

APPENDIX "I"

U11 'AA' HOCKEY





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1. INTRODUCTION

U11 'AA' ensures that players across Alberta have an opportunity to access play at the highest level they can attain, by providing a regional hockey structure for the top level of U11 players. It provides players with an opportunity to play at a level that enables skill development and focuses on helping them get to the next level, bridging the gap between grassroots programs and Elite hockey. U11 'AA' is designed around guiding principles that require all parents, coaches, and Minor Hockey Associations (MHA's) 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 U11 'AA'. All Minor Hockey Regulations apply to U11 'AA', unless specific regulations herein alter the meaning for the purpose of U11 'AA'.

2. LEAGUE STRUCTURE

- 2.1 Hockey Alberta has established the U11 'AA' Hockey League to oversee U11 'AA' in Alberta. Hockey Alberta has established the U11 'AA' Hockey Committee to implement and oversee operations of U11 'AA' hockey. 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 U11 'AA' Hockey League will use conferences and/ or divisions to operate U11 'AA' across the Province. MHA's that have enough teams to operate a conference or division (more than ten (10) U11 'AA' teams) within their association may be given the opportunity to do so. If an MHA operates a conference or division, they will follow these Regulations, as well as their own Bylaws, Regulations and Policies while operating the conference or division.
- 2.3 The conferences and divisions help to minimize the amount of travel required throughout the season, therefore reducing costs to teams. Travel distances for game play will be considered for each conference and division, with restricted amounts of game play occurring outside of each established conference prior to playoffs.
- 2.4 The U11 'AA' Hockey League will:
 - (a) Recognize U11 'AA' Host MHA's as Members of the League;
 - (b) Plan and operate a regular-season schedule based on guidelines as outlined herein;
 - (c) Coordinate a playoff structure to determine division, conference, and Provincial Champions;
 - (d) Administer discipline in accordance with Hockey Alberta Regulations for conduct and playing rule violations;
 - (e) Host League meetings for the members to discuss the game and make decisions related to the game.



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3. DEFINITIONS

The following definitions of words and phrases are to be applied solely for the purposes of U11 'AA' 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) "U11 'AA' Regulations" means the regulations outlined herein, established to govern U11 'AA' hockey;
- (b) "Import Player" shall be defined as a U11 'AA' registered player **whose Primary MHA is different from the U11 'AA' Host MHA.**

4. CRITICAL DATES

September 1	Evaluation Camps and Team Selection processes can begin
September 15	Deadline for MHAs to declare their need to accept Second Tryouts
September 20	All First Tryouts must be completed
October 1	All Second Tryouts must be completed
October 1	Team Training and Exhibition games can begin
October 15	Regular season schedule can begin
January 10	Final date to Release a player from a team
January 15	Deadline for MHAs to file Affiliation at 5:00 PM MST
February 10	Final date to Register a player to a team
February 28	Regular Season complete
March	Provincial Championships

** These dates reflect the ideal state and actual dates may alter somewhat from these targets. Please note that U11 'AA' follows the structure and timelines of the [Hockey Canada U11 Pathway](#).*

5. HOST MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATIONS

Hockey Alberta has identified MHAs to host U11 'AA' Teams. Appointing MHAs as U11 'AA' Host MHAs allows for an aligned system ensuring a proper development pyramid and "feeder system" from grassroots, through the competitive levels, and up to Elite hockey.

5.1 U11 'AA' Host MHA's, and the number of teams they operate are as follows:

Airdrie	Beaumont	Bonnyville	Calgary (11)
Camrose	Cochrane	Edmonton (8)	Foothills
Fort McMurray	Fort Saskatchewan	Grande Prairie	Lacombe
Leduc	Lethbridge (2)	Lloydminster	Medicine Hat
Okotoks	Olds	Peace River	Red Deer (2)
Sherwood Park (2)	Spruce Grove	St. Albert (2)	Strathcona
Strathmore	Sturgeon HC	Sylvan Lake	Taber
Wainwright	Whitecourt		

5.2 Upon receiving permission from their Branch, Team(s) from outside of Hockey Alberta may apply to Hockey Alberta to be permitted to participate within the U11 'AA' Hockey League. Out of Province Teams will not be eligible to participate in Provincial play.



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6. TRYOUT PROCEDURES

- 6.1 Players are expected to tryout for U11 'AA' within their **Primary MHA**, where possible.
- 6.2 Players who do not have access to U11 'AA' hockey within their **Primary MHA** will be permitted to pursue a U11 'AA' tryout with any other U11 'AA' program that is accepting tryout players:
- (a) Should a player be given a Waiver from a U11 'AA' tryout, they must return to their **Primary MHA**.
 - (b) Players cannot be prohibited from pursuing a U11 'AA' Team.
 - (c) Players must **obtain a completed Waiver** if they **wish to pursue a tryout with a team that was not their Primary MHA**.
 - (d) U11 'AA' Host MHAs should provide all players with four (4) skates prior to evaluations and team selection (as outlined in the [Hockey Canada U11 Pathway](#)).
- 6.3 **Second tryouts may be permitted in cases where specific circumstances dictate the need for player movement to improve the competitiveness of another U11 'AA' Team. Second tryouts are not guaranteed and will only be granted if it is determined that there is a need to enhance a team. Second tryouts will only be considered if:**
- (a) **Prior to September 1, a U11 'AA' Host MHA 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 U11 'AA' Host MHA 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(s) requesting a second tryout did not make the first team they tried out for and were provided with a Waiver from the team 'cutting' them.**

7. PLAYER ACCELERATION

The objective of U11 'AA' is to develop players within their specific age group, and not to displace players from their age division by facilitating the movement of underage players.

- 7.1 Each U11 'AA' team is provided the ability to register a maximum of one (1) underage Player, at any time during the season, provided the underage Player:
- (a) is a second-year U9 aged player (eight-year-old);
 - (b) participated in the tryout process and is selected for the Team;
 - (c) is otherwise eligible to be registered to the Team.

8. TEAM REGISTRATION

- 8.1 U11 'AA' teams must be registered in the Registry by the MHA that has been identified as the Host MHA. Teams must be registered in accordance with the Hockey Alberta Minor Hockey Regulations.
- 8.2 Teams must be properly registered in the registry prior to their first league game or November 15, whichever occurs first. All Players and Team Officials participating with a Hockey Team must be properly registered in the registry before participating in their first league game.



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8.3 Each U11 'AA' team is provided the opportunity to utilize exhibition and pre-season games for the purpose of team roster declaration. Provided that these exhibition and pre-season games take place prior to the first scheduled league game and prior to November 15, teams will not be required to have all players identified on the roster in the Registry when playing these games.

8.4 Each team must register a minimum of 15 skaters and two (2) goaltenders.

8.5 **MHAs hosting more than one U11 'AA' Team shall create their teams with the most equally balanced skill as possible. MHAs that do not create their teams as equal as possible may be disqualified from League play (including Playoffs and/ or Provincials).**

9. AFFILIATION

9.1 U11 'AA' teams are permitted to affiliate players from a lower division or category, that are registered within the host MHA and/ or any players registered with another MHA provided the player accessed a tryout with the U11 'AA' team.

9.2 To be approved as an affiliate player for a U11 'AA' Team, all 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.

9.4 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.

9.5 All Players must agree to register as an affiliate with the U11 'AA' Team.

9.6 Registered U11 'AA' players may affiliate to U13 AA, U13 A (Tier 1) and U13 B (Tier 2) teams within the U11 'AA' Host MHA, or to their resident MHA, if different.

10. PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

10.1 Provincial Championships for U11 'AA' will be operated by Hockey Alberta and teams participating in the Championship will be determined through League Play.

10.2 Only Hockey Alberta U11 'AA' Teams approved to participate in the U11 'AA' Hockey League will be eligible to play for the Provincial Championship.

11. EXPANSION / CONTRACTION OF U11 'AA' TEAMS

Hockey Alberta will establish annual review protocols and thresholds that will determine if expansion or contraction is required at U11 'AA'. If it is determined that expansion or contraction needs to occur, the U11 'AA' Committee will proactively work with Member MHAs to implement the changes.