



What if I want to tryout for the Texas Jr. Stars and the Pond Team?

The Pond encourages kids to tryout for any and every team he or she wishes. We understand that the Pond Elite DT may be a "back-up" choice for some. If a kid makes Pond Elite DT, he or she can put in a deposit to hold the slot. If that same kid decides to do Jr. Stars and makes the Jr. Stars, we will refund their Pond Elite DT deposit if we are able to sell that slot to someone on our waiting list. We have no idea if there will be a waiting list, as we don't know how many will try out. We do ask that players indicate if they are trying out for the Stars so we can have an appropriate alternate list for the teams.

Why are the tryouts early?

The tryouts are early for a variety of reasons. We have an in depth understanding of the time it takes to get a season's schedule in place. This operation takes close to 8 weeks with all the parties involved. If we have a good understanding of the interest level far enough in advance we can be much more organized this fall. We also want to support families who travel and kids who go to summer camp. We wanted to have our tryouts sooner, but we must adhere to the TAHA rules, which include regulated tryout dates. Finally, we want to give players the opportunity to fundraise for their season. We plan to have some fundraising opportunities for our players to take advantage of over the summer.

When does Practice Start?

Elite DT Practice doesn't start until kids are back from summer (late August/early September). We want our players to be playing baseball, football, lacrosse, gymnastics, soccer, etc. in the fall. We totally understand if players can't get on the ice for 3-4 days/week until late October/early November. Our practices will be on Fridays so they interfere the least with other fall sports.

Travel or Elite Development

Our program is an alternative option for families. We aim to attract skaters/families who want a ton of local ice time (5-12 hrs/week through our programs and Chap's programs) and coaching (up to 5 hrs/week through our programs and Chap's programs) here in Austin. We do not aim to attract families who feel that travel team is a better fit for their kids. Those who would rather do a travel team may be very disappointed with the Pond Elite DT experience as we will only attend 3-4 tournaments, resulting in only a 10-16 game schedule outside of Austin. We know there is a large contingent who value the competition provided in the travel leagues and we encourage you to go that route. We aim to attract the families/kids who believe that tons of deep practice, coaching and some competition sprinkled in is a better fit for their hockey aspirations, and their family lifestyle.

What if My Player Does not Make Either Travel or Development?

We understand there may be families out there who are very concerned their kid may not make any of these other teams, and fear their kid will not get the chance to develop. The Pond will be offering Hockey Academy 2-3 nights/week next season. We will give first rights to Hockey Academy slots to those kids who tried out for Pond DT or Jr.Stars and did not make a team, but still really want the coaching and ice time to develop as players.