

With the National Hockey League's expansion to Las Vegas, Nevada in 2017, the Elite Hockey Experience will also be following suit in adding a 31st team to its leagues. Las Vegas will be home to the eighth team in the Pacific Division of the Gretzky Conference.



Expansion Draft

After the conclusion of the 2016-17 EHE season, an expansion draft will be held to formulate a base roster for the new franchise.

Protected Lists

* Clubs will have two options for players they wish to protect in the Expansion Draft:

- a) Seven forwards, three defensemen, and one goaltender
- b) Eight skaters (forwards/defensemen) and one goaltender

* All players designated as "Franchise Players" at the time of the Expansion Draft must be protected and will be counted toward their club's applicable protection limits (except for impending free agents who will not be re-signed).

* Players who play their first or second real-life professional season in 2016-17, as well as all unsigned draft choices, will be exempt from selection (and will not be counted toward their club's applicable protection limits).

Player Exposure Requirements

* All clubs must meet the following minimum requirements regarding players exposed for selection in the Expansion Draft:

- i) One defenseman who is a) under contract in 2017-18 in and b) played in 40 or more NHL-level games during the 2016-17 **EHE** regular season OR played in 70 or more NHL-level games since the start of the 2015-16 **EHE** regular season.
- ii) Two forwards who are a) under contract in 2017-18 and b) played in 40 or more NHL-level games during the 2016-17 **EHE** regular season OR played in 70 or more NHL-level games since the start of the 2015-16 **EHE** regular season.
- iii) One goaltender who is a) under contract in 2017-18 or will be a restricted free agent at the expiration of his current contract immediately prior to 2017-18 and b) started 12 or more NHL-level games during the 2016-17 **EHE** regular season OR started 20 or more NHL-level games since the start of the 2015-16 **EHE** regular season.

* Certain player types may not be used to satisfy a club's player exposure requirements, unless approval is received from the EHE. Such players also may be deemed exempt from selection by the League.

- i) Players with potential career-ending injuries who have missed more than the previous 60 consecutive games (or who otherwise have been confirmed to have a career-threatening injury).

ii) Retired players whose rights are still owned. (i.e.: Duration of contract had not been completed at the time of retirement).

iii) Deactivated players whose rights are currently owned and had previously been under contract. (i.e.: Overseas transfers)

* Players who are scheduled to transfer overseas in 2017-18 may be used to satisfy a club's exposure requirements if all other criteria is met.

* Any club who fails to meet the Exposure Requirements will lead to a second player or prospect – *regardless of protection rights* – being selected from that club by the Las Vegas franchise.

Regulations Relating to Expansion Franchise

* The Golden Knights must select one player from each presently-existing club for a total of 30 players (not including additional players who may be acquired as the result of violations of the Expansion Draft rules).

* The Golden Knights must select the following number of players at each position:
14 forwards, nine defensemen, and three goaltenders.

* The Golden Knights must select a minimum of 20 players who are under pre-existing contract for the 2017-18 season.

* The Golden Knights must select players with an aggregate Expansion Draft payroll value that meets or exceeds the 2016-17 season salary floor of \$40,500,000.

* The Golden Knights may not buy out any of the players selected in the Expansion Draft earlier than the summer of 2018.

The 30 EHE Clubs must submit their Protection List by 5:00 P.M. ET on Sunday, June 25, 2017. The Golden Knights must submit their Expansion Draft selections by 7:00 P.M. ET on Saturday, July 1, 2017.

2017 Entry Draft

In order to give the Golden Knights a better opportunity to hold a prospect group comparable to the other EHE clubs, the 2017 EHE Entry Draft will be expanded to seven rounds.

The Golden Knights' first-round selection in the 2017 EHE Entry Draft will be determined in accordance with the 2017 EHE Draft Lottery. Vegas will be given the same odds in the 2017 EHE Draft Lottery as the team finishing with the third-fewest points during the 2016-17 regular season. As a result, Vegas will be guaranteed no lower than the sixth overall selection.

Vegas will then select third in each subsequent round of the 2017 NHL Entry Draft (subject to trades and other potential player transactions).

Additionally, Vegas will be awarded an eighth draft pick at the end of the draft, 218th overall. This will be treated as a compensatory draft pick and is not a tradable asset.