



# MIND THE NET GOALTENDING

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## General Evaluation Criteria when Selecting Elite Goaltenders

Below you will find a general outline of the most basic aspects required for elite goaltending:

### 1. Competitiveness/Battle Skills

Basically, no matter how fundamentally strong a weak a goaltender may be they must compete to the end of every play, minute to minute, game to game. A goaltender that constantly competes is a goalie that teammates will support and play hard for.

### 2. Game Management Skills

Elite goaltenders have strong game management skills that should make the goaltender's and teammates' game easier. Goalies with elite game management skills have a strong understanding and feel for pace and tempo management at various points through the many different scenarios found within each game.

Game management skills involve:

- Strong rebound control.
- Proper stick use.
- Strong communication (both verbal and physical)
- Understanding team and opposition tactics.
- Transition/Puckhandling skills.

### 3. Fundamentals

There are many fundamental skills that contribute to competitiveness and game management skills. Mind The Net is specifically looking for:

- Vision fundamentals.
- Strong positioning (angles and depth)
- Efficient mobility in all directions, lengths of travel.
- Proper Save Selection
- Compactness
- Rebound Control
- Body Fundamentals (stamina, strength, flexibility, agility and balance)

### 4. Mental Skills/Personality

Although not all mental skills can be outwardly evaluated there are a number of mental

aspects that can be evaluated by observing emotional control, readiness, body language(on and off the ice), work ethic, dealing with pressure, reactions to teammates and reactions to game situations.

To conclude, these are the four most basic aspects of goaltending we feel should be the basis for the evaluation and ranking of elite level goaltenders.