

APPENDIX "II"

'AA' HOCKEY MODEL





'AA' HOCKEY MODEL

1. INTRODUCTION

The 'AA' Hockey Model ensures that players across Alberta have an opportunity to access 'AA' hockey. The model provides a regional hockey structure that is focused on developing athletes while acting as a "feeder system" for 'AAA' hockey. It provides movement options to meet the needs of the player, as well as the 'AA' teams. The model is designed around guiding principles that require all parents, coaches, and Minor Hockey Association's (MHAs) to always act in the best interest of the athlete to help them develop and progress through the hockey system.

This document outlines regulations that apply to the Leagues, MHA's, Teams, and Players that are operating and/ or participating in 'AA' hockey. All Minor Hockey Regulations apply to 'AA' hockey, unless specific regulations within this model alter the meaning for the purpose of 'AA' Hockey.

2. LEAGUE STRUCTURE

2.1 Hockey Alberta has established the Alberta Elite Hockey League (AEHL) to operate 'AA' hockey (U18 AA, U16 AA, U15 AA, and U13 AA) in Alberta. Hockey Alberta has established the Elite Hockey Committee to implement and oversee AEHL operations. The committee implements and monitors the day-to-day operations of League play in accordance with the established Bylaws, Regulations, Policies and Procedures.

2.2 The AEHL will use conferences and/ or divisions to operate the 'AA' Hockey Model across the Province. If an MHA or organization operates a conference or division, they will follow the 'AA' Hockey Model, as well as their own Bylaws, Regulations and Policies while operating the conference or division.

2.3 The member MHA's and/ or Teams that have been assigned to each specific conference or division will have voting rights at league, conference and/ or division meetings.

3. DEFINITIONS

The following definitions for words and phrases are to be applied solely for the purposes of the 'AA' Hockey Model and may or may not be the same as those definitions as outlined in other sections of the Hockey Alberta and Hockey Canada Bylaws and Regulations.

- (a) **"AA Hockey Model"** means the regulations established to govern 'AA' hockey;
- (b) **"Recruitment Area"** is the area of MHAs that makes up the feeder system from which each 'AA' Team can recruit and/ or affiliate registered Players.
- (c) **"Import Player"** shall be defined in elite hockey as a 'AA' registered player who accessed the Elite Player Movement process and/ or an additional tryout.

4. CRITICAL DATES

April 1	MHAs can begin operating spring player identification camps
May 1	'AA' Player Movement Application process opens
July 1	Deadline for 'AA' Player Movement Applications to be submitted
September 1	'AA' Recruitment Area Evaluation Camps can start
September 20	All First Try-Outs must be completed
October 1	All approved Second Try-Outs must be completed Regular Season schedule can begin
December 1	Deadline to submit Applications to expand or contract the number of Teams



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January 10	Final date to Release a Player from a Team
January 15	Deadline for MHA's to file Affiliation at 5:00PM MST
February 10	Final date to Register a Player to a Team
February 28	Regular Season complete
March	Provincial Championship Tournaments

** These dates reflect the ideal state and actual dates may alter somewhat from these targets.*

5. RECRUITMENT AREAS

To establish a fair and equitable structure for all teams within the 'AA' Hockey Model, *Recruitment Areas* have been established. The Recruitment Areas ensure there is an opportunity for all players that want to, and have the skill to, play within the 'AA' Hockey Model the ability to access it. The Recruitment Areas establish a consistent development system for players throughout the Province by structuring a feeder system from Minor Hockey to 'AA' and up to 'AAA'.

- 5.1 Recruitment Areas for each Division/Category within the 'AA' Hockey Model do not overlap;
- 5.2 MHAs are assigned to one specific Recruitment Area and the players registered within those MHAs make up the feeder system for the area;
- 5.3 Hockey Edmonton and Hockey Calgary, as MHA's, may have structured smaller Recruitment Areas within their boundaries;
- 5.4 Each Recruitment Area has a Host MHA identified within it and this Host MHA is responsible for operating the 'AA' Team(s) identified for the area, in accordance with this 'AA' Hockey Model.
- 5.5 Recruitment Areas are based on registration numbers, geographic locations, and travel time to the Host MHA (taking the age of the players into consideration, the Recruitment Areas and Host MHAs for the U13 AA Division vary from the U15, U16 and U18 AA Divisions).



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U18 'AA' RECRUITMENT AREAS

Grande Prairie	Peace River	Wainwright	Fort Saskatchewan
Beaverlodge Clairmont East Smoky Grande Cache Grande Prairie Grovedale Horse Lake Hythe La Glace Rycroft Savanna Sexsmith Spirit River Valleyview Wembley	Fairview Grimshaw High Level High Prairie La Crete Loon River Manning Nampa Peace River Rainbow Lake Smoky River	3C's Chauvin Edgerton Hughenden Irma Mannville Provost Vermilion Viking Wainwright	Boyle Elk Island Fort Saskatchewan Redwater Smoky Lake Thorhild Two Hills Vegreville
Bonnyville	Spruce Grove	Camrose	Whitecourt
Bonnyville Cold Lake Elk Point Frog Lake Glendon Goodfish Lake Lac La Biche Mallaig Plamondon Saddle Lake St. Paul	Enoch Pembina Spruce Grove Stony Plain	Bashaw Battle River Camrose Holden Maskwacis Thunderstars Wetaskiwin	Edson Fox Creek Hinton Jasper Mayerthorpe Slave Lake Swan Hills Whitecourt
Sturgeon	Lloydminster	Leduc	Beaumont
Athabasca Barrhead CNN CR Knights Sturgeon Wabasca Westlock	Kitscoty Lloydminster Marwayne-Dewberry Onion Lake Paradise Valley	Drayton Valley Leduc Millet West 39	Beaumont Devon New Sarepta
Strathcona	Fort McMurray	St. Albert	Sherwood Park
Strathcona Tofield	Fort McMurray	St. Albert **Two Teams**	Sherwood Park
Edmonton			
Teams To Be Determined by HE and HA			



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U18 'AA' RECRUITMENT AREAS

Strathmore	Olds	Lacombe	Taber
Bassano Chestermere Drumheller East Wheatland Hanna Indus Morrin Rockyford Siksika Strathmore	Bowden Innisfail Kneehill Olds RMAA Sundre	Big Valley Blackfalds Clive Delburne Endmoor Lacombe Ponoka Stettler	Bow Island Brooks Coaldale Duchess Foremost Picture Butte Raymond Taber Vauxhall
Lethbridge	Medicine Hat	Foothills	Sylvan Lake
Cardston Crowsnest Pass Fort MacLeod Kainai Lethbridge Magrath Piikani Nation Pincher Creek	Irvine Medicine Hat Oyen Redcliff	Claresholm Foothills High Country Nanton Vulcan	Blindman Valley Caroline Rocky Mountain House Spruce View Sylvan Lake
Cochrane	Airdrie	Red Deer	Okotoks
Banff Canmore Cochrane Cremona	Airdrie Beiseker	Red Deer	Okotoks
Calgary			
Teams To Be Determined by HC and HA			



'AA' HOCKEY MODEL

U16 'AA' RECRUITMENT AREAS

Grande Prairie		Lloydminster	Fort Saskatchewan
Beaverlodge Clairmont East Smoky Fairview Grande Cache Grande Prairie Grimshaw Grovedale High Level High Prairie Horse Lake Hythe La Glace	La Crete Loon River Manning Nampa Peace River Rainbow Lake Rycroft Savanna Sexsmith Smoky River Spirit River Valleyview Wembley	Chauvin Edgerton Kitscoty Lloydminster Mannville Marwayne-Dewberry Onion Lake Paradise Valley Provost Vermilion Wainwright	Athabasca Boyle CNN Elk Island Fort Saskatchewan Redwater Smoky Lake Sturgeon HC Thorhild Two Hills Vegreville Wabasca Westlock
Bonnyville	Spruce Grove	Camrose	Beaumont
Bonnyville Cold Lake Elk Point Frog Lake Glendon Goodfish Lake Lac La Biche Mallaig Plamondon Saddle Lake St. Paul	Barrhead CR Knights Enoch Pembina Spruce Grove Stony Plain	3 C's Bashaw Battle River Camrose Holden Hughenden Irma Maskwacis Thunderstars Viking Wetaskiwin	Beaumont Devon Drayton Valley Leduc Millet New Sarepta West 39
Strathcona	Whitecourt	St. Albert	Sherwood Park
Strathcona Tofield	Edson Fox Creek Hinton Jasper Mayerthorpe Slave Lake Swan Hills Whitecourt	St. Albert	Sherwood Park
Edmonton	Fort McMurray		
Teams To Be Determined by HE and HA	Fort McMurray		



'AA' HOCKEY MODEL

U16 'AA' RECRUITMENT AREAS

Strathmore	Lethbridge	Sylvan Lake	Airdrie
Bassano Chestermere Drumheller East Wheatland Hanna Indus Kneehill Morrin Rockyford Siksika Strathmore	Cardston Claresholm Coaldale Crowsnest Pass Fort MacLeod Kainai Lethbridge Magrath Picture Butte Piikani Nation Pincher Creek Raymond Taber Vauxhall	Blackfalds Blindman Valley Bowden Caroline Innisfail Lacombe Olds Ponoka Rocky Mountain House Spruce View Sundre Sylvan Lake	Airdrie Beiseker RMAA
Red Deer	Medicine Hat	Okotoks	Cochrane
Big Valley Clive Delburne Endmoor Red Deer Stettler	Bow Island Brooks Duchess Foremost Irvine Medicine Hat Oyen Redcliff	Foothills High Country Nanton Okotoks Vulcan	Banff Canmore Cochrane Cremona
Calgary			
Teams To Be Determined by HC and HA			



'AA' HOCKEY MODEL

U15 'AA' RECRUITMENT AREAS

Grande Prairie	Peace River	Wainwright	Fort Saskatchewan
Beaverlodge Clairmont East Smoky Grande Cache Grande Prairie Grovedale Horse Lake Hythe La Glace Rycroft Savanna Sexsmith Spirit River Valleyview Wembley **Two Teams**	Fairview Grimshaw High Level High Prairie La Crete Loon River Manning Nampa Peace River Rainbow Lake Smoky River	3C's Chauvin Edgerton Hughenden Irma Mannville Provost Vermilion Viking Wainwright	Boyle Elk Island Fort Saskatchewan Redwater Smoky Lake Thorhild Two Hills Vegreville
Bonnyville	Spruce Grove	Camrose	Whitecourt
Bonnyville Cold Lake Elk Point Frog Lake Glendon Goodfish Lake Lac La Biche Mallaig Plamondon Saddle Lake St. Paul	Enoch Pembina Spruce Grove Stony Plain **Two Teams**	Bashaw Battle River Camrose Holden Maskwacis Thunderstars Wetaskiwin	Edson Fox Creek Hinton Jasper Mayerthorpe Slave Lake Swan Hills Whitecourt
Sturgeon	Lloydminster	Leduc	Beaumont
Athabasca Barrhead CNN CR Knights Sturgeon Wabasca Westlock	Kitscoty Lloydminster Marwayne-Dewberry Onion Lake Paradise Valley	Drayton Valley Leduc Millet West 39	Beaumont Devon New Sarepta
Strathcona	Fort McMurray	St. Albert	Sherwood Park
Strathcona Tofield	Fort McMurray	St. Albert **Three Teams**	Sherwood Park **Two Teams**
Edmonton			
Teams to be determined by HE and HA			



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U15 'AA' RECRUITMENT AREAS

Strathmore	Olds	Lacombe	Taber
Bassano Chestermere Drumheller East Wheatland Hanna Indus Morrin Rockyford Siksika Strathmore	Bowden Innisfail Kneehill Olds RMAA Sundre	Big Valley Blackfalds Clive Delburne Endmoor Lacombe Ponoka Stettler	Bow Island Brooks Coaldale Duchess Foremost Picture Butte Raymond Taber Vauxhall
Lethbridge	Medicine Hat	Foothills	Sylvan Lake
Cardston Crowsnest Pass Fort MacLeod Kainai Lethbridge Magrath Piikani Nation Pincher Creek	Irvine Medicine Hat Oyen Redcliff	Claresholm Foothills High Country Nanton Vulcan	Blindman Valley Caroline Rocky Mountain House Spruce View Sylvan Lake
Cochrane	Airdrie	Red Deer	Okotoks
Banff Canmore Cochrane Cremona	Airdrie Beiseker	Red Deer	Okotoks
Calgary			
Teams to be determined by HC and HA			



'AA' HOCKEY MODEL

U13 'AA' RECRUITMENT AREAS

Grande Prairie	Peace River	Wainwright	Fort Saskatchewan
Beaverlodge Clairmont East Smoky Grande Cache Grande Prairie Grovedale Horse Lake Hythe La Glace Rycroft Savanna Sexsmith Spirit River Valleyview Wembley **Two Teams**	Fairview Grimshaw High Level High Prairie La Crete Loon River Manning Nampa Peace River Rainbow Lake Smoky River	3C's Chauvin Edgerton Hughenden Irma Mannville Provost Vermilion Viking Wainwright	Boyle Elk Island Fort Saskatchewan Redwater Smoky Lake Thorhild Two Hills Vegreville
Bonnyville	Spruce Grove	Camrose	Whitecourt
Bonnyville Cold Lake Elk Point Frog Lake Glendon Goodfish Lake Lac La Biche Mallaig Plamondon Saddle Lake St. Paul	Enoch Pembina Spruce Grove Stony Plain	Bashaw Battle River Camrose Holden Maskwacis Thunderstars Wetaskiwin	Edson Fox Creek Hinton Jasper Mayerthorpe Slave Lake Swan Hills Whitecourt
Sturgeon	Lloydminster	Leduc	Beaumont
Athabasca Barrhead CNN CR Knights Sturgeon Wabasca Westlock	Kitscoty Lloydminster Marwayne-Dewberry Onion Lake Paradise Valley	Drayton Valley Leduc Millet West 39	Beaumont Devon New Sarepta
Strathcona	Fort McMurray	St. Albert	Sherwood Park
Strathcona Tofield	Fort McMurray	St. Albert **Two Teams**	Sherwood Park
Edmonton			
Teams to be determined By HE and HA ** 8 Teams **			



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U13 'AA' RECRUITMENT AREAS

Strathmore	Olds	Lacombe	Taber
Bassano Chestermere Drumheller East Wheatland Hanna Indus Morrin Rockyford Siksika Strathmore	Bowden Innisfail Kneehill Olds RMAA Sundre	Big Valley Blackfalds Clive Delburne Endmoor Lacombe Ponoka Stettler	Bow Island Brooks Coaldale Duchess Foremost Picture Butte Raymond Taber Vauxhall
Lethbridge	Medicine Hat	Foothills	Sylvan Lake
Cardston Crowsnest Pass Fort MacLeod Kainai Lethbridge Magrath Piikani Nation Pincher Creek	Irvine Medicine Hat Oyen Redcliff	Claresholm Foothills High Country Nanton Vulcan	Blindman Valley Caroline Rocky Mountain House Spruce View Sylvan Lake
Cochrane	Airdrie	Red Deer	Okotoks
Banff Canmore Cochrane Cremona	Airdrie Beiseker	Red Deer	Okotoks
Calgary			
Teams to be determined by HC and HA ** 12 Teams **			



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6. TRYOUT PROCEDURES

The top, eligible, players should be selected for each team, regardless of where they reside within the Recruitment Area. An objective of the 'AA' Hockey Model is to provide opportunities for the best players to play at the highest level.

- 6.1 To align the different levels of hockey, supporting player pathways and the established feeder system within Alberta, 'AA' Teams are not permitted to begin the player evaluation and selection process for the current season until *September 1*.
- 6.2 One week prior to tryouts beginning, a list of the names of players trying out and their resident MHA must be sent to all associations in a 'AA' Host Association's recruitment area and all associations that have players participating at tryouts. An updated list must be sent for any players accepted on second tryouts.
- 6.3 Players are expected to access their first tryout within the Recruitment Area that draws from the MHA the player is a resident of.
- 6.4 If extenuating circumstances apply (i.e. considerably closer for travel, move without parent transfers), Players may apply to access their first tryout within a different Recruitment Area.

Applications must be submitted using the Elite Player Movement Form and supporting documentation must be included. Applications will be accepted from May 1 to July 1 and all decisions will be rendered by **July 15**.

- 6.5 Any Player may tryout for a 'AA' team provided they are eligible to be registered with that team.
- 6.6 Host MHAs operating Teams under the 'AA' Hockey Model must allow Players to have the opportunity to tryout and register with a team they are eligible for.
- 6.7 MHA's hosting Recruitment Area Teams must ensure that there are no restrictions on players from outside that respective MHA, but within the Recruitment Area, from making the Recruitment Area Team.
- 6.8 Second tryouts may be permitted in cases where specific circumstances dictate the need for player movement to improve the competitiveness of another Recruitment Area team. Second tryouts are not guaranteed and will only be granted if it is determined that there is a need to enhance a nearby recruitment area team. Second tryouts will only be considered if:
 - (a) Prior to September 1, a Recruitment Area declared to Hockey Alberta that they need players due to a low turn-out of eligible players registering for tryouts; or
 - (b) Prior to September 15, a Recruitment Area declared to Hockey Alberta that they need players due to a low number of players attending tryouts that can play at the 'AA' level; and
 - (c) The player requesting a second tryout did not make the first team they tried out for and were provided with an Elite Waiver from the team 'cutting' them.



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- 6.9 Players will be notified whether their request for a second tryout is granted and, if applicable, which Recruitment Area the second tryout has been granted for. If a Second tryout is approved, a player must be evaluated for a minimum of two (2) ice times before being cut, and a decision must be made to cut or roster the player by October 1st.
- 6.10 After receiving an Elite Waiver the Player has seven (7) days to contact and arrange a tryout with a second 'AA' team (Players that cannot, or choose not to, arrange a second tryout within seven (7) days of being cut will be returned to their resident MHA);
- 6.11 Host MHAs can only charge a maximum tryout fee of \$50.00 for players approved for a second tryout.

7. PLAYER ACCELERATION

One of the objectives of the 'AA' Hockey Model is to develop players within their specific age group, and not to displace the players from their age Division by facilitating the movement of underage players.

- 7.1 Each 'AA' Team within the 'AA' Hockey Model is provided the ability to register a maximum of one (1) underage Player, at any one time during the season, provided the underage Player:
- a) For U18, is a second-year U15 aged player (14-year-old);
For U16, is a second-year U15 aged player (14-year-old);
For U15, is a second-year U13 aged player (12-year-old);
For U13, is a second-year U11 aged player (10-year-old);
 - b) participated in the tryout process and is selected for the Team;
 - c) is otherwise eligible to be registered to the Team.
- 7.2 Underage Players are not eligible for a second tryout at the accelerated Division.

8. TEAM REGISTRATION

Each Regional 'AA' Team is provided the opportunity to utilize Exhibition and Pre-Season games for the purpose of Team roster declaration.

- 8.1 Teams will not be required to have all players registered in the Registry when playing Exhibition and Pre-Season games that take place prior to the first scheduled League Game, and/ or prior to November 15.
- 8.2 Each Regional 'AA' Team must register a minimum of 15 skaters and 2 goaltenders.
- 8.3 *Upon receiving permission from their Hockey Canada Member Branch, Team(s) from a Province other than Alberta may apply to Hockey Alberta to be permitted to participate within the 'AA' Hockey Model for league play. If approved, these inter-branch Teams will not be eligible to represent the League or Hockey Alberta at a Provincial, Regional or National Championship.*



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9. AFFILIATION

To facilitate athlete development under the 'AA' Hockey Model, Affiliation is permitted within each Recruitment Area.

- 9.1 'AA' Teams are eligible to Affiliate players that are registered with an MHA within that specific Recruitment Area.
- 9.2 To be approved as an affiliate player for a 'AA' Team, players must be eligible in accordance with the Hockey Alberta and Hockey Canada Regulations.
- 9.3 Providing affiliation has been properly filed, an affiliated Player may play with the Hockey Team to which the Player is affiliated up to a maximum of ten (10) games, excluding exhibition and tournament games.

Should an affiliated Hockey Player play more than ten (10) games with the Hockey Team to which the player is affiliated, they shall be considered an "Ineligible Player".

However, if the player's registered team completes its regular season and playoffs before the player's affiliated team, the player may thereafter affiliate an unlimited number of times.

- 9.4 All Players must agree to register as an affiliate with the 'AA' Team.

10. PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 10.1 Provincial Championships for each Division within the 'AA' Hockey Model will be operated by Hockey Alberta and teams participating in the Championship will be determined through League play.
- 10.2 Only Hockey Alberta Teams approved to participate within the 'AA' Hockey Model will be eligible to play for the Provincial Championship. 'AA' Provincial Championships representatives will be declared at least 10 days prior to the Provincial Tournament.

11. EXPANSION AND CONTRACTION OF TEAMS

The 'AA' Hockey Model defines the number of Teams at each Division and Category of 'AA' within Alberta. Teams have been allotted based on registration statistics and historical data. The annual review process provides an opportunity to identify any need to expand or contract the number of teams within this model.

- 11.1 An MHA can apply to Hockey Alberta for expansion or contraction of the number of teams within their Recruitment Area. Applications must be submitted by December 1 to be considered for the following season.
- 11.2 It is the responsibility of the Elite Hockey Committee to review requests made by Host MHA's for any expansion or contraction of teams within a Recruitment Area, and/ or to develop recommendations for changes to a Recruitment Area and submit them to Hockey Alberta's management for review and approval.



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11.3 Applications for expansion or contraction will be assessed based on the following:

- (a) Registration numbers, by Division, of the Host MHA and all MHAs within the Recruitment Area.
- (b) Historical statistics on how competitive the Recruitment Area Team(s) have been within the Province.
- (c) Potential impact to player development and/ or the player pathways and feeder system.
- (d) Possible effects to other teams and programs in the area.