

## U11 (Atom) 'Hybrid Goalie' Policy

Effective 2020-21 Season

### Background:

The U9 (Novice) age category gives all participants an opportunity to play the 'goaltender' position in a game environment on a rotating basis. Hockey Calgary uses the 'Goalie Rotation Form' to track and ensure all participants can try the position. U9 is played ½ ice with many modified rules that differ from the full ice game. None of these participants have had the opportunity to play as a 'goaltender' in a full ice environment prior to transitioning to U11.

During the 2019-2020 hockey season Hockey Calgary partnered with Springbank Minor Hockey Association and Glenlake Minor Hockey Association to run a pilot project that allowed first year U11 participants the chance to participate as both a 'goaltender' and a 'skater' if they met specific criteria. This policy is derived from the learnings of the pilot project in an effort to provide participants with a desire to play as both a 'goaltender' and 'skater' the opportunity to do so.

### Definitions:

**Registrant** – registered minor hockey player

**'Hybrid Goalie'** – registrant with the ability to dress and play both as a 'skater' and 'goaltender'. Registrant is registered in the HCR as a 'skater' allowing them to dress and play in both positions.

**Within 2 Divisions** – registrant's evaluation results place the registrant on either the same division as both a 'goaltender' and 'skater', on adjacent divisions, or divisions 2 apart (ex. Division 5 as a 'skater' and division 7 as a 'goaltender')

### Overview:

The U11 'Hybrid Goalie' Policy is in place to allow registrants in the U11 age category the opportunity to participate as both a 'skater' and a 'goaltender'.

This formal policy is in place for the following reasons:

1. Hockey Alberta U11 Player Pathway states that U11 'goaltenders' have the opportunity to dress as a 'skater' when not playing in goal.
2. Guidelines and criteria are needed to ensure registrants with wide skill discrepancies between the two positions are not inappropriately impacting the game.
3. Registrants transitioning from U9 to U11 have never had the opportunity to play the 'goaltender' position in a full ice environment and may not be comfortable committing to the position at the beginning of the year.
4. Current shortage of goalies in U11 and U13
5. Current U11 'goaltenders' spend half of their games sitting on the bench.

### Eligibility:

All U11 registrants that meet the below criteria.

### Criteria:

#### Evaluations

1. All prospective 'Hybrid Goalies' must:
  - i. Evaluate as both a 'goaltender' and a 'skater'.
  - ii. Be evaluated at a minimum of 2 'goaltender' sessions and 2 'skater' sessions. It is recommended registrants evaluate at each position an equal number of times.

1. It is recommended 'goaltender' evaluations give at least 1 skills-based session and 1 Small Area Games session
2. Associations are encouraged to evaluate prospective 'Hybrid Goalies' at each position as many times as possible. Registrants may be asked to participate in multiple sessions per day.

### Team Placement

1. Approved 'Hybrid Goalie's' must have final positional division placements **within 2 divisions** of each other. If they meet this criterion, the following rules will apply to determine final team placement:
  - i. Same final division placement:
    1. 'Hybrid Goalie' is placed in applicable division
  - ii. Division placements are 1 apart:
    1. 'Hybrid Goalie' is placed on division **as determined by the association**
  - iii. Division placements are 2 apart and 'goaltender' evaluation is higher (better) (ex. Division 2 as a 'goaltender' and Division 4 as a 'skater'):
    1. 'Hybrid Goalie' is placed on division **as determined by the association**
  - iv. Division placements are 2 apart and 'skater' evaluation is higher (better) (ex. Division 5 as a 'skater' and Division 7 as a 'goaltender')
    - v. 'Hybrid Goalie' is placed on the higher (better) division, **OR as determined by the association**, 'Hybrid Goalie' is placed division in between the final division placements (Division 6 from the example above)

### Expectations of Associations:

Associations must create an association level U11 'Hybrid Goalie' Policy that addresses the items labeled **"as determined by the association"** in the **Evaluations** and **Expectations** sections of the Hockey Calgary U11 'Hybrid Goalie' Policy.

Associations must adhere to the U11 'Hybrid Goalie' Policy.

Associations must make all U11 registrants aware of the option to be a 'Hybrid Goalie'

### Expectations of Coaches:

Coaches must follow the U11 'Hybrid Goalie' Policy and any additional requirements **as determined by the association** (ex. % of practices as a 'goaltender').

Coaches must allow 'Hybrid Goalies' to dress as a 'skater' when not scheduled to play as a 'goaltender'.

Coaches must ensure 'Hybrid Goalies' receive an equal share of games at the 'goaltender' position with the other 'goaltender' or 'Hybrid Goalie(s)', unless otherwise agreed to and approved by the Association.

### Expectations of the 'Hybrid Goalie':

During the season the 'hybrid goalie' is expected to participate in a minimum number of practices at the goalie position **as determined by the association**.

### Rostering U11 Teams:

Teams are permitted to have a maximum roster size of 18 registrants.

Teams are permitted to have more than 2 'Hybrid Goalies' per team.

Associations are required to ensure that all teams within the U11 age category have an equal number of **registrants** per teams (within 1 player), regardless of position specification.