



Okotoks Oilers Athletic Association and Foothills Bisons Confirm Continued Partnership for Elite U13AA and U13AAA Programs for the 2026–27 Season

Okotoks, AB – (February 22/2026) – Following a review of the inaugural season of their joint model, the Okotoks Oilers Athletic Association (OOAA) and the Foothills Bisons are pleased to confirm the continuation of their collaborative structure for the 2026–27 season.

During the 2025–26 season, OOAA operated the U13AAA program while the Foothills Bisons operated the U13AA program. Both Associations agree that this structure has strengthened athlete development across the region and will remain in place for the upcoming season.

This partnership reflects a shared commitment to placing athletes at the center of all decisions. By aligning resources, coaching expertise, and evaluation processes, OOAA and the Bisons are ensuring a clear, consistent, and development-focused pathway for U13 players competing at the AA and AAA levels.

For the 2026–27 season:

- The **U13AAA program** will continue to be operated by the Okotoks Oilers Athletic Association.
- The **U13AA program** will continue to be operated by the Foothills Bisons.
- Both Associations will collaborate closely throughout evaluations and team formation to ensure a fair, transparent, and merit-based selection process.
- Each team will consist of 17 skaters and 2 goaltenders, selected based on performance, potential, and commitment.

The U13AAA team will continue to be based in Okotoks, while the U13AA team will operate out of Blackie, reinforcing strong regional representation at both levels.

This ongoing collaboration is designed to:

- Provide athletes with access to high-level coaching and development resources
- Maintain competitive team standards at both AA and AAA levels
- Ensure consistent evaluation standards across both programs
- Strengthen the overall elite hockey pathway within the Foothills region

Both Associations remain united in their commitment to fostering excellence, accountability, sportsmanship, and long-term athlete development. By continuing to work together, OOAA and the Foothills Bisons are reinforcing a regional model that prioritizes athlete opportunity and competitive integrity.

Further information regarding the 2026–27 U13AA and U13AAA tryout process will be shared through each Association’s official communication channels, and will involve both associations.

The Okotoks Oilers Athletic Association and the Foothills Bisons look forward to building on the success of their first season of collaboration and continuing to elevate elite hockey development for athletes across the Foothills region.

For more information, please contact:

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For updated information on the Tryouts/ID Skates please refer to the websites below.

OOAA – <https://www.oaaooilerhockey.ca/content/general-information>

<https://www.oaaooilerhockey.ca/content/spring-tryouts---u13aaa-oilers-2026-2027>

Foothills Bisons – www.foothillsbisons.ca