



SPKAC 2026-2027 AAA & AA Evaluation Update

In April 2026, SPKAC will continue utilizing its enhanced evaluation framework for AAA and AA team selection. This structured process, led by the SPKAC Hockey Operations group in collaboration with the respective AAA and AA coaching staffs, is designed to provide all athletes with a fair and comprehensive opportunity to be evaluated at the AAA level.

This evaluation model reflects the evolving landscape of elite hockey within our region and ensures a consistent, transparent approach for players and families.

This document contains a summary of:

- Evaluation Process
- Signing Offers
- Registration
- FAQ

EVALUATION PROCESS

The SPKAC evaluation process is conducted in three phases: Spring Camp, Fall Camp, and Main Camp. Players seeking consideration for AAA are encouraged to attend Spring Camp. Players pursuing AA-only evaluations should register for Fall Camp.

SPRING CAMP

- Spring Camp registration will be capped at 84 total players - 48 forwards, 24 defense and 12 goalies.
- Due to ice availability and camp structure, registration capacity is limited. Once positional caps are reached, additional players will be placed on a waitlist.
- Families are encouraged to register for the waitlist if a camp reaches capacity. Movement off the waitlist regularly occurs due to schedule changes and withdrawals. SPKAC may also adjust overall camp limits to maintain appropriate positional balance and a competitive evaluation environment.
- Players registered for a Spring Tryout Camp will participate in three evaluation skates, which could be composed of skills skates, game play or a combination thereof, at the discretion of the Club.
- Upon completion of the three evaluation skates, up to 42 players will advance to the Black & White Game, a full-length evaluation game concluding Spring Camp.
- Following the Black & White Game, SPKAC Hockey Operations and coaching staff will conduct a final review. From this group, signing offers and Main Camp invitations will be extended to identified players.
- All remaining participants will continue their evaluation process in Fall Camp.



SIGNING OFFERS

- Following Spring Camp, select players may receive a Signing Offer to a AAA roster position.
- Attendance at Spring Camp is required to be eligible for a Signing Offer.
- Signing Offers must be accepted in writing by the stated deadline, prior to the opening of standard registration. Upon acceptance, the player will be enrolled in the SPKAC registration process and corresponding payment plan. A commitment deposit will be required, with full details outlined in the Signing Offer document.
- Players who accept a Signing Offer will advance directly to Main Camp.
- A maximum of 12 Signing Offers will be extended following Spring Camp, and teams are not finalized until the conclusion of the Main Camp.

FALL CAMP

- Fall Camp includes players who:
 - Were not advanced to Main Camp following Spring Camp
 - Did not participate in Spring Camp
 - Registered for evaluation beginning at the AA level
- Participants will be scheduled for a minimum of three evaluation skates, which may include skills sessions, game play, or a combination thereof, at the discretion of the Club.
- After a final review by SPKAC Hockey Operations and coaching staff, invitations to Main Camp will be extended up to 42 players, inclusive of any players previously advanced from Spring Camp.
- Players not advancing to Main Camp will continue in the AA evaluation process.
- No Signing Offers will be issued during Fall Camp.

MAIN CAMP

- Main Camp participation is by invitation only. Invitations are extended following Spring Camp or Fall Camp.
- Prior to the start of Main Camp, SPKAC Hockey Operations and the Coaching Staff will host a parent meeting to review season expectations, including development plans, financial commitments, travel requirements, and program structure.
- Main Camp participants will be scheduled to a minimum of three evaluation skates, which may include skills sessions, game play, or a combination thereof, prior to the first release.
- Main Camp will then proceed as follows:
 - Reduction to ~27 players
 - Participation in the Icebreaker Tournaments or Preseason Exhibition games
 - Final roster selection



REGISTRATION

- Spring Camp registration opens February 27 at 7:00 AM and closes one week prior to camp.
- Spring Camp registration is separate from seasonal registration. Players who intend to continue with SPKAC following Spring Camp, whether advancing to Fall Camp or Main Camp, must complete standard Club registration after Spring Camp.
- Registration details for players receiving Signing Offers are outlined above.
- Players invited to Main Camp from Spring Camp must register with SPKAC prior to May 1 to confirm their Main Camp position.
- Fall Camp registration opens June 1.
- Players are encouraged to complete seasonal registration prior to August 1 to avoid late fees.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF NOTE

- U18AAA and U17AAA Spring Camps will be conducted jointly.
- Players unable to participate in Spring Camp due to injury must provide supporting documentation to SPKAC and the Coaching Staff. This may include medical documentation, previous playing history, and a reference from the player's most recent coach.
- At the discretion of SPKAC Hockey Operations and the Coaching Staff, an invitation to Main Camp may be considered. Players should anticipate participation in Fall Camp unless otherwise advised.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **Do I have to attend Spring Camp to make a AAA team?**

No. However, attendance at Spring Camp is required to be eligible to receive a Signing Offer. Players who do not attend Spring Camp may still be evaluated for AAA through Fall Camp.

2. **If my player does not receive a Signing Offer in the Spring, can they still make the AAA team?**

Yes. Signing Offers are limited and teams are not finalized until the conclusion of Main Camp. Players advancing through Fall Camp and Main Camp remain eligible for final roster selection.

3. **If my player is placed in Fall Camp following Spring Camp, are they still being considered for AAA?**

Yes. Fall Camp remains part of the AAA evaluation pathway. Invitations to Main Camp are extended from both Spring and Fall Camps.

4. **If Spring Camp is full, should we still register for the waitlist?**

Yes. Movement from the waitlist occurs regularly due to scheduling conflicts and withdrawals. Registering for the waitlist ensures your player may be considered if space becomes available.

5. **How is movement from the waitlist determined?**

Waitlist movement is managed by SPKAC Hockey Operations and considers positional balance, camp structure, and overall evaluation format.

6. **If we decline a Signing Offer, can our player continue in the process?**

Players who decline a Signing Offer will not advance directly to Main Camp under that offer. Further participation would be subject to Hockey Alberta policies and SPKAC registration guidelines at that time.

7. **Who evaluates the camps?**

Evaluations are conducted by a combination of SPKAC Hockey Operations staff, team coaching staff, and independent evaluators. Evaluation sessions may include skills testing, game play, and other assessment tools at the Club's discretion.

8. **Are evaluation results or rankings shared with families?**

Individual evaluation data, rankings, and evaluator commentary are not distributed. Decisions are communicated through advancement notifications at each stage of the process.

9. **Is feedback available following release?**

Where appropriate, families may request general feedback through the designated SPKAC process following evaluations. Specific scoring data or comparative rankings are not provided.

10. **Are teams finalized following Spring Camp?**

No. Teams are not finalized until the conclusion of Main Camp.



11. I've heard that draw zones have been removed and that players can try out anywhere. Is this correct?

No. Hockey Alberta's "open borders" update applies to first-time hockey registrants, and a player's designated primary association is tied to the last association a player was registered with. It does not eliminate designated recruitment areas for elite (AAA and AA) programs. Players are required to register with their designated primary association or elite draw zone team.

12. Can a player from outside the draw zone attend SPKAC Spring Camp?

Players whose primary association falls outside the SPKAC draw zone must first submit an Elite Player Movement Request to Hockey Alberta. Hockey Alberta will accept movement submissions beginning March 1; however, requests are not reviewed until June 1.

If a Movement Request has been submitted prior to Spring Camp registration, and SPKAC has indicated support for the request, the player may be permitted to attend Spring Camp for evaluation purposes. Attendance at Spring Camp does not confirm eligibility for roster placement.

Out-of-draw-zone players are not eligible to receive a Signing Offer or Main Camp invitation unless and until Hockey Alberta formally approves the Elite Player Movement Request. Approval is not guaranteed and must meet Hockey Alberta's eligibility criteria.

13. If I attend a Spring ID Camp outside of my designated draw zone, can I still attend the ID Camp for my primary recruitment area?

Players are eligible to attend only one Spring ID Camp unless an Elite Player Movement Request has been submitted to Hockey Alberta and is supported by the hosting association.

Players pursuing evaluation outside their designated recruitment area are strongly encouraged to also attend the Spring ID Camp within their primary draw zone. Elite Player Movement approval is not guaranteed and remains subject to Hockey Alberta's defined eligibility criteria.

Attendance at an out-of-zone Spring Camp does not secure eligibility for roster placement outside a player's designated recruitment area unless formal movement approval is granted.