



Polar Kings Athletic Club

TRY-OUT POLICY

(Revised April 2025)

Eligibility

Player residency and eligibility rules will apply as set forth by the Hockey Alberta AA Model guidelines and policies. To be eligible, completed registration forms and fee must be submitted to and received by the PKAC.

Fees

A mandatory player tryout fee will be approved by the Board on a yearly basis, payable to the PKAC, is to be paid in full prior to commencement of tryout. Registration will not be secured until payment is made. Tryout fees are non-refundable. (Some exceptions may apply – at the discretion of the PKAC)

Late Registrants

Players may be accepted to try out, as a late registrant, if they have been released from a higher level (or AAA Minor Midget) tryout camp. As well, players that have moved into the region after the commencement of Tryouts, may also be accepted – subject to Hockey Alberta policy.

Non-Attending Registrants

Players who are not able to attend the Tryout due to: medical/injury, suspension, or extenuating/severe circumstances may be selected to the team at the discretion of the Head Coach and Division Director. Completed registration forms and fee are still required.

Second Tryouts

Hockey Alberta may grant second tryouts as per Hockey Alberta's AA Model, as follows:

A second try-out **may** be granted by the League based on the needs of the teams in surrounding recruitment areas. Second try-outs are only permitted in cases where specific circumstances dictate the need for movement in order to improve the competitiveness of another Recruitment Area team and are not intended to permit players the opportunity for multiple try-outs. A second try-out will only be entertained if:

- a) Prior to September 1, a Recruitment Area has declared to the League that they are in need of players due to a low turn-out of eligible players registering for try-outs; or

Prior to September 15, a Recruitment Area has declared a low number of players attending try-outs that are capable of playing at the “AA” level;

- b) The Recruitment Area must have gained support in accepting “Import” Players from its participating LMHA partners prior to being able to request players for a second try-out;
- c) The player’s Resident LMHA has a sufficient number of players in order to be able to offer a Team at the specific Division without said player;
- d) The player has been cut and has obtained a Letter from his/her Resident Recruitment Area team;
- e) The player has submitted a new Minor Hockey Player Movement Form, along with the Letter from the Resident Recruitment Area, to the League;

The League will notify the player whether or not the request will be granted and which nearby Recruitment Area the try-out has been granted for.

If approved, a player on a second try-out must be evaluated by independent evaluators for a minimum of two (2) ice times and it must be determined as to whether or not the player has made the team within seven (7) days;

A player making the designated “AA” Team will receive permission to play for the season and will be returned to his/her Resident LMHA at the end of the season.

Under-age Registrants

Under-age players may be accepted to try out, as per Hockey Alberta’s AA Model, as follows:

The objective of the “AA” Hockey Model is to develop players within their specific age group, and not to displace the players from their age Division by facilitating the movement of underage players. All underage players will only be considered as an exception.

- (a) Underage players will only be considered if they are one year younger than the age Division they are applying to participate in;
- (b) A formal application must be submitted prior to the Evaluation Camp beginning. The player’s Resident LMHA must support the request for an Underage Player Exception by providing the necessary Player Movement form;

- (c) Along with the Player Movement Form, the Player must submit a letter outlining the rationale for being considered as an Underage Player;
- (d) No underage players will be granted a second try-out;
- (e) An underage player approved for participation in the Evaluation Camp, must evaluate in the top third of skaters by position;

i.e. The player must evaluate as a top three forward, top two defenseman, or the top goaltender, to make the “AA” team in question.
- (f) The underage player’s participation with the “AA” team must be determined within the first seven days of the Evaluation Camp, through a minimum of two ice times.

Format

Spring ID Skates-

PKAC will be following the Hockey Alberta Guidelines (see Appendix B)

Spring skates will consist of up to three skates with evaluations and exit interviews if deemed by the Division Director. Players may be selected to commit to the respective team at the end of the ID skates. A financial deposit, determined in March by the board, must be made and a signed commitment letter to hold the player’s spot.

Fall Tryouts-

PKAC policy supports all teams to have positions available at the fall camps.

The Tryout will consist of three initial skates (these are the only guaranteed skates) after which first releases will be made. Additional practices and inter-squad games will follow as scheduled. Exhibition games and/or tournament may be scheduled, if so, they will be in compliance with Hockey Alberta’s policy and guidelines. As per WMHA, the AA Polar Kings team rosters will be set no later than September 30th.

Releases

First releases will take place after the initial three skates. Players retained at this point may be released at anytime throughout the remaining tryout process. Released players will be afforded an exit meeting at which time they will be given feedback from their evaluations. All releases are final with the exception of those made to accommodate a player’s attendance at AAA U16 tryout camp. Although it is not a practice of the PKAC, players may be released up to and until January 10th, as per Hockey Alberta policy.

Evaluations

The PKAC will procure independent evaluators to provide player assessments during the tryout process. Evaluators will advise the Head Coach and Division Director in their selection of players to the team. Instructional assistants, not related to any player in the tryout process, may also be utilized in the evaluation/assessment of players. Evaluators and assistants will not communicate with players, parents, nor anyone else other than the Head Coach and Division Director in regard to the evaluation/assessment of players.

Player Selection

Player selection is the responsibility of the Head Coach working in conjunction with the Division Director and in consultation with the evaluators. The PKAC will provide direction to the Head Coach, as needed and in accordance with Hockey Alberta's AA Model. Players may be selected at any time during the tryout process and no later than September 30th. Although it is not a practice of the PKAC, players may be signed to the team up to and until January 10th, as per Hockey Alberta policy.

Communication

Parents – At no time during the tryout process will parents be permitted contact with the Coaches, Evaluators, or Assistants. All questions or concerns are to be submitted to the Division Director. The Division Director will not communicate with parents in regard to assessments of players actively involved in tryouts.

Players – At no time during the tryout process will players be permitted contact with the Coaches, Division Director, Evaluators or Assistants in regard to their own assessment or that of any other player.

Coaches – At no time during the tryout process will coaches be permitted contact with players or parents. The only exceptions are: during the release process and for instructional/logistical purposes. Coaches will not comment on player assessments with anyone other than the Division Director, Evaluators and Assistants. All communication will be through the Division Director.

Information

Information will be available on our website www.polarkings.com or will be communicated via email. The PKAC will make every effort to keep information up to date.

Conduct

Players, parents and coaches are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects the Codes of Conduct set forth in the PKAC Policy, Rules and Responsibilities handbook – which prior to attending tryouts, all parties are required to read and accept. In addition, coaches shall refrain from

socializing with parents and players during the entire tryout process and until completion of the final Roster. Any behaviour deemed not acceptable by the PKAC may result in expulsion from the Try-Out.

Conflict of Interest

To avoid potential conflicts of interest - any persons involved with the assessment and selection of players during the tryout process must refrain from any professional involvement with said players, while they are still active in the tryout. Once a player is released, professional relations may resume. All parties involved will be forthcoming to the PKAC in regard to this information.

Players that have had professional involvements will not be assessed/selected by persons with whom they have had professional involvement.

In addition, where a Head Coach or a member of the evaluation/selection team is involved in a profession that trains or represents athletes, they will be permitted to evaluate/select *eligible players* in a limited capacity. All members of the evaluation/selection team will have a single vote in the selection of eligible players, with the exception of the last two player selections. The final two player selections will be made by the Head Coach and are subject to the Divisional Director's approval.

*Eligible players being those who do not have or have not had a professional relationship with any member of the evaluation/selection team.

The PKAC reserves the right to make exceptions/alterations to this policy at its discretion.



ELITE HOCKEY TEAM FORMATION UPDATE

Feb 11, 2025

Shared with – AA & AAA Host MHAs.

Definitions:

- Spring ID Camps: Occur between April 1 & June 1 & do not result in a final team being formed
- Tryouts: Occur after August 15 and lead to a final team being formed.
- Commitment: A player who is guaranteed a position, prior to tryouts, on the final team being formed from Tryouts.

Team Formation Process:

1. **SPRING ID CAMP FORMAT:** Elite Teams may operate Spring ID Camps from April 1 until the start of June. These camps can be an open registration opportunity for all Draw Zone/Recruitment Area players, or by invitation only.
2. **PLAYER ACCESS:**
 - i. If the Spring ID Camp is an open registration opportunity for all Draw Zone/Recruitment Area players, teams may host invitation-only Tryouts should they choose. The number of invitations to Tryouts are entirely up to the team/association to determine. OR
 - ii. If the Spring ID Camp is by invitation only, Tryouts must be an open registration opportunity for all Draw Zone/Recruitment Area players.
3. **COMMITMENTS:** Any team who operates a Spring ID Camp may commit final roster positions to players. The number of players committed to is entirely up to the association/team. All players who have earned commitment must be shared publicly by August 1.
4. **INVITATION ONLY TRYOUTS:** If not operating an open registration tryout, teams must publicly share the list of players invited to Tryouts by August 1. The list must also clearly identify any players who have earned a Commitment.
5. **TRYOUT TIMELINES:** Elite Teams may operate Tryouts beginning August 15.
 - i. AAA rosters must be reduced to 20 players by the 4th Monday in September at the latest. (U17 AAA date Sept 29)
 - ii. AA rosters must be reduced to 20 players by October 1 at the latest (U16 AA date Oct 3)

Principles that Associations Must Uphold in their Tryout Process:

1. Players who want to play Elite Hockey, and have the skill to play Elite hockey, have the opportunity to be identified/tryout for an Elite Hockey team.
2. Players can develop throughout the off season and have a legitimate chance of earning an invitation to AAA Tryouts even if not invited following spring camp
3. The players who are closest to making Elite Hockey teams are released in time to afford access to a second tryout opportunity.
4. Players for Elite Hockey teams are selected based on merit





5. The Team formation processes are staggered to align with a proper flow-through of players within the Draw Zone and Recruitment Area
6. Where minor-aged players are pursuing junior hockey, Associations and coaches of teams must create plans in collaboration with the junior teams to accommodate the returning player a place to play on a previously registered team if returned to the Elite Stream. All players directly impacted by these plans should be informed and principle 4 must be upheld.

Elite Player Movement:

1. As changes are implemented to the tryout process, Elite Player Movement applications will continue to be received from May 1 to July 1, with decisions being rendered by July 15. This will be reviewed again during the 2025-26 season to determine if further changes are required.
2. Players can only participate in Spring ID Skates within the association they meet registration requirements for, based on the AAA/AA Hockey Model. This means any player who would require an Elite Player Movement Request to play for a AAA/AA team would not be eligible to participate in Spring ID skates for that association. Associations should account for this in their Spring ID process and in the number of commitments and invitations they offer.

Second Tryouts:

1. No player can skate in a second tryout during a Spring ID Camp.

Any questions can be directed to Hudson Kelly – Manager, Elite Leagues (hkelly@hockeyalberta.ca).

