



ELITE HOCKEY TEAM FORMATION UPDATE

Feb 11, 2025

Shared with – AA & AAA Host MHAs.

Definitions:

- Spring ID Camps: Occur between April 1 & June 1 & do not result in a final team being formed
- Tryouts: Occur after August 15 and lead to a final team being formed.
- Commitment: A player who is guaranteed a position, prior to tryouts, on the final team being formed from Tryouts.

Team Formation Process:

1. **SPRING ID CAMP FORMAT:** Elite Teams may operate Spring ID Camps from April 1 until the start of June. These camps can be an open registration opportunity for all Draw Zone/Recruitment Area players, or by invitation only.
2. **PLAYER ACCESS:**
 - i. If the Spring ID Camp is an open registration opportunity for all Draw Zone/Recruitment Area players, teams may host invitation-only Tryouts should they choose. The number of invitations to Tryouts are entirely up to the team/association to determine. OR
 - ii. If the Spring ID Camp is by invitation only, Tryouts must be an open registration opportunity for all Draw Zone/Recruitment Area players.
3. **COMMITMENTS:** Any team who operates a Spring ID Camp may commit final roster positions to players. The number of players committed to is entirely up to the association/team. All players who have earned commitment must be shared publicly by August 1.
4. **INVITATION ONLY TRYOUTS:** If not operating an open registration tryout, teams must publicly share the list of players invited to Tryouts by August 1. The list must also clearly identify any players who have earned a Commitment.
5. **TRYOUT TIMELINES:** Elite Teams may operate Tryouts beginning August 15.
 - i. AAA rosters must be reduced to 20 players by the 4th Monday in September at the latest. (U17 AAA date Sept 29)
 - ii. AA rosters must be reduced to 20 players by October 1 at the latest (U16 AA date Oct 3)

Principles that Associations Must Uphold in their Tryout Process:

1. Players who want to play Elite Hockey, and have the skill to play Elite hockey, have the opportunity to be identified/tryout for an Elite Hockey team.
2. Players can develop throughout the off season and have a legitimate chance of earning an invitation to AAA Tryouts even if not invited following spring camp
3. The players who are closest to making Elite Hockey teams are released in time to afford access to a second tryout opportunity.
4. Players for Elite Hockey teams are selected based on merit





5. The Team formation processes are staggered to align with a proper flow-through of players within the Draw Zone and Recruitment Area
6. Where minor-aged players are pursuing junior hockey, Associations and coaches of teams must create plans in collaboration with the junior teams to accommodate the returning player a place to play on a previously registered team if returned to the Elite Stream. All players directly impacted by these plans should be informed and principle 4 must be upheld.

Elite Player Movement:

1. As changes are implemented to the tryout process, Elite Player Movement applications will continue to be received from May 1 to July 1, with decisions being rendered by July 15. This will be reviewed again during the 2025-26 season to determine if further changes are required.
2. Players can only participate in Spring ID Skates within the association they meet registration requirements for, based on the AAA/AA Hockey Model. This means any player who would require an Elite Player Movement Request to play for a AAA/AA team would not be eligible to participate in Spring ID skates for that association. Associations should account for this in their Spring ID process and in the number of commitments and invitations they offer.

Second Tryouts:

1. No player can skate in a second tryout during a Spring ID Camp.

Any questions can be directed to Hudson Kelly – Manager, Elite Leagues (hkelly@hockeyalberta.ca).

