

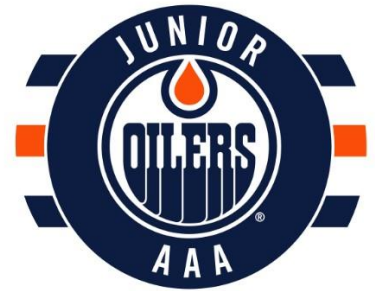
Edmonton Junior Oilers – U18 AAA (Blue/Orange) Team Formation

This document outlines the processes and stages utilized by the organization to form the two Junior Oilers U18 AAA teams (co-ed teams only). These two teams operate in an open boundary city-wide selection system. This system ensures that the most appropriate players in Edmonton are being selected, utilizing the outlined selection criteria (Character, Coachability, Compete Level, Skill Set and Player Roles, and Hockey IQ); with a primary vision to support Edmonton resident players, without external/influenced bias.

The Hockey Development Committee (HDC) is a sub-committee of the Hockey Edmonton Executive, consisting of experienced hockey personnel. The HDC manages the Junior Oilers program (co-ed and female teams), with endorsement from the Hockey Edmonton Executive.

Hockey operations are rarely seamless, however the HDC attempts to uphold the values of Hockey Edmonton and the mandate of the Junior Oilers program: to maintain the integrity of the program in its entirety, not just the integrity/performance of a single team. The mandate of the HDC, within the co-ed stream specifically, is to guide the creation and maintenance of two equitable U18 AAA teams. Inevitably, team logistics and performance (coaching execution, player performance, drafting execution, returning players, junior returnees, junior affiliations, injuries, etc.) will organically vary between the two teams annually, which will uniquely influence team performance outcomes. Interventions, mentorship, collaboration, and support may be required by the HDC to ensure that the goal of program parity is attempted to be achieved.

Please view important Team Formation standards/regulations below, outlining the various processes, strategies, and policies that will be executed in the team formation process for Team Blue and Team Orange on an annual basis. The team formation process consists of considerations/evaluations from the past season, player/family reviews, coach references, Spring ID Camps, video review, scouting reviews, and the official pre-season tryout process. Due to the ever-evolving hockey landscape, these processes, strategies, and policies must be fluid to ensure that the Junior Oilers program is putting the developmental/operational demands of the athletes and families at the forefront. At the end of each season, these elements are evaluated for effectiveness, transparency, and fairness.



Import Policy:

The mission and primary mandate of Hockey Alberta/AEHL is to create the most successful U18 AAA teams by selecting the most appropriate players/people, regardless of their residences.

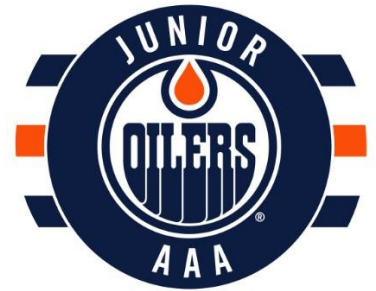
The mission and primary mandate of the Junior Oilers program (co-ed teams only) is to support Edmonton resident athletes. There is no steadfast rule against accepting import players within Edmonton at the U18 AAA (co-ed) level; however, the organization would only selectively explore import player opportunities that would help to enhance the culture and performance of the teams and/or based upon the specific needs of the program. All import player opportunities are evaluated and approved by the HDC. Import player opportunities would only be considered AFTER the AEHL U18 AAA exhibition series (mid-September).

The two Junior Oilers U18 AAA teams (co-ed teams only) do not operate or support billet programming. Only “special circumstance” billet opportunities would be evaluated, considered, and approved by the HDC upon application.

Returning Player “Preference” Declaration:

To facilitate increased cultural growth within each individual team, for the next three seasons (until end of the 2025-26), returning player preference data will be gathered at the end of each season. At the end of the 2025-26 season, this preference declaration process will be re-evaluated for effectiveness, transparency, and fairness. At the conclusion of each season, returning players will be given the opportunity to declare one of the following two “preference” options:

- “Return to the previous team” or
- “Return to the pool of players for selection at tryouts.”
- A preference declaration form will be sent to all potential returning players/families in **May** (after the season is completed); even if the player has signed a junior letter of intent (LOI) document for the subsequent season. This form will be distributed and collected by the Junior Oilers U18 AAA Registrar and results will be shared with the Registrar, Head Coaches, HDC, and Program or Team Director(s).
- A preference declaration of “return to the previous team” does not guarantee a position will be earned with the same team or with the Junior Oilers U18 AAA program altogether:
 - **Returning Players must still earn a position on their/a team.**



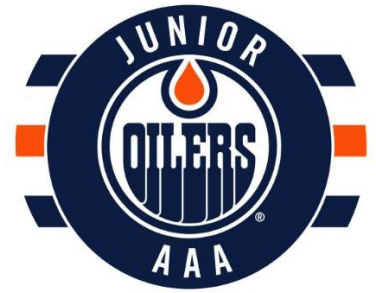
- A declaration to “return to the pool of players for selection at tryouts” may still result in the player being selected to the same team.
- Returning Players who declare their preference to “return to the pool of players for selection at tryouts,” can be signed to a Player Agreement by the other Junior Oilers team.
- Returning players (without signed junior LOI’s) must attend at minimum one Spring ID Camp, however attending more is strongly recommended.
- Returning players (with signed junior LOI’s) are also welcome and encouraged to attend any of the Spring ID Camps.
- If there is a significant discrepancy (more than TWO players) of returning players between the two teams, the HDC retains the ability to intervene and execute a collaborative solution to maintain the integrity of the program and ensure the program is working towards the goal of parity between the two teams. All and any decisions will be communicated with all affected parties. Possible resolution options could include, but are not limited to the following:
 - Returning player movement between teams.
 - Compensatory selections in the drafting process.
 - Distribution of Player Agreements prior to drafting process.



Player Agreements:

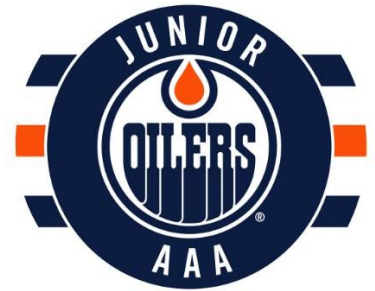
Commencing in the 2023-24 season all teams within the AEHL U18 AAA division are entitled to utilizing six (6) Hockey Alberta (AEHL) "Player Agreements" (cards), to "commit" to players before **June 20**:

- There are no positional stipulations with the "Hockey Alberta (AEHL) Player Agreements."
- Hockey Edmonton/Junior Oilers have enhanced the Hockey Alberta (AEHL) Player Agreement process by incorporating the mandatory utilization and collection of a "Hockey Edmonton Player Agreement form" and a non-refundable deposit:
 - Confirmed Player Agreement selections must be registered and submitted online (AEHL Database) by **June 20**. The submission of these players into the AEHL Database will be executed by the Program or Team Director(s).
 - Completed Hockey Edmonton Player Agreement forms must be submitted to the Junior Oilers U18 AAA Registrar by **June 20**.
 - A **\$3,000** (non-refundable) deposit must accompany the completed Hockey Edmonton Player Agreement form and is paid directly to Hockey Edmonton.
 - This deposit is required by **June 20**, or thirty (30) days after signing the Hockey Edmonton Player Agreement form (whichever is later).
 - Deposits can only be refunded if a player earns a position on a junior team.
 - Deposits will be collected by the Junior Oilers U18 AAA Registrar.
- **Once a Player Agreement is registered, signed, and a deposit is paid, the Player Agreement is binding by both parties, unless there is mutual consent to negate the agreement.**
- **Player Agreements must only be offered to players who will enhance the culture and performance of the club and team.**
- Only TWO Player Agreements per team may be utilized on first-year players.
 - A third Player Agreement for a first-year player may be applied for (explain rationale, etc.) and utilized after approval from the HDC.
- Tangible Incentives (arena visits, swag, etc.) to sign Player Agreements must be available/identical for both teams. Tangible Incentives must be approved by the Team Director/HDC before being utilized.



Player Agreement Process:

- **To be eligible to sign a Player Agreement, players must attend at minimum one Spring ID Camp, however attending more is strongly recommended.**
- Each team will submit a "Target player list" to the Hockey Development Committee (HDC) for approval on **May 10**. Both team lists will be compared to ensure no duplication or discrepancies.
 - **Duplications on the "Target player list" will be mediated and decided by the HDC.**
 - If players reject Player Agreement offers from coaches, new "target players" can be submitted to the HDC every Sunday evening by 7:00pm for consideration. Approval of the new lists will be approved within 24-hours of submission.
 - Teams cannot sign Player Agreements with declared returning players.
 - **Returning Players who declare their preference to "return to the pool of players for selection at tryouts," can be signed to a Player Agreement by the other Junior Oilers team.**
 - To ensure transparency within the Hockey Edmonton membership, all Player Agreements will be announced publicly on **July 1**, before tryouts begin at the beginning of September.



Tryout process/structure:

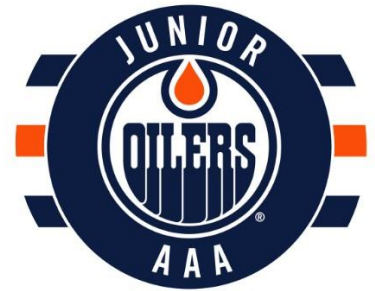
To build a consistent program model, the Junior Oilers (co-ed teams) will attempt to utilize the same tryout structure/process each season. At the end of each season, this structure/process will be evaluated for effectiveness, transparency, and fairness. The Junior Oilers will divide this tryout structure/process into four rounds:

- **Round 1 Tryouts:**

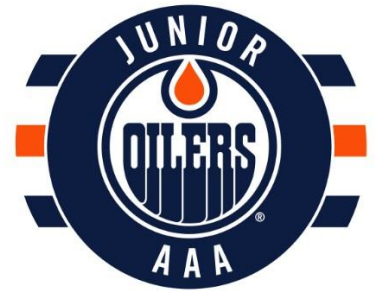
- Players will be granted three skates (games) during Round 1 of tryouts.
- Round 1 of tryouts will be priced at **\$100.00** per player. This must be paid in advance of first skate on **September 5**, to be eligible to participate.
 - All games will be the same format (one 5-minutes warmup; three 17-minutes run time periods).
 - Timekeepers and referees will be utilized for all games.
 - Coaches/Guest Coaches will be present on benches for Round 1 Tryout games:
 - **September 5:** one game per player.
 - **September 6:** one game per player.
 - **September 7:** one game per player.
 - One "Goalie Session" will be executed during Round 1 of tryouts.

- **Round 2 Tryouts: "Top 60" Selection:**

- Immediately after Round 1 of tryouts, a first list of the highest ranked (numerical order): 32 forwards, 20 defensemen, and 8 goalies, present at Round 1 of tryouts, will be submitted by each team and the HDC (three lists total).
- A final collaborative list of the "Top 60" players will be posted on **September 8 (12:00pm)** with final approval by the HDC on the Junior Oilers website.
 - **Unselected players will return to their Hockey Edmonton zoned Athletic Club.**
- These 60 selected players will then be placed onto four new teams (Navy, Orange, Grey, Sky): 8 forwards, 5 defensemen, and 2 goalies per team.
- Each team will play three more games between **September 8-9**.
- Round 2 of tryouts will be priced at **\$200.00** per player. This fee must be paid in advance of first skate on **September 8**, to be eligible to participate.
 - All games will be of the same format (one 5-minutes warmup; three 17-minutes run time periods).
 - Timekeepers and referees will be utilized for all games.
 - Coaches will be present on bench for Round 2 Tryout games:



- **September 8:** one game per player.
- **September 9:** two games per player.
- **Round 3 Tryouts: “Top 60” Draft:**
 - Immediately after Round 2 of tryouts, a second ranking list of the 60 players (numerical order): 32 forwards, 20 defensemen, and 8 goalies, present at Round 1 of tryouts, will be submitted by each team and the HDC (three lists total).
 - Immediately after Round 2 of tryouts, (on **September 9**), these Top 60 players will then be drafted into two teams and placed onto two separate HCR “tryout rosters” – Team Blue and Team Orange (Draft process is outlined below).
 - **After the “Top 60” draft, both teams will submit a list of “needs” to the HDC – ranking forward, defense, and goaltenders, from most to least desired.**
 - Team Blue and Team Orange will both practice on **September 10** with drafted players (two SAME practice sessions provided per team – 15 players per session).
 - Team Blue and Team Orange will enter the AEHL exhibition series (**September 11-17**) with tryout rosters of 30 players each.
 - Players are only guaranteed one practice (**September 10**) and one game (AEHL exhibition series) during Round 3 of tryouts.
 - Declared Returning players (if present at tryouts – back from junior) will be included within draft and must be taken by the team that they declared to return to.
 - Declared Returning players cannot be released until after the AEHL exhibition series (**September 17**), unless approved by the HDC.
 - If a player is released by one of the two teams, during Round 3 of Tryouts, they may be granted a second tryout with the other Junior Oilers team, or with another AEHL U18 AAA team.
- **“Top 60” Draft Process:**
 - Players are placed into categorized boxes (groups) by the HDC, using final rankings from all three submitted lists:
 - **Forwards:** Platinum, Gold, Silver, bronze (4 boxes).
 - **Defensemen:** Platinum, Gold, Silver, bronze (4 boxes).
 - **Goalies:** Platinum, Gold, Silver (3 boxes).
 - **First-years:** one or two boxes (dependent upon ability level and position availability).
 - **12 or 13 TOTAL BOXES**
 - The categorized boxes will be given to both teams in advance of the draft process.



- Each Team will select an equal number of players from the boxes, until boxes are empty.
- There will be a coinflip before each box.
 - Teams cannot win more than two-coin flips in a row.
- **Players must report to the team that they were drafted to.**
- **Round 4 Tryouts:**
 - After **September 17**, teams will commence their regular season weekly practice schedule.
 - Teams may seek exhibition games at their discretion before the start of the AEHL U18 AAA season on **October 1**.
 - **IMPORTANT: Players can be released at any time until January 10.**
 - Releases will be executed by the Junior Oilers U18 AAA Registrar.
 - Players (second- and third-year players only) can seek a second AEHL U18 AAA tryout at any point during the tryout process.
 - The Junior Oilers organization will be honest and transparent regarding the plans for each player/team. If players are better suited to obtain a second tryout, it is expected that the Junior Oilers coaches communicate those intentions openly with the players at a time that would allow the player to do so. The program will put the needs of the player at the forefront; however, coaches must be sure that the player does not fit on their team before releasing.

Junior Returnees:

- After the Top 60 players have been selected, all players returning from junior will be strategically placed onto teams by the HDC.
 - All junior returnees will be allocated by the HDC based upon the needs of the specific team(s).
 - Junior returnees can/will return to the tryout process at any point.
 - Declared returning players who return from junior will be placed onto their declared team (unless there are extenuating circumstances).
 - Players can return from junior up until **January 10**.
- If a player returns from junior (during/after Round 2), they will be required to pay the full **\$300.00** tryout fee per player like every other successful player in the tryout process.