



Okotoks Oilers Athletic Association

U18AA/AAA
Raider
Showcase 2025



OOAA Vision and Mission

Through a dedicated volunteer base, the Okotoks Oilers Athletic Association will deliver an elite hockey program that will set the standard of excellence in developing hockey players to the next level.

This will be achieved through our four pillars of success.



Four Pillars

Community

Pride in our community is essential. Our teams will endeavor to give back through volunteering and being positive role models.

Character

OAAA will play a role in teaching our athletes integrity, responsibility, and accountability inside and outside the rink.

Hockey

Through our committed hockey operations coaching staff and specialty programs, we will deliver relevant hockey skills, focus on diversity, inclusion and athletic ability by adhering to the Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) model.

Education

OAAA will focus on the importance of education and helping our athletes understand how it plays in the role of the opportunities available to them during and after their competitive hockey careers.



Agenda

- Introduction Welcome – Dan Laplante (President OOAA)
- Mark Pederson – Director of Coach Development
- Coach Introductions
- Season Outlooks
- Player Commitments
- Daytime Programming
- Academics
- Billet Program
- Team Budgets
- Athletic Trainer
- Q&A



Coaching Staff

U18AAA Raiders – AFHL U18AAA

- Head Coach – Dave Addison
- Assistant Coach – Keegan Thompson
- Assistant Coach – Steve Nicastro

U18AA Raiders – AFHL U18AA

- Head Coach – Dave Hayes
- Assistant Coach – Mike Bara
- Assistant Coach – Chelsea Karpenko
- Assistant Coach – Chris Jamieson
- Manager – Diane Bjornson



Raiders AAA - Who Are We Looking For??

Ultra-Competitive. There is a significant difference between working hard and being ultra-competitive. Ultra-competitive involves both physical and mental hard work with an un-dying obsession to be successful.

IQ and Hockey Sense. Players must be able to make decisions under adverse conditions and have the ability to do so without thinking. Mental speed is best developed when players are surviving on the ice and figuring out how to be successful when they are at a physical disadvantage.

Innovative and Deceptive. These players experiment, have the courage to try and recognize great athletes will not be beaten with rudimentary and predictable skills and habits. Deception is a clear differentiator and it levels the playing field for all types of players.

Puck Management, Puck Patience, Puck Control, Puck Protection, Puck Skills. The puck is the “heartbeat of the game”. Great players have an outstanding panic scale, they conceptualize the “magic moments” of moving or holding the puck. Great players have 360 degree vision and 360 range in puck handling which is an absolutely lethal combination. Playing without excellent hands is like being a “painter without a brush”.

Speed, Agility, Quickness and Escape-ability. The ability of a player to move themselves at a high pace with body control, precision and conceptual awareness. Players that excel in this area can have a “slower mind” as they can buy themselves time and space if needed.

Stick Skills. Offensive and Defensive proficiency to move pucks, tip pucks, handle pucks, spot pucks, check pucks, elevate pucks, shoot pucks.....

Strength and Power. Size is not a factor but these two elements are. Players have to be able to exert their “will” on opponents and do so consistently shift after shift and game after game.



Season Outlook

U18AAA ('08 - '10)

- Okotoks Oilers Athletic Association is a proud host of the U18AAA Raiders.
- Evaluations for U18AAA Raiders is open borders, and it is important that players know that may only be signed up for one evaluation camp at a time.
- If released from a U18AAA tryout you can then begin the process of signing up for a second tryout. (All this information can be found on our website)
- Conditioning camp and Fall Evaluations for U18AAA will begin mid – August
- U18AAA G/W game(s) late August
- AFHL Schedule of 28 regular season games
- 8 Team League
- Showcase weekend to allow Southern teams to play Northern teams in one location and reduce season travel. (Last year was December 20th weekend)
- 4 practices per week
- Tournaments
 - Preseason Firestarter tournament September 11th – 14th
 - Crowne Edmonton October 10th – 13th
 - Mandi Schwartz December 11th – 14th – Invite Only
 - Rink Kelowna – Awaiting confirmation
- 15 Skills and 14 Goalie Development Sessions provided by OOAA.
- Video Sessions for players and goalies. Individual and team.
- All AFHL games are streamed on FloHockey and InStat (Analytics)



Daytime Programming

- U18AAA Raiders is a daytime program
- Up to 4 daytime practices on Tuesday and Thursday 12:15pm -1:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 2:45pm -4:00pm
- Student Athletes will work with the school to coordinate spare blocks for daytime practices
- Evening Strength & Conditioning sessions

By offering a daytime program OOAA helps create a balance of academics/athletics/life for our players.



Season Outlook

U18AA ('08-'10)

- U18AA Raiders is a draw zone team.
- The draw zone includes Blackie, Chestermere, High Country, Hussar, Foothills, Indus, Nanton, Okotoks, Rockyford, Siksika, Strathmore, Standard
- Conditioning and Fall Evaluations for U18AA will begin early September
- U18AA G/W game(s) early September
- AFHL Schedule of 31 regular season games
- 6 team southern division and 1 game vs each of the 6 north teams
- Showcase weekend hosted in one location allowing games with Northern teams to help minimize team travel. (Last year was November 1st weekend)
- 2-3 practices per week. (3rd Practice every other Wednesday)
- Tournaments
 - Preseason Firestarter tournament October 3rd – 5th
 - Okotoks Female Classic November 14th – 16th
- 10 Skills and 7 Goalie Development Sessions provided by OAAA.
- Video Sessions for players and goalies. Individual and team.
- All AFHL games are streamed on FloHockey and InStat (Analytics)



Practices

- U18AA Raiders have 2 practices per week with a 3rd practice incorporated every other week.
- Tuesday, Thursday and every other Wednesday.
- Ice is at Scott Seaman Sports Rink (SSSR)
- Strength and Conditioning training. Determined and set up by Head coach.



Player Commitments

- HA is permitting Player Commitments for the U18AAA and U18AA Teams
- OAAA has agreed that U18AAA Raiders will have the ability to commit up to 19 players at Spring Evaluations
- OAAA has agreed that U18AA Raiders will have the ability to commit up to 12 players at Spring Evaluations
- Commitments are coach's staff decision
- Player Commitment Terms:
 - 48 hours to sign agreement once provide by OAAA
 - \$1,500 non-refundable deposit for U18AA Raiders
 - \$3,000 non-refundable deposit for U18AAA Raiders
 - These deposits will go towards First Cash Call
- Deposit is refunded if:
 - U18AA player successfully makes a U18AAA AFHL team
 - Player suffers season-ending injury prior to team formation
 - Family relocates out of draw zone for work purposes

Committed Players will be announced online by August 1st, and through social media.



Athletic Trainers

- Each U18 Team is assigned one AT with a back-up for the season
- Help players with games for player preparation, injury prevention, injury treatment and assessment
- Reporting and follow-up on injury recovery

Athletic trainers are assigned to teams by ProSport Therapy or Baseline Athletic Therapy



Team Budgets

- Each team's budget will depend on various factors:
 - # of Tournaments
 - Team travel
 - Ice Times/Referees
 - Deposits and Administration fees
 - Video Review
 - Coach Honorariums
 - Sponsorship and Fundraising can be used to offset team expenses

U18AAA have ranged from \$14,000 - \$15,000 per player

- OOAA has a 'Cash Call' Policy min of \$6,000 per AAA player to be paid by October 15th
 - Second cash call depends on team budget. Collected by November 15th
 - Third cash call dependent on team budget. Collected by December 15th

U18AA have ranged from \$6,000 - \$8,000 per player

- OOAA has a Cash Call Policy min of \$3,000 per AA player to be paid by October 15th
 - Second cash depends on team budget. Collected by November 15th
 - Third cash call dependent on team budget. Collected by December 15th



Billet Program

- OOAA has a Billet Program for athletes from outside Okotoks

Process

- OOAA Billet Coordinator accepts applications from potential host families
- Applicants are interviewed and must meet eligibility requirements prior to approval
- Players meet with prospective billet families before placement

Throughout this entire process OOAA Billet Coordinator will work to ensure a smooth transition for all student athletes and billet Families.

** If you are interested in billeting, please reach out to Nicole Brockhoff for more Billet Coordinator contact information.



Questions ?