



INFORMATION BULLETIN

Bulletin No: 14/35

Date: April 8, 2015
To: Minor Hockey Associations
Female Hockey Leagues
From: Tim Leer
Senior Manager, Team Alberta Programs

SUBJECT: Female Hockey Review Committee - Update

At the March meeting of the Hockey Alberta Board of Directors, several recommendations were approved to help develop a new operating structure for female hockey in Alberta.

The recommendations are the result of more than two years of work, dating back to 2013 when an independent review of female hockey was completed by Rick Polutnik. The report from that review provided the direction for work undertaken throughout 2014 and early 2015 by a Female Hockey Review Committee. That committee, comprised of representatives of all stakeholders in female hockey in Alberta, compiled the recommendations that were presented to, and approved by, the Board of Directors.

The recommendations include:

1. To approve the following principles as the framework for establishing the Female Hockey Model in Alberta.
 - a. A feeder system approach must be established and sustained
 - b. Team Alberta programs are the pinnacle of the pyramid and take precedent over Club Team activities. In saying this, dates and communication must occur to have the system function properly and cohesively in order to benefit the athletes. Yearly meetings must occur prior to schedules and dates being finalized by any one group.
 - c. Long term player development philosophy is to be adhered to.
 - d. Regionalization approach to support teams and numbers (Midget AA, Bantam AA and some local programs as well)
 - e. Peers playing with peers: A player can move up one age division for the purpose of creating teams. If players are needed to form a team, a regional approach should be taken and not a combination of age divisions
 - f. Provincial number of teams are set at each level (elite and AA) in order to keep the competitive balance and nature of the level of hockey.
 - g. No boundaries for the Midget AAA division. Establish a letter of intent process to be signed by the player and team.
 - h. Create a player acceleration policy.
2. To reduce the number of teams categorized and participating in the top level of Midget in Alberta.



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3. To create a “feeder” system via league play and other opportunities that would complement the AAA level by establishing a Midget AA league (maximum 16 teams).
4. To define the top level of Bantam Female hockey as “developmental” that is part of a “feeder” system that will enable the players to refine their skills prior to Midget.
5. To adopt a regional philosophy and education model for Minor Hockey Associations to rebuild and structure grassroots leagues and systems into a provincially-organized model.
6. To approve two implementation committees to begin their work immediately to establish the processes and structure based on the above recommendations and the outlined female hockey model.
7. To approve a plan for focused resources for Female Hockey in order to support the needs of the game and the female hockey community.

These recommendations provide the direction for the path forward, but much of the detailed work is still to be completed. The implementation committees (Elite and Grassroots) will begin a process of working out the details of the recommendations and how they will unfold for the 2015-16 and subsequent seasons. Please note that all recommendations and findings brought forth by these implementation committees must also be presented and approved by the Board of Directors of Hockey Alberta.

For any further information or questions please contact Tim Leer (tLeer@hockeyalberta.ca) or Kevin Macrae (kmacrae@hockeyalberta.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Leer".

Tim Leer
Senior Manager, Team Alberta Programs