

Evaluating Goaltenders for and at the PNAHA Development Camp

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Abstract

This paper recommends a process by which goaltenders in Washington State/PNAHA are nominated for consideration for the annual Development Camp, evaluated for inclusion in the Development Camp, and evaluated at that camp, for feedback and potential promotion to the Pacific District Camp and beyond.

I. Introduction

The PNAHA Development Camp occurs annually, typically in the January time frame. Goaltenders are nominated and evaluated for participation, then evaluated at the camp for progression to the District Camp.

This document is intended to codify the process of nominating goalies for PNAHA Development camp, promoting a subset of those goaltenders to the Development camp through a series of Evaluation ice times, and finally, scoring and ranking goaltenders at the Development camp.

This process can in principle be applied to both male and female PNAHA goaltenders.

II. Goaltender nomination process for a PNAHA Development Camp

Nominations for goaltender attendance at PNAHA Development camps

- PNAHA officials leading the Development camp will poll associations for goaltender nominations for the ages of 14, 15, 16 and 17
- Associations nominate goaltenders with best prospects for success. Best practice by associations includes a discussion with their respective goaltending coordinators
- PNAHA will forward the list of nominated goaltenders (and any supporting material) to the Goaltending Development Coordinator (GDC)

III. Evaluation process to select for the Development Camp

In order to ensure a uniform evaluation of goaltenders for the WA Development camp, it would be desirable to have the same set of goaltending coaches/evaluators scout all goaltenders. In practice this is not practical, give the number and distribution of goaltenders within PNAHA. However, a close approximation to this would be to assemble evaluation camps, and have nominated goaltenders attend, to be assessed by evaluators. A selection process then forwards goalies to the Development camp.

We then propose *two Evaluation Camps*:

- Two goalie Evaluation camps, one on the east side of Washington, the other on the west side of Washington.
- Invited attendees are to be those goaltenders nominated (as per Sec. II, above) by the associations
- We suggest dates for the camps in late November/early December
- Camps will comprise a single day with single ice times for each age group (e.g. separate ice times for age 14, age 15, and ages 16–17)
- Evaluations will be made in goalie camp setting, i.e. dedicated goaltender skating and drills, with shooters for specific drills. While small area games will comprise part of the evaluations, there is no scrimmage component
- A nominal fee will be charge per goalie in order to support event costs

The Goalie Evaluation Team will:

- Comprise of 3–5 goalie coaches from PNAHA
- Commit to attending both West side and East side goaltending evaluation camps
- Evaluate goaltenders in an empirical, dispassionate manner
- Individual goalie coaches *may* evaluate goaltenders from their own association

- Individual goalie coaches *may not* evaluate goaltenders who are immediate family members, nor goaltenders in the age group of that family member
- Goalie coaches will disclose to the evaluation team any conflict of interest in the form of paying student(s) who are being evaluated. This may preclude the coach from evaluating the division in which the paying student(s) reside

For those goaltenders who are nominated to the Evaluation camp but cannot attend: please email your USAH GDC (currently via goalielab@gmail.com) to apprise evaluators. The evaluators may be able to scout separately at games/practices. However, we cannot ensure this will happen, nor that the evaluation will be uniform. Please make every effort to attend an Evaluation camp if you are nominated.

IV. Evaluation process to select for the District Camp

At the District camp, goaltender evaluations will be performed by the Evaluation Team. All bullets in Section III above (“The Goalie Evaluation team will...”) apply equally to the team for the District camp. Evaluations will be made over multiple ice times including a dedicated goalie session, scrimmages, and small area games.

Camp evaluations will make use of a point scoring system in order to quantify skill mastery, engagement, goalie sense, etc. Topics the Evaluation Team will score include

- Goaltender mobility, including goalie skating, movement in down positions, and recoveries
- Positioning: angle, depth, squareness
- Basic save selection (e.g. butterfly)
- Advanced save selection (e.g. post integration)
- Rebound control and post-save response
- Puck handling
- Rush management
- Battle and compete
- Patience
- Mental aspects: attitude, decision-making, hockey sense

- Fitness (evaluated in both dryland and on-ice)
- Size
- Puck-stopping capability: independent of technical mastery, save percentage

Evaluations will be made on the *basis of performance during the Development Camp weekend, only*. Goaltenders should understand this prior to attending the camp, and will be reminded upon arrival. Goalies must become accustomed to performing under stressful situations. Prior performance generates attendance. Furthermore, performance can and will be judged on more than goals against and save percentage; we view those as team stats and they may or may not reflect the goaltenders performance.

On-ice data collection and evaluation will be made using tablet devices. After completion of on-ice sessions, the goaltender evaluation team will assemble records to score, discuss, and rank attendees. Final ranking will include input from the PNAHA Coaching Director.

Following the camp, written feedback will be provided to each goaltender, the goaltender's parents, and a copy sent to the PNAHA Coaching Director. This material will include specific, constructive feedback to focus goaltenders on what they should be working on in the future. No quantitative values such as drill scoring or goalie rankings will be provided however, as these are solely for determining advancement to District camp.

V. Conclusions

We encourage comments and questions from the Washington goaltending community on this process of Development Camp nominations and evaluations. No process will be perfect in selecting goaltenders to proceed through Development, District and National level camps. However with refinements, we can continually improve the breadth and quality of PNAHA evaluation. The process will be an evolving one, and may be implemented in a slightly different fashion at the camp itself. Please feel free to contact goalielab@gmail.com in this regard.

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