



2022
Hockey NWT Player Evaluation
Handbook

Team NT

Team NT is a Hockey NWT program intended to promote and create positive hockey opportunities. It provides NWT players with an unparalleled hockey experience that exposes them to a level of hockey above anything they have ever experienced.

Team NT is a program about teamwork and the pursuit of common goals. No one player, nor one coach, is bigger than the team or more important than the team. It is about accepting roles and about appreciating the need for every role on a team. Team NT is about coaches and players working together and learning together. It is about helping young athletes develop both on and off the ice.

Guiding Principles

All volunteers and coaches involved with Team NT will adhere to the following Guiding Principles during their involvement with Team NT programs.

Professionalism ...*“Treat People Right”*

In order for the best experience to be realised a positive environment must be created through consistent, open communications and mutual respect. Each participant should be well informed in a positive and professional manner with appropriate care and attention. Team NT revolves around people and all of those involved should be valued for their experience and treated with respect.

Integrity ...*“Walk the Talk”*

The program’s philosophy, objectives and expectations must be consistent at all times. Our stated values must be held in the highest regard and not compromised for personal benefit.

Preparation ...*“A Focused Approach on Process, Not Outcome”*

Preparation and communication must not be compromised at any time. A process-oriented approach in the pursuit of excellence.



Hockey NWT

Team NT's Evaluation Process

Team NT's Evaluation Process is designed to identify players that are best suited to represent Hockey NWT. Players need to be mentally and physically capable with sufficient skill, hockey sense and determination to compete within their respective age category.

A player's drive, determination, work ethic and attitude are given a lot of consideration in the evaluation process. Hockey NWT uses an evaluation committee comprised of 5 independent evaluators selected for their hockey knowledge. The evaluation process is used to identify players that will comprise the best team.

As the camp progresses from session to session, the number of players may be reduced allowing evaluators to focus on specific players.

Players are often be assigned the same score creating a tie amongst two or more players. The final decision regarding player ranking is made by the evaluation committee and is based on the other factors observed during the camp.

Player identification is done using jersey colour and number, the lists are maintained throughout the camp by the Head Evaluator. Evaluators do not receive the names of the players.

Objectives of Team NT's Player Evaluation Process

- To ensure that every NT player of appropriate age category is given a fair and equal opportunity to try out for Team NT.
- To provide a fair and impartial assessment of a player's total hockey skills and team attitude during the evaluation sessions.
- To provide uniformity and consistency in the evaluation process such that player and parent expectations are consistent from year to year as players move through Hockey NWT's various levels and programs.
- To provide coaches with the opportunity and flexibility to build a team based in part on their own coaching philosophy, the evaluation of players skills and their attitude.
- To provide feedback upon request in order to develop players

Evaluation Committee

- A committee of hockey knowledgeable people selects all Hockey NWT teams.
- The Evaluation Committee should include 4 to 5 people.
- The Evaluation Committee will include the Head Evaluator, plus 4 independent evaluators with extensive experience in player evaluation.

Role of the Evaluators

- To independently evaluate players in such a way that they can form an opinion of a player's capabilities and identify which group of players will form the final group or team selected at the camp.
- To keep notes on each player.
- To be able to justify the score assigned to each player evaluated.
- Immediately following each round of evaluations or each session if time permits, the evaluators will meet as a group and discuss their evaluations and rankings.

Fitness Testing

A Player's overall fitness will be evaluated based on a standard protocol that will test an athlete's speed, power, agility, and endurance.

Team Selection Appeals

If an affected player wishes to file an appeal based on the process as it occurred during the Team NT camp, they may do so in writing, addressing their concerns as per the bylaws and regulations of Hockey NWT. Note that 'affected player' extends to the parent/guardian of a player under the age of 19. Please file your appeal with a check for \$150.00 to the president of Hockey NWT within five (5) calendar days of the close of the camp. The Board of Hockey NWT will assess your appeal, and gather information to determine whether your appeal will proceed to a committee. If your appeal proceeds to a hearing, and your claim is justified, your check will be returned. If your appeal is not upheld, the funds will be deposited into Hockey NWT's player development fund. Appeals based on player rankings will not be considered.

In the event an appeal(s) are filed and the Board decides to proceed with hearing the claim, an appeal committee consisting of one Hockey NWT Board member, and two other volunteers will be identified to handle the appeal(s). Appellants can choose to address the appeal committee via tele-conference or in person and will be provided up to 30 minutes to present their information.

All rulings at the Hockey NWT or Appeal Committee level are considered binding. Further appeal of that decision can be made to Hockey North as per their bylaws and regulations.

Five-Point Player Evaluation Method

The five-point evaluation rating provides a detailed individual player evaluation. When using this method, half marks should not be used. A player should either be a 1 or a 2, but not a 1.5.

5 Point Evaluation Scale

5.0 - Excellent Elite-Level Performance.

4.0 - Superior Performance.

3.0 - Average Performance.

2.0 - Below Average Performance.

1.0 - Unacceptable Performance

Evaluation Criteria – What goes into assessing an athlete’s overall score

Forwards and Defenseman will be evaluated on the following criteria:

1. Skating: balance, agility, speed.
2. Shooting: ability to score, quickness, and accuracy.
3. Passing: giving and receiving.
4. Puck Control: head up, smooth, protects in small spaces and in traffic.
5. Checking: defensive ability and technique.
6. Strength: physical strength, strength on the puck, mental strength.
7. Hockey Sense: basic positioning, offensive and defensive techniques, and understanding the basic principles of hockey.
8. ATTITUDE: commitment to the team play, listening, being on time, and getting along with other players will all be part of the evaluation process.

1. **Skating:** Acceleration, speed, mobility, agility, balance, stride, crossovers, pivots, acceleration out of turns, quick feet, controlled skating, change of pace.
 - Can the players perform the basic forward and backward stride?
 - Are the players knees well bent with the back slightly forward and the head up, or is the player hunched over, bending at the waist with little knee bend? Good skaters will use long strides with a complete recovery of the stride leg before striding with the other leg. Their strides will look very smooth and appear not to require much effort to move around the ice?
 - Does the player look smooth when they skate or do they appear off balance? Can the player turn in both directions with little trouble or do they struggle to turn in one or both directions?
 - Can the player stop in both directions? Younger players will often have trouble stopping in one direction?
 - Can the player keep up with the play or do they struggle to stay with the other players on the ice?
2. **Shooting:** Power, accuracy, quick release, can shoot in motion, goal scorer, rebound control, variety of shots.

- Can the player execute the technique of a wrist shot and backhand?
- Does the player follow through to the target on all shots?
- Can the player raise the puck and hit the target?
- Is the puck shot with some velocity?
- Does the puck sit flat in the air or does it wobble?
- Can the player execute a one-time shot?
- Is the player accurate when shooting?

3. Passing: Receiving, passing choices, on backhand, unselfish with the puck, presents a good target, receives and retains with control, touch passing.

- Can the player pass the puck to its intended target with minimal effort?
- Can the player make an accurate pass to a moving target?
- Can the player receive a pass on their backhand or do they tend to shift their body to receive the pass on the forehand?
- Can the player pass the puck off of the backhand with some speed and accuracy?
- Does the player call for the puck vs. banging their stick on the ice or saying nothing at all?
- Does the player passing the puck make eye contact with the intended receiver or do they just pass the puck blindly?
- Can the player execute a saucer pass over sticks and other obstacles?
- Can the player pass the puck off of the boards to another player?

4. Puck Control: Head up, smooth and quiet, good hands, protection, in small spaces, in traffic.

- Does the player have the basic skills to execute a forehand pass?
- When the player passes the puck do they slap at it or is the motion smooth with the player following through to the intended target?
- Does the player appear to be comfortable handling the puck while skating or do they appear to fight the puck and have trouble skating with some speed while handling it?
- Can the player keep his/her head up while carrying the puck?
- Can they execute dekes and fakes with the puck?
- Can they stop quickly or change directions while handling the puck?
- Can the player continue to handle the puck while in traffic and under pressure?
- Does the player get pushed or checked off the puck easily?

5. Checking Concept: Angling skills, good body position with balance and control, defensive side position, aggressive checker, strength, taking checks.

- Can the player execute basic stick and body checks?
- Does the player check properly with their hands down or do they get their arms up to give a check?
- Can the player receive a check properly, not turning their back and staying close to the boards?
- Can the player check and opposing player and pin them on the boards?

- Does the player shy away from other players?

6. Strength: physical strength, strength on the puck, mental strength

- Is the player strong with the puck?
- Can the player compete along the boards?
- Can the player compete in face-offs?
- Does the player get out-muscled?
- Does the player remain focused and compete hard regardless of the score?
- Can the player be thrown off their game easily?

7. Hockey Sense: Ability to see the play developing both offensively and defensively and moves to support, judgment, anticipation, understands systems, disciplined.

- Does the player seem to understand where he/she are to play on the ice?
- Do they support the puck in defensive and offensive situations?
- Does the player show patience or do they tend to panic when pressured?
- Do they protect the mid lane and force opposing players inside out?
- Can the player angle another player off of the puck?
- Does the player force the play or do they wait too long?

8. Attitude:

- Does the player commit to team play?
- Does the player willingly take and follow instruction and direction?
- Does the player focus and listen?
- Is the player always on time and prepared to play?
- Is respect exhibited towards coaches, officials, spectators, opponents, etc?
- Can the player accept constructive criticism and learn from mistakes?
- Does the player have drive, determination, work ethic?

Goaltenders will be evaluated on the following criteria;

1. Physical Characteristics
2. Technical Characteristics
3. Situational Tactic Characteristics
4. Mental Characteristics

1. PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Balance

- Retains ready position after blocking shots
- Holds ready position in movement
- Recovery (regains position after leaving the net)

Mobility

- Skating ability
- Remains on feet
- Moves with speed & in control in ready position
- Reacts well to puck movement in zone
- Ability to recover from knees, side

Quickness

- Reacts well to quick untelegraphed shots
- Effective in close
- Relaxative movements and reaction time

Fitness Level

- Physically fit
- Not prone to injury

2. TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Low Shots

- Use of skates
- Use of Stick
- Rebound control: off stick, off pads
- Ability to butterfly at appropriate time
- Ability to maintain balance

High Shots

- Quickness of gloves: blocker / catcher
- Position: blocker / catcher
- Rebound control: blocker / catcher / chest

Use of Stick

- Passing/clearing
- Poke check

3. SITUATIONAL TACTIC CHARACTERISTICS

Positioning & Angles

- Knows position at all times
- Assumes neutral position at top edge of crease
- Positions self properly prior to shot
- Ability to orient self instantly
- Lines up properly on puck
- Knowledge of shooter's options

Face-Offs:

- Looks for potential shooter
- Set and in position

Deflections & Screen Shots

- Ability to locate potential shooters
- Position with respect to potential deflectors
- Works hard to find puck
- Use of body
- Reaction to change of direction
- Control of rebounds

Play at Posts

- Position self properly (play behind net, corner)
- Lateral mobility
- Use of stick to decrease scoring opportunities
- Ability to challenge slot pass

4. MENTAL CHARACTERISTICS

Concentration

- Alert at all times
- Follows puck at all times
- Maintains conc. despite bad plays/early goals

Anticipation

- Understands offensive team play options
- Able to pick up open man
- Able to read shooter
- Finds puck in scramble

Consistency

- Able to make key saves
- Able to perform in pressure situations

Confidence

- Displays an 'in charge' attitude
- Positive mental attitude at all times

Desire

- Size of heart
- Constant desire to excel in all situations
- Constant work ethic in practices
- Never gives up /battles for pucks

Discipline

- Controls temper
- On time and organized