

Friday, May 23, 2025

To: AAA & AA Host Association Contacts

RE: PLAYER ELIGIBILITY & SPRING ID CAMPS

The Elite Hockey Committee would like to remind Host Associations of the regulations related to Spring ID Camps and who is eligible to attend:

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

All divisions AA operate with defined Recruitment Areas. AA Recruitment Areas can be accessed in the [‘AA’ Hockey Regulations](#).

All divisions AAA operate with defined Draw Zones. AAA Draw Zones can be accessed in the [‘AAA’ Hockey Regulations](#).

Exception: There are no defined Draw Zones for U13 ‘AAA’. Players new to U13 ‘AAA’ are eligible to tryout as follows:

(a) Players whose Primary MHA hosts a U13 ‘AAA’ Team, must tryout with their Primary MHA. (b) Players whose Primary MHA does not host a U13 ‘AAA’ Team, may tryout for the closest team that will accept them.

All divisions of AA Female operate with defined Recruitment Areas. AA Recruitment Areas can be accessed in the [‘AAA’ & ‘AA’ Female Hockey Regulations](#).

Exception: There are no Recruitment Areas for U18 ‘AAA’ Female. Players new to U18 ‘AAA’ are eligible to tryout for any of the teams within this category.

A player must tryout within the Draw Zone/Recruitment Area that their Primary MHA falls within, or apply for Elite Hockey Player Movement.

SPRING ID CAMPS

‘Spring ID’ camp is defined as a series of skates or off-ice activities operated by Host AA/AAA Associations for prospective and eligible players. Spring ‘ID’ camps can begin operating as of April 1.

Associations are permitted to utilize Spring ID camps to commit to or identify the ‘short list’ of athletes that will participate in fall tryouts. Associations need to ensure that all players attending their Spring ID Camp are from Associations that fall within their Draw Zone or Recruitment Area. Failure to do so may result in tampering charges.

Associations must also ensure Team Officials are understanding of these rules and regulations, as the Team/Association is responsible for the actions of the Team Official.

For more information regarding Tampering, refer to the Hockey Alberta and Hockey Canada regulations.

ELITE PLAYER MOVEMENT

Players are expected to access their first tryout within the Draw Zone that draws from their Primary MHA. If extenuating circumstances apply (i.e. considerably closer for travel, move without parent transfers), Players may apply, through the Elite Player Movement Process, to access their first tryout within a different AAA Draw Zone and/or AA Recruitment Area.

Applications must be submitted using the Elite Player Movement form and supporting documentation must be included. [Elite Player Movement](#) is open from May 1 to July 1. Applications submitted in May will have decisions rendered in June, applications submitted in June will have decisions rendered in July.

Question & Answer:

Q: Can a coach, volunteer or staff involved with a AAA/AA Hockey Team offer commitments to players who are not apart of their defined Draw Zone/Recruitment Area?

A: NO. If proven, this could constitute a tampering charge.

Q: Can a coach, volunteer or staff involved with a AAA/AA Hockey Team encourage players to apply for Elite Player Movement?

A: NO. If a player from outside your defined area contacts a coach or volunteer regarding player movement, the coach/volunteer should direct them to back their Host MHA Executive or Staff to learn more about the Elite Player Movement Process. Encouraging a player to apply for Elite Player Movement could constitute a tampering charge.

Q: Can a player access a tryout with a U13 AAA team that is not their Primary MHA?

A: YES, as long as their Primary MHA does not host U13 AAA. The player can contact the closest Associations hosting U13AAA to determine if the Host Association will accept them.

Q: If an association is not operating a 'Spring ID' camp and their Fall Tryouts will be 'open', can any players attend?

A: NO. Only eligible players from the defined Draw Zone/Recruitment Area or players approved through the Elite Player Movement process are eligible.

Q: When can a player skate if they are approved through the Elite Player Movement Process?

A: Players approved for Elite Player Movement will be permitted to skate with their requested Draw Zone/Recruitment Area when Fall Tryouts begin. This will be considered their 'first tryout' regardless of whether they participated in their Primary Elite Draw Zone/AA Recruitment Area Spring ID Camp.

Q: How can a player access a second tryout?

A: Players who have been 'cut' from their Host Association are eligible to arrange a second tryout. Players must request an Elite Waiver from the Host Association that 'cut' them. Second tryouts are permitted to begin once the accepting team starts their fall tryouts.

Players who were cut from or not invited to a Spring ID Camp or not invited to a Fall Tryout Camp following Spring ID Camp are not required to go through the Elite Player Movement Process. They can work directly with neighboring Associations to organize a second tryout.

Q: What is the process for reporting suspected or alleged tampering?

A: Any allegation of tampering must be submitted in writing to Hudson Kelly (Manager, Elite Leagues – hkelly@hockeyalberta.ca) or Kendall Newell (Senior Manager, Competition – knewell@hockeyalberta.ca) including all supporting evidence or documentation.