

14AA Centralized Evaluations Procedure 2025-26

This procedure only applies to associations within the capital region. (EFCLRA, ERC, Pembina, Fort Sask, St AB, Spruce Grove, Sherwood Park, Leduc, Beaumont)

Goals and Objectives

- Ensure that players from all associations are given equal opportunity to participate in AA evaluations on equal footing.
- Ensure that players play at the correct tier for their skill level.
- Ensure that players attend a single AA tryout stream in which they are given the opportunity to be evaluated by all associations.
- Ensure that AA evaluations for all associations are completed at the same time so that other tier evaluations can continue without further disruption.

Reference

This document references the AA evaluations for U14AA for the 2025-2026 season. This document and any documents attached hereto represent the procedure that will be applied to this division. In some cases, certain policies may apply across all AA age groups (U14AA, U16AA, U19AA), and will be identified accordingly. This document and the policies and procedures herein supersede any policies held at the association level, and where policies conflict, this policy shall be referenced.

Phase 1: Registration

For players from AA host associations (Edmonton, Sherwood Park, Spruce Grove, St. Albert).

- Players register with their home association, registering simultaneously for AA evaluations.
- The player's home association is deemed to be their primary choice as a AA association.¹
- During registration, the player will also indicate if there are other associations for which they are willing to play AA with. If a player is unsuccessful in earning a spot on their primary choice AA team, they will become selection eligible to the team(s) they have indicated they are willing to play for.

¹ Players must evaluate with their home association. A release may be granted by the Home Association President only in exceptional cases involving verified risks to player safety, mental health, or significant and documented dysfunction within the team environment. Releases will not be granted for subjective preferences. Cases with mitigating circumstances may be referred to an oversight committee.

For players from non-AA host associations

- Players register with their home association, and also register with one of the AA host associations to attend initial AA evaluations.
- The player selects one of the AA host associations to participate in AA evaluations. This association is deemed to be their primary choice as a AA association.
- During registration, the player will also indicate if there are other associations for which they are willing to play AA with. If a player is unsuccessful in earning a spot on their primary choice AA team, they will become draft eligible to the teams they have indicated they are willing to play for.

ALL PLAYERS MUST BE REGISTERED FOR AA EVALUATIONS BY AUGUST 15.

Phase 2: Host Association Evaluations

- Each association will complete preliminary evaluations from their pool of registrants.
- Association evaluations must be completed between August 21 and 27, including UAA where required.
- U14AA host associations must complete the UAA and 2 or 3 evaluation skates in this time.
- Associations must in good faith assess whether a player is AA ready. This may be supported by evaluation data, coach feedback, statistics, etc.
- Association evaluations should strive to reduce the number of players who will continue to centralized evaluations to approximately 20 players. Where an association has an exceptionally strong or weak group, this number may be adjusted up or down accordingly. Each association must send a minimum number of players to form a viable team.
- Following this phase of evaluations associations will submit a list of players who will continue to Centralized Evaluations.

Phase 3: Centralized Evaluations

- All players chosen to progress to centralized evaluations will participate in three additional evaluations jointly. These are to be held August 28-30, 2025.
- All Centralized evaluation skates shall be completed in a game format.

Skate 1

- At this skate, teams will evaluate their own players. The Skate 1 scrimmage is used to help the teams create their list of protected players.
- Following Skate 1, teams will create their list of protected players for submission to the AA Oversight Committee.
-

Protected Player Lists

- Each of the AA teams will submit a list of Protected Players to the AA Evaluations Oversight Committee. This list is not to be shared, nor should any player be made aware that they have been selected as a Protected Player.
- Any number of players can be named to the protected player list.
- After teams have submitted their list of protected players, each team will be provided with a list of the remaining unprotected players. Teams will only be provided with a list of unprotected players who have indicated they are willing to play with their association.²
- Unprotected players will only be identified to evaluators, AA team staff and the AA Evaluations Oversight Committee.
- Teams will not be aware which, if any, other associations the player has indicated a willingness to play for.
- Note that all players who initially evaluated with an association but were not protected will remain on this list of selection eligible players for that team.

Skate 2 & 3

- Skates 2 & 3 are used by each team to evaluate unprotected players who have indicated a willingness to play for an association.
- At the end of centralized evaluations, the AA host associations will select their teams. Teams will be composed with their initial list of protected players, and additional unprotected players selected after centralized evaluations.

² Prior to distributing the Protected Player Lists the AA Oversight Committee will assess the list to identify any issues that may arise and affect team viability.

Player Responsibilities

- Register with your home association and for AA evaluations. If you are not from a AA host association you must register for AA evaluations with your first choice AA association.
- Complete a declaration that states which other AA associations you will be willing to play for if you are not successful in being selected to your primary AA association. This will be completed in conjunction with AA evaluation registration.
- Participate in all required evaluation sessions, both with your initial AA-host association, and then in Centralized Evaluations if selected to participate.

AA Host Association Responsibilities

- Complete phase 1 evaluations, including UAA, for U14AA
- Determine which players will move on to centralized evaluations
- At centralized evaluations, evaluate players who are willing to play for your association.

RAB/Committee Responsibilities

- Collect data from all players that identifies what AA clubs they are willing to play with.
- Provide the AA host associations with a list of players to evaluate at centralized evaluations.
- Oversee the team selection at the conclusion of centralized evaluations

Definitions and Clarifications

Protected Players: Following the first skate of centralized evaluations, all teams will submit a list of Protected Players. These are players who participated in that association's initial AA evaluation, and thus have chosen that association as their primary team.

These players will continue to participate in centralized evaluations to ensure all players are competing against competition that most closely resembles the skill level required to participate at this level.

As these players are protected by their primary association, there is no requirement for other associations to evaluate them further.

Unprotected Players: Following the first skate of centralized evaluations, all teams will submit a list of Protected Players. Players who are not named on this list are deemed to be Unprotected Players. These players will be evaluated further in effort to identify those who best meet the criteria to play at the AA level.

At the conclusion of Centralized Evaluations, Unprotected Players will be selected by each of the AA teams in order to complete their rosters.

Unprotected Players may still be drafted by their primary AA association, or may be selected to one of the other associations to which they have indicated a willingness to play with.

Injured or sick player eligibility

Players who are injured, ill or who may otherwise miss evaluations may only be selected to their primary choice AA team, and must be selected as a protected player. As the centralized evaluation process will not be adequately able to assess these players, AA host associations should rely on existing policy to ensure these players are eligible and capable to be selected in accordance with their policies.

Centralized Evaluation Execution Procedure

Player Identification

Each player shall be provided with two evaluation pinnies with the same number. They will retain these pinnies throughout the Centralized Evaluation skates, and return them at the end of the third skate.

Before each session, the players will be advised of what colour to wear.

Team Formation for Centralized Skates

Teams will be formed by the AA Oversight Committee and posted prior to each skate, along with skate times for each team. Teams will be formed in an attempt to match all players with their preferred position, but positional play is not guaranteed.

Teams will be primarily grouped by association, however due to difference in registration numbers and positional requirements, many evaluation teams will be composed of players from more than one association.

Teams will be composed of 10 or more skaters, and 1 or more goalies.

Teams may or may not be adjusted in between the different skates.

Game Play

Each evaluation consists of a 45 minute ice time, consisting of a 3 minute warm up, and a 40 minutes run time game.

Players will change on the fly, and rotate with the “next up” player of the same position.

The regular rules of ringette will be enforced during game play. Penalties will not be served, however players who are given a penalty will be expected to immediately make a line change, and possession will be awarded to the other team in the offensive zone free ring.

Goalies at Centralized Evaluations

All goalies who are chosen to participate in Centralized Evaluations will be assigned to an evaluation team at each evaluation session. Following Centralized Evaluation Skate 1, each team will have the opportunity to protect goalies from their association.

All goalies who are unprotected will be evaluated by those teams who may still have a goalie roster spot available, and for which the player has indicated a willingness to play for.

Per the Centralized Evaluation procedure, each team will hold a list of unprotected players who have indicated a willingness to play for their association. Those teams will have developed their own independent ranking and evaluation of these players.

All remaining unprotected goalies shall be listed for team selection.

The RAB AA Centralized Evaluation Committee will assess the list of selection eligible players to ensure there are no items that require consideration.

Teams who have open goalie spots available will participate in goalie selection.

Where a team has not protected a goalie in their Protected Player list, they shall be given first choice of remaining goalies.

Where teams have protected one goalie but wish to roster two goalies, they shall then be eligible to select a goalie.

In either instance, where more than one team is eligible to select a goalie, selection order shall be randomly determined. If a team has not protected a goalie and selected first from the unprotected goalies, and wishes to roster two goalies, its second choice shall be after all remaining teams have selected their second goalie.

Team Selection Procedure – U14AA Centralized Evaluations (Skaters)

1. Players who are selected to participate in Centralized Evaluations.
2. After teams have submitted their list of protected players, all teams will be provided with a list of the remaining unprotected players.

3. Teams will be only provided with a list of unprotected players who have indicated they are willing to play with their association.
4. Unprotected players shall only be identified to evaluators and AA team staff.
5. Teams will not be aware which, if any, other associations the player has indicated a willingness to play for.
6. Note that all players who initially evaluated with an association but were not protected will remain on this list of selection eligible players for that team.
7. After the conclusion of the final Centralized Evaluation Skates, all teams will participate jointly in team selection.
8. The AA Oversight Committee will assess the list to identify any issues that may arise and affect team viability. For example, where a team has a limited number of selections available to them, these players may be automatically named to the team to ensure team viability, thus removing them as a selection eligible player for other teams.

Selection Criteria

The following objectives are applied to the tryout and team selection process:

- To provide coaches with the flexibility to build a team based on their own coaching philosophy and knowledge of player skills and attitude
- To provide opportunity of assessment of a player's ringette skills during skating and scrimmage sessions
- To provide uniformity and consistency in the tryout process
- To form teams composed of players of similar ability playing together to maintain balanced and competitive teams where the athletes can develop and participate equitably and have satisfaction playing ringette during the season.

The AA Evaluations Oversight Committee shall be composed of knowledgeable, impartial people to supervise the tryout and team selection process. Their main responsibility shall be to ensure that the tryout and team selection process proceeds with fairness and impartiality. These individuals shall be available to answer any questions or concerns that the coaching staff, parents or players may have during the tryout and team selection process.

Host association evaluations shall be organized, designed and planned by the associations and its coaches. Players are selected to teams by these coaches.

At Centralized Evaluations, all players shall participate equally as a means of ensuring fairness.

The AA Evaluations Oversight Committee may also assign evaluators to assist the process and provide additional feedback on players for coaches. These assigned evaluators may or may not be used in determining the selection format including prospective players of selected coaches. All selection details shall remain confidential and shall not be supplied to the general membership. It shall be unwarranted under any circumstance to disclose player selection information to anyone outside of those involved in the selection process, either during or after the tryout process.

It is expected that parent coaches will select their children to their teams. These players must be included in the team's protected player list.

There is no guarantee that returning AA players will be selected to a team.

Where siblings are trying out in the same age division, coaches are not obligated to take siblings on the same team.

Team Selection Procedure (Skaters)

Per the Centralized Evaluation procedure, each team will hold a list of unprotected players who have indicated a willingness to play for their association. Those teams will have developed their own independent ranking and evaluation of these players.

All remaining unprotected players shall be listed for team selection.

Teams who have committed to fewer protected players have first selection of pooled players, until all teams have an equal number of players, and then team selection is completed as an alternating snake order selection between teams.

Teams who are making their first selection in the round shall automatically be moved to the first selection spot of that round. Where more than one team is making its first selection in the round, first choice shall be randomly determined. Teams who have selected players in the previous round shall automatically be moved to the final selection position in that round. Where more than one team had made a selection in the previous round, the selection order between these teams will remain unchanged.

Goalie Participation and Selection – U14AA Centralized Evaluations

Goalie selection and participation is critical to program success at all levels. Balancing the needs of all associations as well as providing individual players the opportunity to play at the correct level requires all associations to work together to ensure a successful outcome for all.

Goalie Number Declaration

Prior to the start of evaluations, all associations, both AA Host and non-host, will participate in a joint session to discuss goalie registration and expectations for the following season. All associations will work jointly to determine the number of goalies that may be released to the AA program for the coming season. Associations will also assess their current goalie registration and work together to provide all goalies with the opportunity to play, and to try and ensure that all teams at all tiers have a suitable goalie for the coming season.

Based on the outcome of this meeting, the number of goalies who will be released to the AA program will be determined.

Even if an association has released more than one goalie to the AA program, it does not guarantee that they will all be selected to an AA team.

Goalies at Host Association Evaluations

Goalies will register and participate in Host Association Evaluations like all other players.

- Association evaluations must be completed between August 21 and 27.
- U14AA host associations will complete the UAA and 2 or 3 evaluations skates in this time.
- Associations must in good faith assess whether a goalie is AA ready.
- Following this phase evaluations coaches will submit a list of players who will continue to Centralized Evaluations.

Addendum to Import and Selection Policies

Due to the introduction and pilot of the Centralized Evaluation process at 14AA, import policies will differ between 14AA and 16AA/19AA. For the course of the 2025-2026 season, the following residency and import player policies shall apply to all AA host associations, and shall supersede any policy currently adopted by those associations, in respect to AA team selection only.

The purpose of this amendment is to ensure that all players at all age levels have equal opportunity to evaluate for and participate in the AA tier.

Import and Non-Resident Players

A non-resident player is defined as a player who resides outside the boundaries of an association (as defined in RAB Policy 3.0), whose home association is not an AA host association.

An import player is defined as a player who resides outside the boundaries of an association (as defined in RAB Policy 3.0), whose home association is an AA host association.

A local player is defined as a player who resides within the boundaries of an association, or a player who resides outside the boundaries of an association, but will play for that association at whatever division they are selected to or a player who has previously played within that association per RAB Residency Policy 3.0.

U14AA Import Policy

All players shall be given equal opportunity to be drafted to any of the AA teams for which they indicate they are willing to participate with. All players shall be subject to the same evaluation and team selection criteria, including mandatory selection where applicable. If not selected to participate with a AA team, non-resident and import players will return to play for their local association.

Player residency is not affected by being drafted to the AA program. No release is required to attend evaluations, or when drafted to any AA team.

Players who are not drafted to a AA team will return to their local association. The residency remains with their local association. Any request for release following AA evaluations (and thus for release to a lower tier) shall be handled in accordance with RAB Policy 3.0

Local players who are drafted to their local AA association retain residency in their local association.

Non-resident and import players who are selected to an AA association that is not their home association shall be deemed to have been temporarily released to the AA program drafted to. At the conclusion of the season, their residency reverts to their home association.³

In subsequent years, players who have been previously selected to a AA association that is not their own association are eligible to select that association as their primary AA association. See Case Study Example 3.

Case Study Example 1

Player 1's home association is Sherwood Park. They choose Sherwood Park as their primary choice for AA evaluations. They also indicate a willingness to play for ERC or St. Albert if not selected to Sherwood Park.

Scenario 1: Player is selected to SPK – player remains a SPK resident throughout.

Scenario 2: Player is not selected to SPK, but is selected to STA. For the season, the player is deemed released to STA AA. At the conclusion of the season, the player's residency remains with SPK. The following season the player has the option to select STA as their primary AA association OR can select SPK as their primary AA association.

Scenario 3: Players are not selected to the AA program. The player's residency remains with SPK, and the player attends SPK evaluations for A, B and C tiers.

Case Study Example 2

Player 2's home association is Fort Saskatchewan. They choose St. Albert as their primary choice for AA evaluations. They also indicate a willingness to play for ERC if not selected to St. Albert.

Scenario 1: The Player is selected to STA – For the season, the player is deemed released to STA AA. At the conclusion of the season, the player's residency remains with FSK.

Scenario 2: The Player is not selected to STA, but is selected to ERC. For the season, the player is deemed released to ERC AA. At the conclusion of the season, the player's residency remains with FSK.

Scenario 3: The Player is not selected to the AA program. The player's residency remains with FSK, and the player attends FSK evaluations for A, B and C tiers.

Case Study Example 3

³ For the AA program, all players selected to any of the AA teams temporarily become residents of the AA program. Residency outside of the AA program remains with the players home association, or as otherwise applicable to the player per the procedures of RAB policy 3.0

Player 3's home association is St. Albert. They choose St. Albert as their primary choice for AA evaluations. They also indicate a willingness to play for ERC if not selected to St. Albert.

Scenario 1: Player is selected to STA – player remains a STA resident throughout. The following season the player will select STA as their primary AA association.

Scenario 2: The player is not selected to STA, but is selected to ERC. For the season, the player is deemed released to ERC AA. The following season the player has the option to select ERC as their primary AA association OR can select STA as their primary AA association.

U16AA and U19AA Import and Selection Policy

Roster Composition

- There are no roster restrictions in respect to import or non-resident players at 16AA & 19AA.
- All teams shall evaluate all players participating in evaluations equally, and provide roster spots to those players most deserving, regardless of their status as import or non-resident player.

Mandatory Selections

- Associations may include Mandatory Selections in their AA team selection policy, however import and non-resident players cannot be discriminated against in these policies. If an association chooses to include mandatory selection in their policy, any player who falls within that threshold must be selected.

Residency

Import or non-resident players who are not drafted to a U16AA/U19AA team will return to their local association. The residency remains with their local association. Any request for release following AA evaluations (and thus for release to a lower tier) shall be handled in accordance with RAB Policy 3.0