees, & Bantams

Where: LeSueur Community Center

When: See Bulldog website calendar for specific dates and times

We understand that many players have conflicts with other sports or activities during the Placement Evaluation sessions. Although we try to minimize conflicts they may still occur. If you cannot attend a session, please email registrar@bulldoghockey.org with your player's name, level of play, and the date they will miss and why. We want our players to be well-rounded individuals, which includes other activities and fulfilling your commitments to those activities to well.

- There will be a check-in table in the lobby, ALL players must check in before each session and receive their evaluation jersey prior to their first session.
 - If an evaluation jersey is lost, that family will be responsible for the \$25 cost to replace
- Players should arrive in time to check in and be ready to go on the ice at least 10 minutes prior to the evaluation time.
- Dress your player for the position they would like to play, either skater or goalie
- **Parents are NOT permitted to watch evaluations and are restricted from the arena bleachers, lobby, or any other viewing areas. Parents of Squirts players may come in to help tie skates if needed but must leave the locker room area/ice arena at least 15 minutes prior to the session.**
- Team placements will be posted on the Bulldog website after 5:00 pm on the Wednesday (10/9) following the final evaluation date. An email will follow informing that the teams have been posted.

Who is evaluating?

- 10-15 independent evaluators across the 3 age groups. Typically, these are current and former hockey players or coaches from the area and surrounding communities. Parent coaches may also be evaluators, but not for a level they coach or any of their children play. **There will not be a parent evaluating a level in which they have a player in the age level.**
 - There may be several coaches from levels not on the ice to facilitate drills, they do not perform evaluations.
- Players will be given an evaluation jersey upon checking in. The evaluators will not see any player names and will report their assessment scores only by the jersey number.

Failure to return the evaluation jersey will result in a \$50 fee.

- The Association Registrar will be present to check in players and make sure everyone, including evaluators, arrives.

How are the players evaluated?

- Players receive evaluation scores in three different categories: Skating, Stickhandling/Shooting, and Game Play
 - Each player receives a score of 1, 3, 5, 7, or 9 from every evaluator for each category.
 - Skating and Stickhandling/Shooting each make up 25% of the weighted evaluation score with Game Play weighted at 50%
 - Goalies are evaluated individually on agility, puck tracking, and gameplay
 - *If a player does not attend any sessions **without notification**, you will be defaulted to an evaluation grade of 1 for all skills.*
 - Players unable to attend all sessions due to injury will be provided an individual assessment once healthy
 - We strongly recommend attending all three sessions for the best assessment, but the process can be completed with as few as one. Scores are averaged across all evaluation sessions; there is no reward or punishment related to evaluation attendance if proper notice is provided.
 - For confidentiality purposes, evaluation scores are only used for the team placement process and are not shared.

Most importantly, always keep in mind that this is just youth hockey and only an assessment by a limited group of people over the course of just a few hours. It is admittedly not perfect, but it is the most equitable system that we have been able to develop and implement.