ELITESPORTIQ · THE EVALUATOR'S SHEET · ONE PAGE, PRINT IT, GRADE THREE GAMES

What hockey scouts actually look for

Six lines, graded 1 to 5 the way Hockey Canada's evaluation forms grade: 1 poor, 2 below average, 3 average, 4 above average, 5 outstanding. Grade yourself from three games of film, one line per pass, then grade the best player on the ice on the same sheet. The gaps between the two columns are your off-season.

LINE	WHAT THEY GRADE	RED FLAG	ME	BEST ON ICE
Skating	Pace at the next level: first three strides, top gear, edges and stops, backward and pivots for defence, still there in the third.	Gliding through the neutral zone. Late to loose pucks.	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐
Hockey sense	Decisions at speed with and without the puck. Head turns before the pass arrives. Where you are before the puck gets there.	Puck-watching. Standing still after passing. A second attacker nobody picked up.	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐
Skill at pace	Passes hard and flat on the tape with feet moving, receptions in traffic, a quick release, puck protection in tight.	Hands in open ice, nothing under pressure. Turnovers at the blue lines.	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐
Compete	Battles won, second and third efforts, backcheck as hard as the forecheck, blocked shots, stops at the net. Every shift.	Coasting. Picking shifts. Turning sideways on a shot.	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐
Character	What a mistake, a bad call, a benching or a teammate's error does to your face, your stick and your next shift. Coachability.	Stick slams. Arguing with officials. Sulking on the bench. A parent screaming.	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐
Size and projection	Not height. Strength on the puck, how you use your frame, and what you will be at 20.	A big player who coasts on size. A small player who avoids the hard areas.	☐☐☐☐☐	☐☐☐☐☐

POSITION LINES

- **Forwards:** support the puck, keep a forward high, backcheck through the middle, minimize turnovers, cover a pinching defenceman.
- **Defence:** gap held while moving backward (stay up, don't step up), body inside the dots, stick on puck without lunging, shoulder check on every retrieval, hard flat first pass.
- **Goalies:** positioning first, tracking through traffic, rebound control, controlled lateral movement, a short memory after a goal against.

THREE SHIFTS THAT GET WRITTEN DOWN

- **The first shift:** first three strides, first touch, head turn, where you stopped, how hard you skated to the bench.
- **The backcheck without the puck:** did you pick up the second man, and did you get there with your feet?
- **The one-on-one in your zone:** gap, pivot, inside position, stick on the puck, outcome.
- **The shift after the mistake:** the next forty seconds get watched harder than any other forty.

RED FLAGS THAT END INTEREST

- Slumped shoulders or outbursts at a call, a miss or a teammate's error.
- Shouting your number at the referee for a point.
- Not backchecking.
- How you treat teammates, officials and your parents in the lobby.
- A parent out of control in the stands.
- A careless social media feed.

Remember: someone is always watching, in warm-up, on the bench, and in the lobby.

The full guide, with every source: elitesportiq.com/blog/what-hockey-scouts-look-for
Want an evaluator's read on your film? Upload a game and go through it 1-on-1 with a coach, frame by frame: **elitesportiq.com/video-analysis**