

## FAQ – SWAT Evaluations

SWAT has a formal Player Evaluation Policy with the goal of fairly and consistently evaluating players to place them on teams at an appropriate level. The Player Evaluation Policy can be viewed on the SWAT web site here ([http://swat.ca/files/2019\\_swat\\_tiering\\_and\\_evaluation\\_policy.pdf](http://swat.ca/files/2019_swat_tiering_and_evaluation_policy.pdf)), and we encourage you to read that document to become familiar with the process.

Families often have questions related to their player's evaluation. Some of those questions are posed and answered below.

**1. Player X was on the same team as Player Y last season. Why did Player Y tier so much higher than Player X this year?**

Players develop at different rates, based on many factors. In the twelve months between evaluations, there is a good chance that any two players will diverge in their development path. Also, players on the same team last year may have been separated by over 40 spots in player rankings, based on three teams per tier. A player at the top or bottom of a tier might only need to increase or decrease just a few spots in ranking to change tiers, where a player at the middle of a tier might need to increase or decrease by 20 spots or more.

**2. Why can't I see my player's evaluation results?**

All raw and aggregate evaluation results are confidential and will be used for the sole purpose of ranking players and forming teams. Your player's participation in evaluations is not intended to provide an individual skill assessment and will not be shared with players, parents or coaches.

**3. Why does it take so long to release the skate schedule for the next evaluation skate?**

The team that prepares the skate schedules is also responsible for directing the evaluation skates and processing the results. Work on the new schedules does not start until after the previous day's skates, and it can be a laborious process to rank and group up to 300 players. We will do our best to process data and post schedule updates in a timely manner, and appreciate your patience.

**4. Are coaches selected prior to evaluations?**

No, head coaches are identified after player evaluations are complete. Under no circumstances are players moved between tiers because their parent is a coach. The coaching talent pool may be considered when forming balanced teams at the same tier, to ensure that coaching talent is balanced between teams.

**5. Are evaluators allowed to evaluate their own children?**

No, the SWAT Tiering and Evaluation Policy clearly states that parents will not be allowed to evaluate their own child. In addition, Evaluators who feel their objectivity towards a player is compromised are expected to not evaluate that player or to request a different team. Evaluators are expected to behave professionally and not to discuss the results of their evaluations with others in the arena. Any Evaluator not acting in the spirit of fairness and honesty will not be allowed to

participate in future evaluations.

In addition to this, SWAT will engage third party evaluators for goaltender evaluations and Atom Tier 1 scrimmages.

**6. Why does SWAT field so many Atom Tier 1 teams, thus diluting the skill level of each team and those at lower tiers?**

SWAT is subject to the Alberta One Tiering Model, as developed by Hockey Alberta. We have requested a waiver from the EFHL to allow SWAT to form just two Atom Tier 1 teams, based on several compelling reasons, but have not yet had a ruling on that request.

**7. Why are my child's skate times so early / late? And why do we skate at rinks with such small dressing rooms?**

SWAT evaluation ice is allocated through Hockey Edmonton. SWAT requested ice in June to accommodate our planned evaluation schedule. Hockey Edmonton competes with other organizations for available ice, and was unable to provide our ideal request. It is especially difficult to secure continuous blocks of ice time that are allow for efficient volunteer assignments. Our SWAT Ice Allocator also arranged trades with other organizations and identified other booking opportunities to fill out our ice profile. The ice allocation for 2019 is quite favorable compared to years past!

*Last updated 3 September 2019*