

## Elite Team Formation Player Q & A – Spring 2026

### 1: What is a 'Spring' ID Camp?

A Spring ID Camp is any on-ice recruitment event(s) hosted for the purpose of introducing a program or providing commitments to prospective families for the upcoming or future seasons.

ID Camps can only be hosted following the conclusion of the hockey season (inclusive of playoffs and Provincials) and prior to June 1.

Spring ID Camps can result in eligible players earning commitments to the team, being invited to fall tryouts or being released from the team ahead of fall tryouts. These camps do not result in the final team being formed.

### 2: How many ID Camps can a player attend?

Players are only eligible to attend Spring ID Camps once their registered team has completed the 2025-26 season – including playoffs and provincials.

Players may only attend ONE (1) Spring ID Camp for a given Division & Category (ie: one U17 AAA, one U16 AA) . To be eligible for the Spring Camps, the athlete's Primary Association must fall within the specified Elite Draw Zone/AA Recruitment Area.

Clarification: Players eligible for U13 AAA, if a player's Primary MHA hosts a U13 AAA team, they may only attend the Spring ID Camp hosted by that U13 AAA Team. If a player's Primary MHA does not host U13 AAA, they may attend ONE (1) Spring ID Camp in a nearby association that hosts U13 AAA and is willing to accept them.

Exception: Players eligible for U18 AAA Female teams may attend as many Spring ID Camps as they are accepted to attend.

Exception: See Question 6 for more.

### 3: How do I know what Draw Zone/Recruitment Area I am in?

[AEHL AAA Draw Zones / AA Recruitment Areas](#)  
[AFHL Recruitment Areas](#)

### 4: Who can earn Commitments during ID Camps?

Only players whose Primary Association is within a Draw Zone/AA Recruitment Area.

Players who are applying through Elite Player Movement cannot earn a commitment to a team until after their Elite Player Movement application has been approved.

### 5: Where do I register for ID Camps if I played outside the AEHL/AFHL last year?

Players who played within other leagues during the 2025-2026 season are eligible to participate in Spring ID Camps as long as they meet the registration requirements of their Primary Draw Zone /

AA Recruitment Area.

## 6: Can I access my first tryout with a AA or AAA Team outside of my Primary Draw Zone/AA Recruitment Area?

Yes; the Elite Player Movement Process exists to allow players to apply to have their first tryout moved to a different draw zone if extenuating circumstances warrant the move (i.e. considerably closer travel, move without parent transfers, etc).

Factors such as 'coach preference', (other examples), are not considered extenuating circumstances.

The Elite Player Movement process will have two stages in 2026.

Stage 1: From March 1 to April 1, a player can apply for Elite Player Movement to access their first tryout in a different Elite Draw Zone / AA Recruitment Area and provide **temporary** access to a SECOND Spring ID Camp.

- Athletes who apply during this window will be provided **temporary permission**. This permission will provide them with access to Spring ID camps for both their Primary Elite Draw Zone/AA Recruitment Area and the Requested Host Association.
- The application to attend a second ID Camp must be **accepted** by the Requested Draw Zone/Recruitment Area Association.
- This temporary permission would only allow the player to attend the Spring ID Camp in their desired association and DOES NOT guarantee that the Elite Player Movement Application will be approved.
- Formal Elite Player Movement decisions will be made in June at which point, permission to with the Requested Host Association may be revoked if application is denied.

Stage 2: From May 1 to July 1, a player can apply for Elite Player Movement to access their first tryout with a different Elite Draw Zone / AA Recruitment Area.

- If an athlete has attended an ID Camp and been 'cut' from their Primary Draw Zone / Recruitment Area team, they need to access the second tryout process – not Elite Player Movement.
- Athletes who apply between May 1 – June 1 will have formal decisions rendered in June.
- Athletes who apply between June 1 – July 1 will have formal decisions rendered in July.

## 7: I made AA or AAA team in 2025-2026 outside of my Primary Draw Zone/Recruitment Area – either through Elite Player Movement or a second tryout - can I chose to return to the Association I played for last season?

Yes; Players can choose to start their Elite Tryout with the association they were most recently registered with, as long as:

- They are trying out for the same Category (i.e AAA → AAA or AA → AA), and
- The Association is willing to accept them.

Players who played AAA last season, can only return to access AAA hockey. If they wish to access AA hockey, they must return to their Primary AA Recruitment Area or apply for Elite Player

Movement.

If a player chooses to return to their last registered association for the 2026 Elite Tryout Process, they must contact the association they wish to return to. That association shall complete the required steps if they are willing to accept the player

In order to qualify for this 'Returning Player Exception', the player needs to have been approved through Elite Player Movement or who were successful on a second tryout in the Fall of 2025. If your designated Draw Zone/Recruitment Area has changed for 2026, the Player will need to access their first tryout with the new designated Draw Zone/Recruitment Area, or apply for Elite Player Movement.

Common scenarios would include if your Primary Draw Zone/Recruitment Area does not host at a specific level (i.e U16AA), but then hosts the Division (U18AA).

### **8: How can I access a Second Tryout?**

If a player is not selected for their Elite Draw Zone/Recruitment Area Team, they may begin to arrange a second tryout at that division & category. Players can be cut during Spring ID Camps or in Fall Tryouts, but can only participate in a second tryout during Fall Tryouts (no second tryouts permitted during Spring ID Camps). Players can only participate in one second tryout for a given division and category (ie, U15 AAA).

Exception: First year U18 players may only participate in one U18 AAA tryout in the AEHL.

Should you be accepted on a second tryout, the player must submit an Elite Player Waiver Form to document the second tryout. This form is available on the Hockey Alberta Website. The accepting Association cannot charge more than \$100 and must deliver a minimum of two and maximum of three skates before making a decision on whether the player will be offered a position on the team.

Teams will be required to cut down to 20 players left in camp five days prior to the start of the regular season. Players cut for the first time during this window will have 5 days to take part in a second tryout with another team before the season begins.

### **9: What if I don't earn a roster spot on a AA or AAA team, can I stay and play in that AA/AAA Association?**

Only if that is your Primary registered Association. All others must return to their Primary Association to access their tiered hockey options.