



Airdrie Minor Hockey Association

Office: 403 912-2680



AAA & AA Tryouts 2025 Information Bulletin

NEW FOR 2025!

Hockey Alberta is developing a new model for the 2025 Tryout season which greatly impacts all AAA and AA level tryouts, both Mainstream and Female. In anticipation of this announcement, AMHA is proactively planning to utilize this new process, as ice availability in fall 2025 is greatly reduced by the Ron Ebbesen Arena closure for renovation. Please note that this is currently a recommended path by Hockey Alberta that they plan on formally approving by January 31, 2025. Because these changes are so great, we want to alert our community as to what we believe will be approved at that time, as proactively as possible.

SPRING TRYOUTS

New for 2025, Spring Tryouts in April/May 2025 will be used. This extensive process utilizing the AAA/AA coaching staff & Village Sports will allow access to all participants in spring. AMHA is committed to having quality coaches in place for Spring Tryouts; both Signing Offers and Invitations to Main Camp will be issued after consensus by qualified, pertinent staff. In the event of parent-coached teams, an independent oversight committee will be involved in decision making.

AAA Level:

- All players will register for Spring Tryout Camp, consisting of game play, fitness testing and a full length Intrasquad Game. Registration is limited to players currently on a Tier 2 team or stronger (or equivalent if returning from a non-sanctioned league).
- At the conclusion of Spring Tryout Camp, up to 15 players per team will receive signing offers straight to the 2025-26 Team Roster
- At the conclusion of Spring Tryout Camp, up to 35 players (including the max 15 signed) will be invited to Main Camp in fall.
- All players without an invitation to Main Camp are released to the AA process (participation optional)
- U18AAA and U17AAA Spring Camps are run jointly
- All signs are that the U13AAA Northern Pilot will be formalized into a U13AAA program as part of the Alberta Elite Hockey League for the 2025/2026 season, however the program will only be run if Hockey Alberta has expanded the pilot project to include our region AND AMHA has been



Airdrie Minor Hockey Association



Office: 403 912-2680

offered a team (which we expect will occur). If these conditions are not met, the U13AAA camp would be refunded at full value

- Registration for Spring Camps opens January 15, 2025 and runs until 1 week prior to camp.
- In August, a Last Chance Entry Camp will be held to fill the remaining spots in Main Camp. No players will be signed directly from Last Chance Entry Camp. Registration for Last Chance Entry opens with general registration in late May, 2025.
- AAA Fall Main Camps are by Invitation only, in a condensed format (ie. 4 skates before first releases). INVITED PLAYERS MUST REGISTER FOR MAIN CAMP PRIOR TO AUG 1, 2025 to avoid Late Registration Fees. Standard registration expectations apply.
- All players (including Veterans) must attend Spring Camp to receive a Signing Offer
- All AAA released players wishing to join AMHA AA tryouts MUST HAVE AN INVITATION FROM SPRING. There is no automatic invitation.

AA Level:

- All players must register for Spring Tryout Camp, consisting of scrimmages plus a full length Intrasquad Game. Registration is open to all levels of players.
- Any player earning a Signing Offer to a AAA team will be refunded the full value of AA Spring Camp
- For teams with no AAA team upstream, at the conclusion of Spring Tryout Camp, up to 40 players will be invited to Main Camp in the fall. No Signing Offers will be issued to AA teams, only invitations to fall Main Camp.
- For teams with a AAA team upstream, at the conclusion of Spring Tryout Camp, up to 30 players will be invited to Main Camp in the fall. No Signing Offers will be issued to AA teams, only invitations to fall Main Camp.
- Veteran players are exempt, and do not need to attend Spring Camp. An invitation directly to Main Camp will be issued.
- Injured players are required to provide documentation to the Coaching staff, including medical documentation of injury, previous teams synopsis & letter from previous coach. An invitation to Main Camp MAY be issued, at the Coaches discretion.
- Players moving into the AA drawzone after April 1, 2025 may apply for an invitation to Main Camp by providing proof of move, previous teams synopsis & letter from previous coach. An invitation to Main Camp MAY be issued, at the Coaches discretion.
- Registration for Spring Camps opens January 15, 2025 and runs until 1 week prior to camp.



Airdrie Minor Hockey Association



Office: 403 912-2680

- In August, invited players only will be offered Prep skates, run by the team coaches. These prep skates are optional and may be joint (ie. U16AA with U18AA), participation dependent. Registration for AA Prep Camps will be separate from AA Main Camp, and completed as part of the general registration process, beginning late May, 2025.
- AA Fall Main Camps are by Invitation only, in a condensed format (ie. 2 skates before first releases). INVITED PLAYERS MUST REGISTER FOR MAIN CAMP PRIOR TO AUG 1, 2025 to avoid Late Registration Fees. Standard registration expectations apply.
- When a AAA team is offered, AMHA does not accept any players into the AA stream as 2nd tryouts.

SIGNING

Players at the AAA level may be offered a spot on the team roster after Spring Tryout Camp. This 'Signing Offer' must be accepted in writing by a specified deadline prior to the opening of standard registration. Additionally, a monetary assurance of acceptance is required. As per new Hockey Alberta regulations, signed players' names will be posted on or before August 1st, 2025.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

	Spring Tryouts
U18 AAA	April 3-6, 2025
U17 AAA	April 3-6, 2025
U18 AA	April 24-27, 2025
U16 AA	May 1-4, 2025
U18 AA Female	April 10-13, 2025
U15 AAA	April 3-6, 2025
U15 AA	April 24-27, 2025
U15 AA Female	April 24-27, 2025
U13 AAA	April 10-13, 2025
U13 AA	April 24-27, 2025
U13 AA Female	May 1-4, 2025
U11 AA	April 10-13, 2025



Airdrie Minor Hockey Association



Office: 403 912-2680

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Why are these changes 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, Airdrie Minor Hockey and the AEHC 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 it's a free for all. Is this correct?

The Hockey Alberta announcement was a little confusing in that it primarily affected first time players in an MHA. If your child has never played in Alberta before, he/she has the option to sign up to another MHA in another town/city AS LONG AS THEY ARE ACCEPTED BY THAT MHA. Specifically for Elite Hockey (AAA and AA), draw zones still exist and tools like the Elite Player Movement process or second tryouts will be utilized if you want to move away from your designated MHA. Any player from outside the current drawzone boundaries must utilize the [Elite Player Movement form](#) prior to attending camp.

3. To make a AA/AAA team, do I HAVE to attend Spring Tryouts?

This is the preferred path. For AAA, although there is a fall Last Chance Entry camp, the vast portion of the team is signed in spring, leaving a player joining in the fall trying out for a limited number of spots. It is in your best interest to attend AAA Spring Tryouts because that is the only avenue to a Signing Offer. Last Chance Entry players, who did not earn a AA invitation in spring, will not be invited to AA Main Camp in the fall.

For AA teams, spring tryouts are mandatory, unless you qualify under one of the exemption categories (Veteran, Injury, or New Resident).

4. Will the actual team Head Coach be running the Spring Camp? Will he/she be making the invitations/offers?

Wherever possible, the actual Head Coach of the 2025-2026 team will be running the camp. This Head Coach will be part of the decision making team issuing invitations/offers. For parent coached teams, qualified instructors and other AAA/AA coaches may also be utilized to run the Spring Camp. Invitations will be issued by an independent oversight committee, which may include previous coaches and/or



Airdrie Minor Hockey Association



Office: 403 912-2680

expected coaches input. In all cases, the offers/invitations issued after Spring Camp will be honoured by whomever takes the Head Coach role in the fall.

5. If I'm released from a AAA team in the spring, may I try again at the Last Chance Entry?

Yes. While significant improvements to skills demonstrated would be required to gain an invitation to Main Camp, you're welcome to try again. This only applies to a AAA team, as AA teams do not have a Last Chance Entry camp.

6. If I'm released from a AAA team in the spring, may I still apply for a second try-out somewhere else?

Yes; normal exception processes will be allowed for both spring and fall releases. Elite Player Movement and Second Tryouts will still be allowed. The team you are applying to will still have to accept you, as it is today.

7. Is my player still able to try out for the Prospects Cup, the Alberta Cup or the Alberta Challenge?

We have done everything to create the tryout schedule with these opportunities in mind. No conflicts with these Hockey Alberta initiatives exist.