



DOUBLE LETTERS FAQs

Hockey West Island (HWI) Double Letter Evaluations FAQ

Evaluating several hundred players in a short period of time is a stressful exercise for everyone involved. A lack of information about and understanding of the process can make this even worse. In order to provide information regarding frequently asked questions, HWI has provided this short guide.

Questions and Answers

- **Q:** Who is in charge and how did we arrive at the current process?
A: The evaluation process has evolved over decades with slight adjustments each year. Much of the process is regulated and mandated by Hockey Quebec (HQ) HQ reviews the formation process of teams each spring and mandates changes for the regional associations to institute. Our regional association is Hockey Lac St-Louis (LSL) LSL in turn mandates HWI through its' board and executive with implementing HQ policy. You have input into the composition of HWI management via the annual election process. LSL and HQ management are composed of people elected by the management of the local associations.
- **Q:** How are players placed in their initial groups?
A: HQ mandates what group players are placed in based on the division they played in the previous season with the association (not spring hockey). Please refer to the guide on the LSL website.
- **Q:** Are all sessions being observed?
A: All sessions are evaluated by a minimum of one of the following: The coaching staff of the team, Pro-action and staff working with the technical director or the VP double letters. We try to have more than one person evaluating all sessions but it is not always possible.
- **Q:** Are players from the previous season guaranteed a spot on the team in the current season?
A: No. Typically players from the previous season are more experienced, stronger and have developed more but there are no guarantees of any sort.

- **Q:** Why are the players identified by and reassigned by number and not name?
A: Despite being far from ideal from an administrative point of view, HWI prefers to maintain as much anonymity and privacy as possible.
- **Q:** How is the coaching staff selected?
A: HWI actively solicits coaching candidates every spring for the upcoming season. Finalizing a head coach or interim coach by the 1st of July is important in order to facilitate the scheduling of tournaments and ice contracts prior to August 1st. HWI favours non-parent coaches with the requisite qualifications and experience. Non-parent coaches are not always available, requiring HWI to accept experienced and qualified parent coaches. In the case of parent coaches, Pro Action must deem that their children belong at the level in question. Interested coaches are encouraged to submit their interest to the VP double letters at any time with the understanding that appointments are made in the spring of the upcoming seasons.
- **Q:** Who is eligible for double letter evaluations?
A: Hockey West Island welcomes all players to evaluations.
- **Q:** Are players told why they have been reassigned?
A: Some teams have as many as 60 players trying out and this can make it difficult or impossible at times to speak individually with each player. Often the early reassignments are based on a specific skill that is lacking such as skating in general and Players will be advised in advance that all reassignments from a given session are due to that specific skill. Later reassignments are generally given individual feedback.
- **Q:** What is the role of the convenor in double letter evaluations?
A: Convenors control the dissemination of information from the evaluators to players. They also convey questions and comments to evaluators and the HWI board if necessary. They verify that all participants are at the correct session and have registered, paid and are properly identified for the evaluators. For players assigned to single letters they are, in conjunction with pro-action, in charge of managing the selection process with the objective of making equal teams. They are not responsible for player selection in double letters.
- **Q:** Is anyone aware of a players' previous season performance
A: Yes. All HWI coaches both double and single letters, are asked to provide a season end evaluation with the specific intention of identifying players that have been classified below their playing abilities.
- **Q:** I have questions that have not been answered in this FAQ, how do I get answers?
A: Players and parents are always welcome to send questions via email to the convenors of their division or the HWI executive and we will endeavor to answer the question or update the FAQ in a timely fashion.