



INFORMATION BULLETIN 22-08

February 6, 2023

AFHL U15AA and U13AA Franchises

Hockey Alberta's Elite Female Hockey Committee has been reviewing the location and number of teams at each level of hockey within the Alberta Female Hockey League (AFHL). We are continually reviewing and identifying ways to ensure alignment within the Elite Female Hockey Model as well as establishing a progression for players within the entire hockey system. The review focused on the following areas:

- Current and historical registration numbers (within Recruitment Areas and provincially);
- Competitiveness of the teams;
- Each Host MHA's commitment to player development;
- Each Host MHA's commitment to growth and development of grassroots female hockey;
- Impact to existing Minor Hockey Associations.

On November 2, Hockey Alberta announced the addition of a new U13 AA division within the AFHL, as well as expansion of the U15 AA division, and officially opened an application process for Minor Hockey Associations (MHAs) to apply to host those teams.

- The addition of a U13 AA division provides a competitive all-female option for female athletes that enter the Elite system, and establishes a development pathway for athletes to progress through.
- Expansion of the number of U15 AA teams is a direct result of increasing numbers of female players entering and progressing through the Elite Female Hockey Model.

After a thorough review of all applications, Hockey Alberta's Elite Female Hockey Committee is excited to announce the addition of the following Host MHAs, effective for the 2023-24 season:

1. U13 AA - 16 Teams

Host MHAs: Airdrie, Bonnyville, Calgary (3), Camrose, Edmonton (2), Grande Prairie, Leduc, Lethbridge, Lloydminster, Okotoks, Red Deer, Sherwood Park, and St. Albert

2. U15 AA - Addition of 2 Teams

1 in Calgary (3 total)

1 in Edmonton (2 total)

The Elite Female Committee also identified the need to address the operational structure of the South Central recruitment area. The current structure included two Host MHAs separately operating teams within the same recruitment area and lacked unified leadership. After working with the Host MHAs, it was determined one Host MHA was required, and Airdrie MHA will take on the responsibility of hosting all U13 AA, U15 AA and U18 AA teams in the South Central recruitment area.

The Elite Female Hockey Committee is working with all Host MHAs to finalize details of program and league operations for the upcoming season. We will also continue to review the structure and alignment of U18 AAA and U18 AA, discussing a potential expansion in the 2024-25 season.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

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