



RED DEER MINOR HOCKEY

Red Deer Minor Hockey U11 Fall Tryout Information

At the U11 division, Red Deer Minor Hockey offers multiple levels of competition in order to provide players with appropriate placement opportunities based on skill development, readiness, and long-term success.

For the upcoming season, players will have three available tryout entry streams:

- U11 AA (2-Teams)
- Tiered Hockey (U11 A / B / C)
- U11 D (Formerly City League)

All U11 tryout streams are open to all 2016 and 2017 born players.

Our goal is to create a clear and positive evaluation pathway while ensuring each athlete begins the season in an environment where they can develop confidence, compete effectively, and experience success.

Choosing the Right Tryout Stream

Unlike older age divisions that may require players to move through elite release pathways, U11 families will select the tryout stream they feel is the most appropriate starting point for their athlete.

We strongly encourage families to choose the stream where their player is most likely to experience:

- meaningful puck touches,
- competitive confidence,
- skill development,
- and game success.

While all streams remain open to all players, selecting the most appropriate competitive entry point helps create a more positive early season experience for both the player and the overall evaluation process.

Families know their athletes, and we ask parents to consider current readiness, previous playing experience, and developmental confidence when making registration decisions.

1. U11 AA Tryout

The U11 AA Tryout is intended for players seeking the highest level of competition available within the U11 division.

This stream is designed for athletes who demonstrate:

- advanced skating ability,
- strong puck skills,
- high compete level,
- and the ability to perform consistently in an accelerated hockey environment.

Players selecting this tryout stream will participate in the U11 AA evaluation process for placement onto the association's AA rosters.



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2. Tiered Hockey Tryout (U11 A / B / C)

The Tiered Hockey Tryout stream is designed for players seeking competitive placement within:

- U11 A
- U11 B
- U11 C

Through this evaluation process, players will be assessed and placed at the tiered level that best matches their current development and team readiness. Players may be moved to the U11 "D" Evaluation process.

This stream provides a strong competitive hockey environment while still allowing for balanced team formation and appropriate player progression.

3. U11 D (Formerly City League)

Players selecting U11 D will enter Red Deer Minor Hockey's former City League pathway.

This level focuses on:

- continued skill growth,
- team play development,
- confidence building,
- and age-appropriate competitive experiences.

U11 D provides an excellent hockey environment for athletes who are looking for a strong developmental season and competitive hockey within a limited travel area.

Goaltender Evaluations and Placement

Goaltender registration numbers can vary considerably within the U11 division from season to season.

Where registration numbers exceed available roster positions, Red Deer Minor Hockey will communicate with goalie families as early as possible regarding evaluation timelines, placement expectations, and available development pathways.

Given the high number of goaltenders that participated in U11 evaluations last season, early communication with goalie families will remain a priority throughout this year's tryout process. Should openings exist within higher levels of play, qualified goaltenders may be considered for advancement where development readiness makes this appropriate.

U11 Tryout Pathway at a Glance

U11 AA Tryout

For players seeking the highest available level of U11 competition.

Possible outcome:

- U11 AA roster selection,
- Released to Tiered Hockey.

Tiered Hockey Tryout

For players seeking placement within:

- U11 A
- U11 B
- U11 C

Possible outcome:

- Placement at the appropriate Tiered team level,
- Released to U11 "D" evaluation.



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U11 D (Formerly City League)

For players seeking a developmental and competitive team environment with limited travel.

Possible outcome:

- Placement within U11 D team structure

Our Commitment to Positive Player Placement

Red Deer Minor Hockey believes the U11 division is a critical stage in player confidence, enjoyment, and foundational skill development.

Our tryout model is built to ensure:

- players have multiple appropriate entry options,
- families can make informed decisions,
- evaluations remain fair and transparent,
- and each athlete is placed in the environment where they can best develop and succeed.

We encourage all families to carefully consider the tryout stream that provides the best opportunity for their athlete to enjoy the game, build confidence, and continue growing as a player.

Questions?

If you have questions regarding which U11 tryout stream is most appropriate for your athlete or have goaltender-specific questions, please contact Red Deer Minor Hockey prior to registering.

