Stettler Minor Hockey Association

2026-27 Player Evaluation & Team Formation – U18 DIVISION

Overview

- SMHA will have **2 U18 teams** in the Central Alberta Hockey League (CAHL) this season.
- Each player will have **2 guaranteed evaluation skates**.
- **Independent, third-party evaluators** will assess all players and goalies.
- All evaluation skates will be weighted equally.
- **Evaluator scores will determine 100% of team formation.**
- Team rosters will be announced on the U18 Division page at www.stettlerminorhockey.com.
- **Coaches will be selected after teams are formed.**

U18 Evaluation Format

Each skater will participate in:

- **2 Full-Ice Scrimmages** – 60 minutes each
  Two 20-minute run-time periods, one 15-minute run-time period

Selected skaters will participate in:

- **1 Black & White Game** – 90 minutes
  One 20-minute run-time period, two 20-minute stop-time periods (with flood)

Goaltenders will have a 60-minute Goalie Skills Session, in addition to above.

Scrimmage groups will be divided as evenly as possible and communicated by the Division Director. Jerseys will be provided to players and returned at the end of each session.

How Are Teams Formed?

- Third-party evaluators have been contracted through CrossIce Developments, providing strong hockey knowledge, experience and no known conflicts of interest with the players.
- Player evaluations will consider a range of skills and attributes, including: skating; puck control, passing and shooting; defensive play; hockey IQ / decision-making; and work ethic / attitude.
- Goaltender evaluations will consider: skating; positioning and angles; puck control; puck tracking and save selection; and work ethic / attitude.
- Following each ice session, evaluators' scores for each skater and goaltender will be collected. Scores from the scrimmages and Black & White game will be combined for each player to obtain a final average score for Team Formation.

- Team size will be determined by evenly splitting the total number of players in the division as reasonably as possible.

U18 Evaluation Schedule – Blue Arena:

Session	Date	Time
Goalie Skills Session - U15 & U18	**Thursday, Sept. 17**	**7:30 - 8:30 pm**
Scrimmage #1 - Blue vs White	**Saturday, Sept. 19**	**7:00 - 8:00 pm**
Scrimmage #2 - Blue vs White	**Sunday, Sept. 20**	**10:15 - 11:15 am**
**Black & White game teams will be announced following the scrimmages, based on evaluator scores from previous skates. Not all players will proceed.*		
Black & White Game	**Monday, Sept. 21**	**8:00 - 9:30 pm**
U18 teams will be announced following the Black & White games. Rosters will be posted to the U18 Division page at **www.stettlerminorhockey.com as well as emailed to families. Coach selections will follow.*		
Regular Season Team Practices	**Week of Sept. 28**	**Schedule TBA**

What Else Do I Need to Know?

Arrive Early: Players should arrive **1 hour to 45 minutes before** their scheduled skate to check in, receive their evaluation jersey and dress / prepare.

LiveBarn Disabled: LiveBarn access will be disabled throughout the duration of evaluations.

Missed Evaluations: Absences due to illness, injury, late registration, higher-level tryouts or other circumstances must be communicated to the Division Director and will be handled case-by-case.

Family Members: Family members wishing to be rostered on the same team must notify the Division Director before evaluations begin. If players are evaluated onto different teams, they will be rostered together on the lower-tiered team.

Choosing Not to Participate: Players who choose not to participate in evaluations must advise the Division Director and will be placed on the bottom team in the division, where reasonably possible.

Coaches: Coaching staff are selected after team formation through SMHA's Coach Selection Policy. On-ice evaluation volunteers are not confirmed coaching staff for the teams being formed.

Player Releases: Players requesting a release after evaluations will not receive a registration refund. Players must accept a permanent release to their new association and future play with SMHA will be conditional to Board approval.

Please Remember…

Respect the Process: SMHA expects all players, parents, coaches and spectators to treat evaluators, volunteers, officials, Directors and Board members respectfully. Abuse, harassment or inappropriate conduct of any kind will not be tolerated.

No Contact with Evaluators: Parents, players and spectators are **not permitted** to interact with evaluation staff at any time during the evaluation process. **Evaluator decisions are not open for discussion or revision.**

Rosters Are Final: After teams are announced, **no player movement will occur based on individual player or parent requests**. Adjustments may only be considered in extreme cases of administrative or technical errors, or changes in registration numbers.

Voicing Concerns: Evaluation-related concerns or complaints will not be accepted until **October 1** and must be emailed to: **evaluations@stettlerminorhockey.com**.

Emails will be reviewed by the Evaluation Committee and, as needed, the SMHA Executive. Complaints and concerns directed to individual SMHA board members or volunteers outside this process will NOT be acknowledged.