



# RED DEER MINOR HOCKEY

## Red Deer Minor Hockey Fall Tryout Information U13

Our tryout structure has been designed to provide every player with a fair opportunity to be evaluated at the highest level they are capable of playing, while also ensuring a clear and transparent pathway through Elite, and Tiered hockey team selection.

Spring camps provide coaches with an early opportunity to evaluate players; however, the fall tryout season remains the official starting point for final roster selection for all teams.

### Where Does My Player Register?

Red Deer Minor Hockey offers three fall tryout entry streams based on the level your player participated in during the previous season.

#### 1. Elite Tryout Registration (AAA/AA Identification)

Players who played at any of the following levels during the **previous season** are eligible to register for the Elite Tryout process:

- U11 AA
- U11 A
- U13 AAA
- U13 AA
- U13 A
- U13 B
- U13 C

This tryout stream serves as the starting point for:

- U13 AAA Main Camp identification, and
- U13 AA team selection.

#### Why is the Elite Tryout open to these levels?

Player development does not stop in the spring.

By opening this process in the fall, Red Deer Minor Hockey ensures that players who have developed significantly over the off-season still have the opportunity to be identified and evaluated for elite-level hockey.

This allows the U13 AAA coaching staff to:

- Evaluate players for AAA tryout process,
- and select the strongest possible roster entering the season.

#### U13 AAA Spring Identification Camps and Coach Commitments

During the spring, Red Deer Minor Hockey held limited-entry Elite Identification Camps.

Registration for these camps was controlled using:

- previous season level of play,
- player evaluations, and
- Exceptional Status invitations where applicable.

For example, players eligible to attend the U13 AAA Spring Identification Camp were those who had played:

- U11 AA
- U13 A





# RED DEER MINOR HOCKEY

- U13 AA
- U13 AAA
- or had received an Exceptional Status invitation.
- Application from non-sanctioned players to return to sanctioned hockey were reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis.

Following spring camp evaluations, U13 AAA coaching staff were permitted to:

- commit up to 10 players to the upcoming season roster, and/or
- directly invite players into the U13 AAA Fall Main Camp.

These spring commitments help coaches begin early roster planning, but they do not eliminate player advancement opportunities in the fall.

The fall Elite Tryout remains open for players to earn movement into the U13 AAA Main Camp based on current performance.

## What Happens During the Elite Tryout (AAA/AA)?

Players registered in the Elite Tryout will be evaluated by Red Deer Minor Hockey evaluators and coaching staffs.

From this process:

- selected players will advance into the U13 AAA Main Camp process,
- the U13 AAA coaches and RDMH Evaluations will select an exhibition roster,
- and remaining eligible Red Deer resident players will continue into the U13 AA selection process.

## Important Residency Information

Only Red Deer resident or approved players are eligible to play AA hockey in Red Deer.

Players from outside Red Deer who are part of the Elite Tryout process and are not selected to the AAA main camp or have been released from the U13 AAA Tryout Camp will be released back to their home associations.

## 2. Tiered Hockey Tryout Registration

Players who played the previous season at the “D” level (formerly City League) will register for Tiered Hockey Tryouts or may register directly to the Tier “D” evaluations.

This tryout process is used to evaluate and place players on teams at the following levels:

- U13 A
- U13 B
- U13 C

Tiered Hockey Tryouts provide players with placement opportunities based on:

- skill development,
- game understanding,
- competitiveness,
- and team readiness.





# RED DEER MINOR HOCKEY

### 3. Tiered “D” Hockey Tryout Registration

All players are eligible to register for the “D” tryout evaluations. Players will have two evaluation skates and will be drafted by selected coaches onto teams using a balancing system brought forward by RDMH.

Tier “D” Hockey Tryouts provide players with placement based on:

- skill,
- game understanding,
- competitiveness,
- balance across all teams.

Tier “D” will participate in the Red Deer Minor Hockey League. Teams from outside the City of Red Deer may apply and be accepted to participate in the Red Deer Minor Hockey League (RDMH will not be looking to travel further than 45 minutes for any outside teams).

### Goaltender Evaluations and Placement

Goaltender registration numbers can vary significantly by age division and level of play each season. Red Deer Minor Hockey is committed to communicating with goalie families as early as possible throughout the tryout process should there be a surplus of registered goaltenders within a particular division. Our objective is to provide timelines and transparent information regarding evaluation opportunities, advancement pathways, and potential reassignment options.

Where roster vacancies exist, Red Deer Minor Hockey may evaluate opportunities to move qualified goaltenders upward within the system when age and development considerations make this appropriate. In situations where additional goaltenders are required the association may also extend opportunities within the Elite AA tryout process to second-tryout goaltenders from surrounding communities in order to ensure all available team positions are properly filled.

### Our Commitment to Fair Evaluation

Red Deer Minor Hockey recognizes that players develop at different rates and that significant growth can happen throughout the off-season.

Our fall tryout process is intentionally structured to ensure:

- all players begin in an appropriate evaluation stream,
- advancement opportunities remain open,
- coaches can identify current ability levels,
- and every athlete has the opportunity to compete for the highest level they are ready to play.

Our goal is to place each player where they can best develop, compete, and succeed during the upcoming hockey season.

### Questions?

If you have questions regarding player eligibility or which tryout registration stream is appropriate for your athlete, please contact Red Deer Minor Hockey prior to registering.