



# Red Deer Chiefs 'A' Evaluation and Team Selection Process

## Red Deer Lacrosse Association (RDLA)

Evaluations are essential to building the strongest possible team for the 'A' program in minor box lacrosse. This process is designed by RDLA to ensure fairness and equity, allowing for a consistent and objective assessment of all players. By adhering to this process, we aim to select a team that reflects the highest level of skill and teamwork, giving every player the opportunity to showcase their skills.

### U13 – U17 'A' Evaluations

Any player within the Central Alberta Lacrosse League (CALL) is eligible to try out for the Red Deer Chiefs 'A' teams. Evaluations will be held for players to try out for U13, U15 and U17 'A' teams.

- Registration opens: December - early-January
- Registration closes: Mid-late January

A minimum of 25 registered players per division is required to hold tryouts. If this number is not reached, an 'A' team will not be fielded for that division and full refunds will be issued.

The tryout fee is a one-time, non-refundable charge. No player may participate until payment is received and all RDLA balances are cleared.

Red Deer resident players must register for the Box Season in their division as well as the 'A' team tryout. Non-Red Deer residents may register for evaluations but do not register with RDLA for the regular season unless selected.

RDLA will inform each CALL Club of the players from their organization who intend to try out for RDLA 'A' teams before evaluations begin.

RDLA reserves the right to adjust evaluation formats or schedules due to floor availability, registration numbers or unforeseen circumstances.

## Underage Player Requests

Players wishing to try out as underage must submit a [Special Request](#) to the RDLA Board. If approved by the RDLA Board, the request must also receive Greater Edmonton Lacrosse Council (GELC) approval prior to participation in evaluations.

The player must pay the 'A' tryout fee before evaluations begin.

To be eligible for team selection, an underage player must rank in the top five overall in evaluations. Ranking in the top five does not guarantee selection. Final decisions rest with the Head Coach and the RDLA Board.

This process ensures fair, transparent evaluations and selections, balancing independent assessment with coach insight. See the [Underage Player Exception Process](#) for full details.

## Coaching Selection

Coaching applications will open on December 1 and close on January 15 for all 'A' teams. The RDLA Coaching Coordinator reviews applications and presents qualified candidates to the RDLA Board for approval.

If more than one coach applies for the same team, the Head Coach will be chosen by majority vote of the RDLA Board. Past experience, qualifications, reference checks and previous coaching evaluations may be considered.

If a Head Coach has a child trying out for the team, they must confirm before evaluations whether they wish to continue coaching if their player is not selected.

Head Coaches must be approved prior to the start of evaluations.

## Evaluator Selection

Evaluators will be selected and voted on by the RDLA Board. Only an RDLA Board member with no player trying out may contact and book evaluators.

Evaluators must:

- Have prior lacrosse or coaching experience
- Have no direct conflict of interest
- Be at least two age divisions removed from any player being evaluated

Each evaluator is paired with an inputter who records scores and notes in real time. This ensures evaluators can always keep their eyes on the floor. Evaluators review and confirm all entries before final submission.

## Evaluation Process

Evaluations occur in February. Each player must attend at least two of the first three sessions to remain eligible.

**Injury or illness absences:** Players who cannot attend two sessions must provide a doctor's note and submit a special consideration request.

**Special consideration requests:** Must be submitted in writing to the RDLA Board by the second evaluation. There will be a \$25.00 fee. Decisions are final and not subject to appeal. Approval of special consideration does not guarantee advancement or selection.

The evaluation criteria are defined for each division and posted publicly on the RDLA website before tryouts.

Floor time is run by the Head Coach with assistance from junior players (and/or assistants).

Only the following may be present behind the player box:

- Assigned evaluators
- Coaching Coordinator and one additional RDLA Board member
- The Head Coach and junior player(s) running the floor and their assistants

If any of the above individuals have a player being evaluated, they must step away during that session and another Board member will cover their duties.

Parents, siblings and fans are **not permitted** behind the bench or in the corridor during evaluations.

## Scoring and Advancement

Following the first three evaluation sessions, evaluator scores are compiled into a ranked list. Based on these scores, the top 26 players and top 4 goalies will be eligible for selection for the team. All players will receive an email notifying them of their status within 24 hours of the third evaluation.

Players must attend at least two of the first three evaluation sessions to be eligible for selection.

Head Coaches will receive anonymized scores (by jersey number and colour) at the start of the final evaluation. These scores are confidential and must not be shared.

### Handedness Balance Consideration

If, after evaluator rankings are finalized, the eligible player list does not reasonably support a balance of right- and left-handed players, the Head Coach may submit a written request to the RDLA Board to include up to two additional players in the final evaluation.

This request must:

- Be submitted prior to the final evaluation
- Clearly identify the need related to handedness balance
- Be approved by the RDLA Board before the additional players are invited

The inclusion of additional players is intended solely to allow the opportunity for a balanced team and does not guarantee selection. Final roster decisions remain at the discretion of the selection committee in accordance with RDLA policy.

## Team Selection

Head Coaches will evaluate players during the final evaluation and select the final roster from the eligible group. Coaches cannot alter who participates in the final evaluation, except where additional players have been approved by the RDLA Board under policy.

The final roster must consist of a minimum of 16 players and up to a maximum of 2 goalies.

Final team selection is conducted by the Head Coach with two impartial RDLA Board members present (neither may have a player in that division).

The Head Coach may consult the previous year's coach for player insight, but the final decision rests with the current selection committee.

Final rosters will be posted on the RDLA website within 48 hours of the final evaluation. Head Coaches may contact selected players directly before posting. If a selected player declines, the Head Coach may select another eligible player. There is no appeal process for team selection decisions.

For questions, please contact:

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