



SPKAC 2025-2026 AAA & AA Evaluation Update

Starting in April-2025, SPKAC will be introducing changes to its evaluation process for our AAA & AA teams as part of an enhanced selection process. This approach, led by the SPKAC Hockey Operations group and the respective AAA & AA coaching staffs, ensures that all participants are provided an opportunity for evaluation at the AAA level while acknowledging the ever-changing landscape of elite hockey evaluations and opportunities within the region. This document contains a summary of:

- Evaluation Process
- Signing Offers
- Registration
- Second Tryout Process
- Scheduling
- FAQs

EVALUATION PROCESS

The SPKAC Evaluation Process will now be facilitated in 3 Segments: **Spring Camp, Fall Camp and Main Camp.** Players interested in AAA evaluations are encouraged to register for Spring Camp. Players interested in AA-only evaluations are encouraged to register for Fall Camp.

SPRING CAMP

- Spring Camp registration will initially be open to any players currently rostered on a Tier 2 or higher team (or an equivalent level for those returning from a non-sanctioned league or in the female only stream.) Registration will be capped at 75% of total capacity, with the remaining 25% of spots reserved for waitlisted players who will be accepted in priority order.
- Players registered for a Spring Tryout Camp will participate in 3 evaluation skates, which could be composed of skills skates, game play or a combination thereof, at the discretion of the Club. Goaltenders will be scheduled to attend additional goalie evaluation.
- For AAA camps, upon the completion of the 3 evaluation skates, a maximum of 42 players will be invited to participate in a regulation length evaluation game to finalize Spring Camp.
- Following a collaborative review by SPKAC Hockey Operations and relevant staff, both signing offers and invitations to Main Camp will be extended to identified players.
- Players not receiving a signing offer or invitation to Main Camp will be invited to register for Fall Camp, when season registration opens. Players may still earn an invitation to AAA Main Camp out of the Fall Camp.



SIGNING OFFERS

- Players may be offered a spot on the team roster after Spring Camp via a signing offer.
- Players must attend Spring Camp to be eligible to receive a Signing Offer.
- The signing offer must be accepted in writing by a specified deadline prior to the opening of standard registration.
- Upon acceptance of a signing offer, a lump-sum monetary assurance of acceptance will be required. These details will be provided in the signing offer document.
- Players receiving signing offers will be placed into Main Camp.
- A maximum number of 12 players will receive signing offers out of Spring Camp.
- As per Hockey Alberta's Elite Policies & Procedures, signed players' names will be posted on the Hockey Alberta website on, or before, August 1st, 2025.

FALL CAMP

- Fall Camp includes all players that:
 - were not offered a spot on a team roster out of Spring Camp;
 - were not placed in Main Camp out of Spring Camp;
 - did not participate in Spring Camp; or
 - registered for evaluation beginning at the AA level
- Players in Fall Camp will be scheduled to participate in 3 evaluation skates, which could be composed of skills skates, game play or a combination thereof, at the discretion of the Club. Goaltenders will be scheduled to attend additional goalie evaluation.
- Upon the completion of the 3 evaluation skates, a maximum of 42 players will be invited to participate in a regulation length evaluation game to finalize Fall Camp.
- Following a collaborative review by SPKAC Hockey Operations and relevant staff, invitations to Main Camp will be extended to identified players. The number of players invited will be subject to previously extended invitations from Spring Camp. The objective will be to have the Main Camp registration list at a total of 42 players - 24 forwards, 12 defense and 6 goalies.
- Players not invited to Main Camp will continue in AA tryouts. This will include all players that registered for evaluation beginning at the AA level.
- No signing offers will be made to players during Fall Camp.



MAIN CAMP

- Main Camp registration is by invitation only. Invitations are offered through participation in either Spring Camp or Fall Camp.
- Prior to the start of Main Camp, a parent meeting will be held by SPKAC Hockey Operations and the Coaching Staff to outline expectations for the season, including financial, development, travel, etc.
- Players in Main Camp will be scheduled to participate in 3 evaluation skates, which could be composed of skills skates, game play or a combination thereof, at the discretion of the Club, prior to the first release.

REGISTRATION

- Registration for Spring Camps opens February 15, 2025 at 10am.
[CLICK THIS LINK TO REGISTER](#)
- Spring Camp registrations are separate from season registrations. All players that participate in an SPKAC Spring Camp and intend to carry on with SPKAC for the upcoming season, whether it be through Fall Camp or Main Camp, are required to register with the Club after Spring Camp.
- Registration for players receiving signing offers out of Spring Camp is detailed above.
- Players receiving invites to Main Camp from Spring Camp must register with SPKAC prior to May 1st to secure their spot in Main Camp.
- Registration and information on our Summer Camps will be available soon.
- Registration for Fall Camp is expected to open June 01, 2025.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF NOTE

- U18AAA and U17AAA Spring Camps will be run jointly.
- Players moving into the recruitment area after the completion of Spring Camp will be required to participate in Fall Camp.
- Injured players that are unable to participate in Spring Camp are required to provide medical documentation of the injury to both SPKAC and the Coaching staff. An invitation to Main Camp may be issued, at the Evaluators' discretion. However, it should be expected that the player prepares to participate in Fall Camp.



SECOND TRYOUT PROCESS

- To be eligible for a second tryout, players must be registered for Fall Camp or Main Camp.
- Players will not be eligible for the AAA or AA second tryout process until the conclusion of Fall Camp.
- Details on the [Second Tryout Process in the AEHL & AFHL can be found here](#)

SCHEDULE

The following Spring ID/Tryout Camp schedule is subject to change.

- U15AAA – April 1,2,3,4,7
- U18AAA – April 21,22,23,30
- U13AAA – April 22,23,24,29
- U18AAA Female – April 11 (goalie session), 12,13
- U15AA Female – April 25,28,29
- U13AA Female – April 25,28,29

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Why are these changes to evaluations being made?

Hockey Alberta has recognized that families have options as to what leagues their players can play in, and one of the defining decision points is a guaranteed signing in the Spring versus waiting until the Fall. Hockey Alberta and SPKAC are striving to create more certainty, much earlier in the process, while still allowing Fall tryouts.

2. I've seen a Hockey Alberta announcement that draw zones are being taken away and that there will be no borders. Is this correct?

Hockey Alberta released [Information Bulletin 24-04](#) on 12/09/2024. The communication applies primarily to first-time hockey registrants. That is, if you are registering your child for the first time with a sanctioned Hockey Alberta program, you have the option to register for the Minor Hockey Association (MHA) of your choosing, as long as, that MHA will accept your registration. It also outlines changes to players that successfully applied to Hockey Alberta's player movement process in the prior season.

As it pertains to elite hockey (AAA and AA), draw zones still exist and tools like the [Elite Player Movement Process](#) or the [Second Tryout Process](#) can be utilized if you want to explore options outside of your designated draw zone. Any player from outside the current draw zone boundaries that wishes to play in SPKAC in the upcoming season must complete and submit the Elite Player Movement Application form



prior to July 1 and be approved prior to attending Fall Camp or Main Camp.

Note: The one exception is U18AAA Female, as there are no Recruitment Areas. Players new to U18AAA are eligible to tryout for any of the teams within this category and therefore are not required to submit the Elite Player Movement Application.

3. Does this mean that (a) any player outside of SPKAC's draw zone can attend SPKAC's Spring Camp, or that (b) my player can attend a Spring Camp offered by another elite club?

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.

Elite clubs are in constant communication, and it is expected that all clubs respect the designated recruitment areas. It is highly recommended that you familiarize yourself thoroughly with the elite player movement process and the second tryout process.

4. To make a AAA or AA team in SPKAC, do I have to attend Spring Camp?

No. However, players must attend Spring Camp to be eligible to receive a Signing Offer to a AAA team.

5. Who will be evaluating the camps?

Evaluations during all camps will be completed by a combination of SPKAC's Hockey Operations staff and/or the team's coaching staff and/or third-party evaluators. On-ice skills skates may be run by the coaching staff, third party evaluators or skills providers/coaches at the Club's discretion.

6. If there is not a Head Coach in place, who will be responsible for signing offers?

If there is a circumstance in which a Head Coach has not been confirmed prior to Spring Camp, then SPKAC's Hockey Operations staff and independent evaluators will fill that role throughout the camp. This includes presenting signing offers to players. In this case, the signing offers and Main Camp invitations issued after Spring Camp will be honoured by whomever takes the Head Coach role thereafter.

7. If I am placed into Fall Camp from Spring Camp, does that mean I get a second chance to tryout for the AAA team?

Yes. It is acknowledged that improvements to skills demonstrated during Spring Camp can be made over the Summer. Therefore, your participation in Fall Camp would be your second opportunity to gain an invitation to Main Camp. It is expected, however, that fewer Main Camp invites will be extended during Fall Camp. The maximum capacity for Main Camp invites was previously identified in this document. This only applies to AAA teams and not to AA teams.



- 8. If I am placed into Fall Camp from Spring Camp, may I still apply for a AAA second try-out somewhere else?**

Yes. This information was previously identified in this document.

- 9. Is my player still able to try out for Hockey Alberta programs including the Prospects Cup, the Alberta Cup or the Alberta Challenge?**

Yes. We have accounted for these regional camp dates in our schedule with these opportunities in mind. It is recommended to register, and in the event of a conflict, contact SPKAC for further direction.