



St. Albert Raiders

"O.O.R.A.H."



2024-25 ST. ALBERT U18AAA RAIDERS PLAYER SELECTION CRITERIA

O. O. R. A. H.

Old military saying/ battle cry. OORAH is a saying for affirmation/ never quit / and accepting the challenge no matter the obstacles.

Mission Statement

"Develop players in both hockey and life through, communication, preparation, organization and fun, while promoting a positive hockey experience."

The Process/ Key Dates

August 25, 2024: Goalie Skate. This is the start of the U18 AAA Raiders selection process for all goaltenders.

August 30-31, 2024: Rookie Camp. This is the start of the Raiders selection process for all 2009 born players/ goaltenders. Rookie camp schedule and rosters will be posted the Monday prior to camp. From this camp a select number of players will be selected to continue with the Raiders selection process on September 3rd. Those not continuing on with the U18 AAA selection process will move to U17 AAA, or U16 AA tryouts.

August 31-September 1, 2024: Main Camp. This is the start of the U18 AAA Raiders selection process for all 2007 and 2008 players/ goaltenders. Main Camp schedule and rosters will be posted the Monday prior to Camp. From this camp a select number of players will be selected to continue with the Raiders selection process on September 3rd. Those not continuing on with the U18 AAA selection process will move to U17 AAA, or U18 AA tryouts.

September 3, 2024: Following the September 3rd skate rosters will be cut down and posted to fill two teams for the Larry Mitchel Cup Blue and White inter-squad game.

September 5, 2024: Larry Mitchel Cup Blue and White inter-squad game. All further player releases will be conducted 1 on 1 with the Raiders coaching staff until a 20-man roster is filled.

January 10, 2025: All Hockey Canada Rosters must be finalized. It is imperative to note that due to transactions and player movement in both the CJHL and WHL, the U18 AAA Raiders roster may be impacted up until January 10.



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Selection Criteria- "The Raider Way"

****Character and accountability are non-negotiable. We need not only good hockey players, but must have good people as well****

There will be specific roles and responsibilities that need to be filled. However, on a global scale the Raiders are looking for the following

SPEED: We are looking for players that have the ability to play with speed. This means the ability to skate, transport the puck quickly and think a couple plays ahead.

HOCKEY SENSE: We are looking for players who have the ability to read the play and adapt accordingly, so that they can make plays under pressure. Players who have the ability to learn. We love to teach, and want everyone to improve. Players must be able to be given instruction once or twice and then implement. Be a student of the game. Ask questions. Try to understand the why in everything we do as a team.

ACCOUNTABLE: We are looking for *hockey players*. Not people that are here just to play hockey. We need players who do things on their own to prepare and get better. Not because it's what the coaches said to do, but because it's just who they are and what they do. This team is a privilege and an opportunity for players to develop and move on to the next level. We are not interested in guys that just want to "hang with the boys" because it's their social scene.

We are looking for players who don't allow their teammates to fail, look after each other, and lead the way. These players will take ownership of the team and make it better than when they arrived. We are totally supportive of players adding to the traditions and legacy that is before them, and in turn making this their team. Communication between the players and the coaching staff is key. Players need to have the ability as student-athletes to handle constructive criticism (feedback) and learn from their mistakes (growth mindset) using all the tools available to them (video, off ice workouts, IDPs etc) Players with the ability to promote open communication is paramount. They are encouraged to talk with the coaching staff as much as they can. If the team needs something let the coaching staff know and we will do our best to make it happen.

WINNERS: We are looking for winners. Players who are competitive but humble. Players who not only want to win, because everyone wants to win, but we want Players who also hate to lose.

FUN: We are looking for players that have fun and enjoy working hard and competing. Those who are competitive but positive in nature. Who truly love coming to the rink. If you can have fun while you compete, your performance and development can be as high as you want. Everyone does better when you're having fun.





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Goaltender Specific

- 1) **Tracks the puck fully.** Be it to his glove, blocker or corner. No swatting at pucks.
- 2) **Rebound control.** Has the ability to either swallow pucks or at the least steers pucks to the corners, not out into the fatal funnel.
- 3) **Skating ability.** Allowing the goaltender to challenge the shooter. Strong but controlled pushes. We need our goaltenders to battle because of the situation not because they are over pushing and out of position.
- 4) **Puck Handling.** At the least, be able to trap pucks off of dumps. Benefit to puck playing skills (catch-pass or passing the puck up ice). This can seriously limit the effectiveness of an opposing teams forecheck.
- 5) **BLA (Body Language and Attitude).** Goaltenders should be one of the most competitive players on the ice. They should never quit on a play. Both in practices and games. They need to exude confidence while remaining in control. Be resilient. Hockey is a game of mistakes. Its how you respond after a mistake, that will reveal your resiliency.
- 6) **Makes the Save.** Last but not least. Short term competition is about performing in pressure situations. The ability to come up with the big save in the big moment is something that is critical. Especially in the game management/ momentum time frames. First and last 3 minutes of each period, the shift after goals for or against, and after special teams.