APPENDIX "II"

'AA' HOCKEY

'AA' HOCKEY

1. INTRODUCTION

'AA' Hockey ensures that players across Alberta have an opportunity to access 'AA' hockey, establishing 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 herein 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 'AA' Hockey across the Province. If an MHA or organization operates a conference or division, they will follow the 'AA' Hockey Regulations, 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 of words and phrases are to be applied solely for the purposes of 'AA' Hockey 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) "**Recruitment Area**" is defined as the group of MHAs that make up the feeder system from which each 'AA' Team can recruit and/ or affiliate registered Players.

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
January 10	Final date to Release a Player from a Team
January 15	Deadline for MHA's to file Affiliation at 5:00PM MST

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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 'AA' Hockey, *Recruitment Areas* have been established. The Recruitment Areas ensure there is an opportunity for all players that want to play, and have the skill to play, 'AA' Hockey 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 'AA' Hockey 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 structure smaller Recruitment Areas within their boundaries;
5.4 Each Host MHA is responsible for operating the 'AA' Team(s) identified for the area, in accordance with the 'AA' Hockey Regulations.
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).

'AA' HOCKEY

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			

'AA' HOCKEY

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

U16 'AA' RECRUITMENT AREAS

Grande Prairie		Lloydminster	Fort Saskatchewan
Beaverlodge	La Crete	Chauvin	Athabasca
Clairmont	Loon River	Edgerton	Boyle
East Smoky	Manning	Kitscoty	CNN
Fairview	Nampa	Lloydminster	Elk Island
Grande Cache	Peace River	Mannville	Fort Saskatchewan
Grande Prairie	Rainbow Lake	Marwayne-Dewberry	Redwater
Grimshaw	Rycroft	Onion Lake	Smoky Lake
Grovedale	Savanna	Paradise Valley	Sturgeon HC
High Level	Sexsmith	Provost	Thorhild
High Prairie	Smoky River	Vermilion	Two Hills
Horse Lake	Spirit River	Wainwright	Vegreville
Hythe	Valleyview		Wabasca
La Glace	Wembley		Westlock

Bonnyville	Spruce Grove	Camrose	Beaumont
Bonnyville	Barrhead	3 C's	Beaumont
Cold Lake	CR Knights	Bashaw	Devon
Elk Point	Enoch	Battle River	Drayton Valley
Frog Lake	Pembina	Camrose	Leduc
Glendon	Spruce Grove	Holden	Millet
Goodfish Lake	Stony Plain	Hughenden	New Sarepta
Lac La Biche		Irma	West 39
Mallaig		Maskwacis	
Plamondon		Thunderstars	
Saddle Lake		Viking	
St. Paul		Wetaskiwin	

Strathcona	Whitecourt	St. Albert	Sherwood Park
Strathcona	Edson	St. Albert	Sherwood Park
Tofield	Fox Creek		
	Hinton		
	Jasper		
	Mayerthorpe		
	Slave Lake		
	Swan Hills		
	Whitecourt		

Edmonton	Fort McMurray
Teams To Be Determined by HE and HA	Fort McMurray

'AA' HOCKEY

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

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 **Two Teams**	Sherwood Park **Two Teams**
Edmonton			
Teams to be determined by HE and HA			

'AA' HOCKEY

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

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

'AA' HOCKEY

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			

'AA' HOCKEY

6. TRYOUT PROCEDURES

The top, eligible, players should be selected for each team, regardless of **their Primary MHA** within the Recruitment Area. An objective of 'AA' hockey 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 A list of the names of players trying out for each specific Division (noting their **Primary MHA**) must be sent to all MHA's that have players participating at tryouts. An updated list must be completed weekly until the Team is formed.

6.3 Players are expected to access their first tryout within the Recruitment Area that draws from **their Primary MHA**.

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 'AA' Hockey Teams must allow Players to have the opportunity to tryout and register with a team they are eligible for.

6.7 MHA's hosting 'AA' 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 If a player does not make their Recruitment Area Team, they will be provided with an Elite Waiver from the Host MHA. After receiving an Elite Waiver:

(a) **the Player can contact a second 'AA' team to request a tryout; or**
(b) **the Player can return to their Primary MHA to access other minor hockey programs.**

7. PLAYER ACCELERATION

One of the objectives of 'AA' Hockey 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 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 '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 'AA' Team must register a minimum of 15 skaters and 2 goaltenders.

8.3 *BC Hockey and/ or Hockey Saskatchewan may apply to Hockey Alberta to have their properly registered Team(s) considered for participation in AEHL league play at the 'AA' category. If approved, out-of-Province Teams will not be eligible to represent the League or Hockey Alberta at a Provincial, Regional or National Championship.*

9. AFFILIATION

To facilitate athlete development within 'AA' Hockey, 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 of 'AA' Hockey will be operated by Hockey Alberta and teams participating in the Championship will be determined through League play.

10.2 Only Hockey Alberta 'AA' Teams approved to participate in the 'AA' category of the AEHL will be eligible to play for the Provincial Championship. Teams moving on to the 'AA' Provincial Championship must be declared at least 10 days prior to the Provincial Tournament.

11. EXPANSION AND CONTRACTION OF TEAMS

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