



“A” Division Evaluation Policy



Summary & Standard of Play

The Calgary Axemen Lacrosse Club "A" program is designed for athletes who demonstrate an elite level of technical skill, tactical awareness, and competitive drive. Participation at the "A" level represents the highest tier of minor box lacrosse, and as such, the selection process is rigorous, transparent, and performance-driven.

The "A" Level Athlete is evaluated on:

- **High Lacrosse IQ:** A deep understanding of floor positioning, defensive rotations, and offensive systems.
- **Elite Stick Skills:** Consistency in passing, catching, and finishing under high-pressure, full-contact scenarios.
- **Athleticism & Grit:** The physical conditioning to maintain high intensity throughout the duration of a shift and the shot clock.

"A" Division Commitment: Lacrosse-First Mentality

The Axemen Lacrosse Club's "A" program is designed for athletes who prioritize lacrosse as their primary competitive pursuit during the box lacrosse season (April through July).

Primary Sport Designation

Athletes selected for an "A" roster are expected to adopt a "Lacrosse-First" mentality. This means that in the event of a scheduling conflict between lacrosse and another balanced or recreational sport (e.g., spring hockey, soccer, or baseball), the athlete is expected to prioritize the Axemen Lacrosse event.

Mandatory Attendance

"A" level lacrosse is a high-performance environment where team chemistry and tactical systems are essential.

- **Practices & Games:** Attendance at all team sessions is mandatory.
- **Unexcused Absences:** Repeated absences for other sporting commitments may result in a reduction of floor time or in extreme cases, suspension from play.
- Please refer to the Axemen Evaluation Attendance Policy for further information on the implications of a missed evaluation session.

Tournament & Post-Season Commitment

By accepting a spot on an "A" team, players and parents commit to:

- **Travel Tournaments:** Attending all scheduled away tournaments.



- **Provincials:** Remaining fully available for the duration of the [ALA Provincial Championships](#). Vacation planning should be scheduled outside of the Provincial window.

Our goal is to field teams that not only compete but also serve as a pathway for players looking to advance to junior and collegiate levels of play.

Evaluation Logistics & Personnel

To maintain the highest level of integrity and objectivity, the following protocols are in place:

- **Independent Evaluators:** All player assessments and cuts are conducted by independent evaluators unaffiliated with the Axemen. 8 Player evaluators and 2 goalie evaluators will be present at all sessions.
- **Game Management:** All scrimmages and evaluations will be overseen by certified officials and/or qualified evaluators to ensure fair play, official rule enforcement, and participant safety.
- **Closed Sessions:** Parents are not permitted to attend evaluations for any age group (U11–U17). There are **no exceptions** to this rule.
- **Fees & Registration:** Registration opens January 1, 2026. A non-refundable fee of \$100 is required to participate.

Tiering & Team Structure

In accordance with the updated CDLA Tiering Format (2026), the Axemen Lacrosse Club will align the U11 age group with the U13 & U15 standard.

- **Standard Allocation:** One (1) "A" level team will be formed per age group.
- **Capacity Clause:** If registration in an age group exceeds six (6) total teams, the club is required to field two (2) "A" teams.

While U11 follows the same tiering structure, the selection occurs within the general pool rather than a standalone 'A' tryout (to be reviewed for 2027).

Initial Player Groupings

- Players will be placed into initial evaluation groups based on their previous season's level of play and evaluation ranking, where applicable.
- These groupings are used solely as a starting point and do not guarantee final placement.

Advancement After Group Evaluations

- At the conclusion of the group evaluation phase, any player ranked within the top 25 will be given the opportunity to continue advancing within the depth chart through exhibition play evaluations.



Data Collection and Final Ranking

After each evaluation session, the ranking sheets go through a careful process to ensure accuracy. All player/goaltender results are input into OneClick software and any scores with a standard deviation of +/- 3.5 are removed.

1. **Collection and Initial Check:** Ranking sheets are collected from the evaluators and checked for completeness and accuracy.
2. **Verification:** Each submitted sheet is checked multiple times by four different groups in order:
 - Evaluations Committee
 - Executive Board Member
 - Evaluations Director
 - Evaluations Auditor
3. **Data Entry and Ranking:** The Evaluation Director enters the verified ranks into OneClick to generate a session rank for each player.
4. **Ties:** In the event of a scoring tie, we utilize a standard competition ranking system. This means that tied players will share the same rank, and the subsequent rank(s) will be skipped. For example, if two players tie for 7th place, the next player in the standings will be ranked 9th.
5. **Record Keeping:** The final calculated session results and rankings are recorded and saved.

Top 25 Player Cut Line & Tie-Breaking Policy

The club utilizes a standard cut line of the **top 25 ranked players** based on the average of all evaluation sessions to form the Coach Selection Pool.

- To remain fair to athletes performing at a near-identical level, we ensure no player is excluded due to a fraction of a point. If multiple players have rankings that round to the same whole number at the 25th spot, the pool will be expanded.

Example: If the 25th, 26th, and 27th ranked players all finish with an identical whole-number average (e.g., 25.1, 25.3, and 25.4), all three players will enter the coach selection pool.

Final Player Selection Process

Player Rank	Status
1 - 12	Guaranteed Roster Spot (subject to player commitment)
13 - 25+	Evaluation via Exhibition Play (Coaches discretion)



26+	Assigned to B/C Evaluation Pools
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Goaltender "A" Selection Process

The goaltender is the backbone of an "A" program. To ensure an objective and fair selection, goaltenders will be evaluated by specialized goalie evaluators (where available) and the "A" coaching staff across three main areas:

The "A" Goalie Profile

Beyond physical saves, "A" level goaltenders are assessed on the Mental Game:

- **Resiliency:** The ability to remain focused and composed after allowing a goal.
- **Concentration:** Staying engaged even when the play is at the opposite end of the floor.
- **Compete Level:** A "never give up on a play" attitude, especially during scramble situations in the crease.

Technical Evaluation (Drills)

Goaltenders will be put through specific movement and shot-blocking drills to assess:

- **Positioning & Angles:** Ability to remain "square" to the shooter and maintain proper crease depth.
- **Movement & Recovery:** Lateral quickness, recovery speed after a save, and agility.
- **Ball Control:** Ability to track the ball from the stick, minimize rebounds, and cleanly trap "dead" balls.

Game Performance (Scrimmage)

During live-play sessions, evaluators look for high-pressure competencies:

- **Save Selection:** Choosing the right technique for the shot (e.g., matching the shooter's stick, staying big on close-in shots).
- **Communication:** Being the "floor general" by vocally directing the defense and calling out ball locations.
- **Outlet Passing:** Accuracy and speed of the first pass to trigger the transition game.

Goaltender Cut Line

The club utilizes a standard cut line to identify the top three ranked goaltenders based on the average of all evaluation sessions to form the final selection pool for the A Team.



To maintain consistency and fairness, we apply the same "whole-number" rounding logic used for players. If multiple goaltenders have rankings that round to the same whole number at the third spot, the pool will be expanded to ensure no athlete is excluded by a fraction of a point.

- **Standard Pool:** If four or more goaltenders are registered, the pool is narrowed to the top 3.
- **Tie-Breaking Example:** If the 3rd and 4th ranked goaltenders finish with an identical whole-number average (e.g., 3.1 and 3.4), both will be included in the Final Selection Pool.

Conduct during the Evaluation

Coach/Referee Authority

The on-floor coach has the right to approach or adjust the bench if they observe unfair or unsafe play.

Penalties for Major Infractions

If a player breaches the current and accepted rules of lacrosse by committing a major penalty deemed to have the potential or intent to injure another player, the on-floor coach and/or referee may assess the following sanctions:

1. **First Offense:** The player will be removed from the floor immediately and must sit on the bench for one full rotation of the line up. Bench coaches will enforce this.
2. **Second Offense:** The player will be removed from the floor immediately for the remainder of the session. The player's score from the evaluators for that session will stand.

