

Cheat Sheet #1

Skills To Look For At Center, Wing, Defence



The Goal:

To measure the amount/type of player skills that help teams win.

PowerScout's Major Findings:

- Goals and assists are not equal
- Different skills are important at each position
- Each position has a different importance to winning

Legend

Very important	★★★
Important	★★
Somewhat important	☆

These are the 13 stats used to calculate skater Point Shares (PS) and Maximum Point Shares (MAX)

STATS	Skill it Represents	CENTER	WINGER	DEFENCEMAN	PowerScout Insight
Goals	Goal-scoring	★★★	★★★	☆	To win, goals are needed from centers & wingers but are not as critical from defencemen.
Assists	Passing	☆	★★	★★★	Assists are most important at defence (break-outs, rebounds) & passing is more important at wing than center.
Shots on Goal	Positioning	★★★	★★★	☆	Teams need centers & wingers who shoot often, but wide shots from wingers hurt the team.
Shooting %	Shooting Accuracy	Minimal Impact	★★★	☆	High shooting accuracy is critical for wingers from their position where scoring is more difficult.
Penalty Minutes	Discipline	★★★	★★★	★★★	Low penalty minutes are a must as opposing power plays hurt a team's chances to win.
Giveaways	Stick-handling	★★★	Minimal Impact	★★★	Giveaways are most costly at center & defense where turnovers yield quality scoring chances.
Takeaways	Anticipation	★★	Minimal Impact	☆	Takeaways at center & defence means more open-ice steals & a stronger transition game.
Hits	Toughness	★★★	☆	☆	Hitting is important at all positions, but particularly so at center.
Blocked Shots	Aggressiveness	Minimal Impact	☆	★★★	Blocked shots are needed at defence & wing as they often block attempts from the outside.
Playing Time	Reliability	★★★	★★★	★★★	The more ice time a player gets, the larger his impact on team wins.
Total Games Played	Experience	★★★	☆	★★★	Experience is most important at center and defence because they have longer learning curves (gain experience up to 400 games played).
PowerScout Skating Rating	Skating Speed	★★	★★★	Minimal Impact	Speed is critical to enable wingers to go wide & centers to find space in the middle.
Playing Era	Factor to compare across eras	★★★	★★★	★★★	Allows player comparisons between eras by adjusting their data to a common base.
Plus/minus, Faceoff %, Powerplay/short-handed/game winning goals		Minimal Impact			These stats are excluded because our research found them to be team or situational stats, or had a low correlation to winning.
Average MAX		20	11	20	This measures overall player performance.
Average PS		14	8	15	This measures total player value.
Relative Importance to Winning		17%	10% (x2)	18% (x2)	

The PowerScout system is based on a complex analysis of over 14,000 games, 12,000 skaters and 28,000 goaltending performances since 1997.