

AEHL Memorandum 02 – 2022-2023

To: AEHL Members
From: Elite Male Hockey Committee
SUBJECT: **TRYOUT ELIGIBILITY FOR PLAYERS ATTENDING JUNIOR CAMPS**

AEHL Members,

The Alberta Elite Hockey League, since its inception, has aimed to be the premier minor hockey league in Alberta in both quality of play and league operations. Recently, it has been brought to the attention of the committee that certain associations have communicated to players considering attending Major Junior and Junior A tryout camps that doing so would negatively impact their chances of making a AAA team.

The Elite Male Hockey Committee would like to reiterate that the AEHL, like the WHL and AJHL, is a part of the Hockey Alberta and Hockey Canada ecosystem. As such, every AEHL member association is expected to conduct their operations, including the tryout process, in a fashion that supports any player looking to pursue Junior tryout and development opportunities. To be clear, under no circumstances may an association release a player from tryouts due to a player's absence from tryouts from attending camps with a Junior A or Major Junior team. Any teams found to be in violation of this practice may be subject to sanction.

The Elite Male Committee acknowledges this may create logistical challenges with the evaluation and team formation process and encourages any association facing these challenges to reach out to a member of the Elite Male Committee or Hockey Alberta Staff Member for assistance.

In order to be the premier minor hockey league in Alberta, the AEHL requires the premier players; many of whom have deservedly earned invitations to Junior A and Major Junior camps and deserve to pursue these opportunities. These players, if returned to AEHL member teams, should be given every chance to earn their place on the team and ensure that the AEHL's product is the best it can be.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Neil Robertson



Chair, Elite Male Committee – Hockey Alberta

CC. Elite Male Committee