

APPENDIX "I"

# 'AA' HOCKEY MODEL





## AA HOCKEY MODEL

### INTRODUCTION

In 2014, at the direction of the Hockey Alberta Board of Directors, a committee was formed and tasked to review the levels of Minor Hockey directly below the Elite level and develop a model that would enable Alberta resident players the ability to access and compete at a level that is fair and equitable for the specific skill level of each athlete. The result of this initiative was the establishment of a 'Regional' hockey model focused on developing athletes and acting as a "feeder system" for Elite hockey.

This AA Hockey Model provides guidance and direction so that player opportunity and movement is done in recognition of the needs of the player and the MHA's involved. The philosophy behind this model is the agreement that responsible decisions would be made in order to act in the best interest of the athlete. This model further recognizes and supports that each athlete has the right to consider his/her options and should be provided the opportunity to access a level of hockey that is consistent with the skill level of each player.

This document is based on five (5) principles that support the philosophy in order to create a system that better meets the needs of the athletes as they progress through the system of development. This document creates a development system targeted to providing a positive experience for all participants through improved communications and a better understanding of the principles.

### PRINCIPLES OF THE AA HOCKEY MODEL

1. The best philosophy for developing players is to create an environment where similarly skilled players are able to compete together and against each other. This AA Hockey Model provides a structure where players are provided the opportunity to access the level of hockey they are capable of playing at.
2. A standardized Province wide system of hockey that creates a competitive balance at the U13, U15 and U18 levels. It provides players with a "developmental" system that focuses on skill development and acts as a "feeder" system bridging the gap between grassroots hockey and Elite (AAA) hockey.
3. A Regionalized Hockey System that provides opportunities for players to access the AA level of hockey within a reasonable distance of travel from their Resident MHA. The AA Hockey Model is designed to balance the needs of the player with that of the MHA and family.
4. The AA Model uses established criteria to determine the appropriate number of Teams within the Province as well as the terms and conditions under which these Teams operate. Identified AA Teams provide opportunities for all the players within their "Recruitment Area".
5. The AA Hockey Model is the only system of hockey at this particular level within Alberta and is designed to provide an option for players without negatively impacting the Minor Hockey Associations with respect to player movement or Provincial Categorization.



## AA HOCKEY MODEL

This document provides specific rules and regulations that apply to the MHA's and Teams operating within the AA Hockey Model. All Minor Hockey Regulations apply, unless regulations within this model alter the meaning of said Regulations for the purpose of AA Hockey.

### CRITICAL DATES

<b>August 1<sup>st</sup></b>	Deadline for AA Player Movement Applications;
<b>September 1<sup>st</sup></b>	AA Recruitment Area Evaluation Camps can start;
<b>September 20<sup>th</sup></b>	All First Try-Outs must be completed;
<b>October 1<sup>st</sup></b>	All approved Second Try-Outs must be completed; Regular Season schedule can begin;
<b>January 10<sup>th</sup></b>	Final date to Register a Player to or Release a Player from a Team;
<b>January 15<sup>th</sup></b>	Deadline for MHA's to file Affiliation at 5:00PM MST.
<b>February 28<sup>th</sup></b>	Regular Season complete;
<b>March</b>	Provincial Championship Tournaments.

### RECRUITMENT AREAS

In order to make it fair and equitable for all teams within the AA Hockey Model, Recruitment Areas have been established. These Recruitment Areas ensure there is an opportunity for all players that want to play, and have the skill to play, within the AA Hockey Model the ability to do so. The Recruitment Areas establish a consistent development system for players of all levels throughout the Province.

Hockey Alberta has established Recruitment Areas that allow for the progression of players from Minor Hockey Association programs, through to the AA Hockey Model and up to the Alberta Development Model (ADM).

- Recruitment Areas for each Division/Category within the AA Hockey Model do not overlap.
- Entire Minor Hockey Associations are within specific Recruitment Areas and not split.
- Hockey Edmonton and Hockey Calgary, as MHA's, have structured smaller Recruitment Areas within their boundaries.
- Each Recruitment Area has had a Host Minor Hockey Association identified within it and this Host MHA is responsible for operating the AA Team(s) as identified for the area, in accordance with this AA Hockey Model.
- Recruitment Areas are based on registration numbers, geographic location and travel time to the Host Minor Hockey Association.
- Taking the age of the players into consideration, the Recruitment Areas and Host Minor Hockey Association's for the U13 AA Division vary from the U15 and U18 AA Divisions based on registration numbers, geographic location and time of travel.



## AA HOCKEY MODEL

### AA HOCKEY MODEL RECRUITMENT AREAS

#### U18 AA

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



## AA HOCKEY MODEL

### AA HOCKEY MODEL RECRUITMENT AREAS

#### U18 AA

<b>Strathmore</b>	<b>Olds</b>	<b>Lacombe</b>	<b>Taber</b>
Strathmore Bassano Chestermere Drumheller Hanna Hussar Indus Morrin Rockyford Siksika Standard	Olds Bowden Carstairs Didsbury Innisfail Kneehill Sundre	Lacombe Alix Big Valley Blackfalds Clive Delburne Endmoor Ponoka Stettler	Taber Bow Island <b>Brooks</b> Coaldale <b>Duchess</b> Foremost Lomond Picture Butte Raymond Vauxhall Warner
<b>Lethbridge</b>	<b>Medicine Hat</b>	<b>Foothills</b>	<b>Sylvan Lake</b>
Lethbridge Cardston Crownsnest Pass Fort MacLeod Kainai Magrath Piikani Nation Pincher Creek	Medicine Hat Irvine Oyen Redcliff	Foothills Claresholm High Country Nanton Vulcan	Sylvan Lake Bentley Caroline Eckville Rimbey Rocky Mountain House Spruce View
<b>Cochrane</b>	<b>Airdrie</b>	<b>Red Deer</b>	<b>Okotoks</b>
Cochrane Banff Canmore Cremona	Airdrie Beiseker Crossfield	Red Deer	Okotoks
<b>Calgary</b>			
** Teams To Be Determined by AA Committee **			



## AA HOCKEY MODEL

### AA HOCKEY MODEL RECRUITMENT AREAS

#### U15 AA

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



## AA HOCKEY MODEL

### AA HOCKEY MODEL RECRUITMENT AREAS

#### U15 AA

<b>Strathmore</b>	<b>Olds</b>	<b>Lacombe</b>	<b>Taber</b>
Strathmore Bassano Chestermere Drumheller Hanna Hussar Indus Morrin Rockyford Siksika Standard	Olds Bowden Carstairs Didsbury Innisfail Kneehill Sundre	Lacombe Alix Big Valley Blackfalds Clive Delburne Endmoor Ponoka Stettler	Taber Bow Island <b>Brooks</b> Coaldale <b>Duchess</b> Foremost Lomond Picture Butte Raymond Vauxhall Warner
<b>Lethbridge</b>	<b>Medicine Hat</b>	<b>Foothills</b>	<b>Sylvan Lake</b>
Lethbridge Cardston Crowsnest Pass Fort MacLeod Kainai Magrath Piikani Nation Pincher Creek	Medicine Hat Irvine Oyen Redcliff	Foothills Claresholm High Country Nanton Vulcan	Sylvan Lake Bentley Caroline Eckville Rimbey Rocky Mountain House Spruce View
<b>Cochrane</b>	<b>Airdrie</b>	<b>Red Deer</b>	<b>Okotoks</b>
Cochrane Banff Canmore Cremona	Airdrie Beiseker Crossfield	Red Deer	Okotoks
<b>Calgary</b>			
** Teams To Be Determined by AA Committee **			





## AA HOCKEY MODEL

### AA HOCKEY MODEL RECRUITMENT AREAS

#### U13 AA

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





## AA HOCKEY MODEL

### AA HOCKEY MODEL RECRUITMENT AREAS

#### U13 AA

<b>Strathmore</b>	<b>Olds</b>	<b>Lacombe</b>	<b>Taber</b>
Strathmore Bassano Drumheller Hanna Hussar Indus Morrin Rockyford Siksika Standard Chestermere	Olds Bowden Carstairs Didsbury Innisfail Kneehill Sundre	Lacombe Alix Big Valley Blackfalds Clive Delburne Endmoor Ponoka Stettler	Taber Bow Island Brooks Coaldale Duchess Foremost Lomond Picture Butte Raymond Vauxhall Warner
<b>Lethbridge</b>	<b>Medicine Hat</b>	<b>Foothills</b>	<b>Sylvan Lake</b>
Lethbridge Cardston Crowsnest Pass Fort MacLeod Kainai Magrath Piikani Nation Pincher Creek	Medicine Hat Irvine Oyen Redcliff	Foothills Claresholm High Country Nanton Vulcan	Sylvan Lake Bentley Caroline Eckville Rimbey Rocky Mountain House Spruce View
<b>Cochrane</b>	<b>Airdrie</b>	<b>Red Deer</b>	<b>Okotoks</b>
Cochrane Banff Canmore Cremona	Airdrie Beiseker Crossfield	Red Deer	Okotoks
<b>Calgary</b>			
** 12 Teams **			



## AA HOCKEY MODEL

### EXPANSION / REDUCTION OF RECRUITMENT AREAS

The AA Hockey Model has defined the maximum number of AA Teams that are permitted at each Division within Alberta. Teams have been allotted within each Recruitment Area 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.

By **April 15**, a Recruitment Area has the ability to apply to the AA Hockey Committee for expansion or reduction of the number of teams within their area for the upcoming season. The application must be based on the following criteria:

1. Registration numbers have been reviewed to determine the appropriate number of players available for the Division.
2. Each Recruitment Area must include a minimum of one team for each Division (U13, U15 and U18).
3. Historical statistics have been reviewed to determine how competitive the teams have been within the Province.
4. Player development is the most important factor in the rationale.

### AA HOCKEY COMMITTEE

The purpose of the AA Hockey Committee is to ensure communication between the Regional Teams, MHA's and Leagues, to foster development of the AA levels of hockey and to engage in discussions to address concerns and cultivate ideas for change. It shall be the responsibility of the AA Hockey Committee to monitor, formulate and recommend changes and improvements to the AA Hockey Model. Upon Hockey Alberta approving a recommendation from the Committee, they shall have the responsibility to supervise and carry out the implementation of that decision.

The AA Hockey Committee shall consist of a representative from each AA Hockey League / Organization as well as two representatives from Hockey Alberta's Minor Regulation Committee. The Committee will meet a minimum of two times per year to discuss the AA Hockey Model and any topics that have been brought forth through the Recruitment Area meetings. The objectives of the AA Hockey Committee are:

- Make recommendations to encourage development opportunities to the Players, Teams and Leagues related to the AA Hockey Model;
- Review and recommend changes (if necessary) on the Recruitment Areas based on recommendations and statistics;
- Establish a communications protocol and conflict resolutions procedure to ensure good governance amongst the leagues involved;
- Make recommendations in areas of expanding and/or reducing of Recruitment Areas to ensure that they fit within the established criteria;
- Make recommendations in areas of reduction and additions of Teams within the Recruitment Areas with input from the Teams ensuring that they fit within the established criteria;
- Develop a mechanism to encourage communication between Leagues on matters related to the development of players.



## AA HOCKEY MODEL

### LEAGUE STRUCTURE

Hockey Alberta has identified Leagues / organizations to operate the AA Hockey Model across the Province. The identified Leagues / organizations have agreed to the philosophy and principles of the Model and agree to govern and operate AA Hockey at each included level of Minor Hockey (U13 AA, U15 AA, U18 AA). The Leagues / Organizations are:

- Northern Alberta Hockey League (NAHL)
- South Central Alberta Hockey League (SCAHL)
- Hockey Calgary

Each League / Organization must be a sanctioned League or member MHA of Hockey Alberta and must be registered under the "Societies Act". League / Organization membership will consist of the MHA's identified as Host MHA's within the AA Hockey Model and they will operate under the Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of Hockey Canada and Hockey Alberta.

The Leagues / Organizations identified above will be the only groups sanctioned to operate AA Hockey under the governance of Hockey Alberta.

In an attempt to lower costs, the Leagues / Organizations have established Conferences / Divisions to minimize the amount of travel required throughout the season. These Conferences / Divisions are outlined in the League Regulations and Policies and vary amongst the Divisions of hockey.

- Maximum travel distances for game play have been established for each Division of hockey.
- Restricted amounts of game play will occur outside of each conference prior to playoffs.

The Leagues / Organizations will each follow their own Bylaws, Regulations and Policies to govern and manage hockey within the AA Hockey Model. They will also abide by and follow Hockey Alberta Bylaws and Regulations, including this AA Hockey Model. The member MHA's and/or Teams that have been assigned to each specific League / Organization will have voting rights assigned to them within those specific Bylaws.

Each approved AA League / Organization shall have a Board of Directors, which will conduct the day-to-day operations of the League / Organization in accordance with the established Bylaws, Regulations, Policies and Procedures. Each League / Organization may have slight variations of rules with regard to how they operate day to day (i.e. – game times). As an approved partner in the AA Hockey Model, each approved AA League / Organization will:

- (a) Ensure the identified AA Host MHA's are recognized members of the League / Organization;
- (b) Set and operate a Regular Season League schedule based on guidelines as outlined in the AA Hockey Model;
- (c) Coordinate Playoffs to determine a Champion that will attend Provincials;
- (d) Administer Discipline in accordance with Hockey Alberta Regulations for conduct and rule violations;
- (e) Host League / Organization meetings for the members to discuss the game and make decisions related to the game;



## AA HOCKEY MODEL

### AA PLAYER MOVEMENT

Players are expected to try out for the Recruitment Area Team that recruits from the Minor Hockey Association the player is resident in.

Players are only permitted to try out within a Recruitment Area that is not their Resident MHA's Recruitment Area with special permission from the Player Movement Review Committee.

- Players should only request this movement for extenuating circumstances (i.e. Considerably closer for travel, move without parent transfers).
- Players file an application, using the AA Player Movement Form and supporting documentation, through the Hockey Alberta office prior to August 1 if they wish to request this "special permission" to move.
- The Committee reviews the application and renders a decision on or prior to September 15.

Note: ALL PLAYERS WILL RETURN TO THEIR RESIDENT MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION AT THE END OF THE HOCKEY SEASON

### TRY-OUT PROCEDURE

Any Player may try out for the team for which the Player is eligible within his/her Recruitment Area, provided:

- a) the team has been approved to participate, by Hockey Alberta, in the AA Hockey Model.

AA Teams must allow Non-Resident Players from outside the host MHA's boundaries, but within the teams Recruitment Area, to have the opportunity of registering with the team. The top players should be selected for each team, regardless of where they reside within the Recruitment Area.

**One week prior to an association's 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.**

Players will be given the opportunity to try out for the Team identified within the AA Hockey Model as their "Resident Recruitment Area Team". If the player does not make their Resident Recruitment Area Team, they must return to their Resident MHA.

A second try-out *may* be granted by the League based on the needs of the teams in surrounding recruitment areas. Second try-outs are only permitted in cases where specific circumstances dictate the need for movement in order to improve the competitiveness of another Recruitment Area team and are not intended to permit players the opportunity for multiple try-outs. A second try-out will only be entertained if:

- a) Prior to September 1, a Recruitment Area has declared to the League that they are in need of players due to a low turn-out of eligible players registering for try-outs; or

Prior to September 15, a Recruitment Area has declared a low number of players attending try-outs that are capable of playing at the AA level;



## AA HOCKEY MODEL

- b) The Recruitment Area must have gained support in accepting "Import" Players from its participating MHA partners prior to being able to request players for a second try-out;
- c) The player's Resident MHA has a sufficient number of players in order to be able to offer a Team at the specific Division without said player;
- d) The player has been cut and has obtained a Letter from his/her Resident Recruitment Area team **and submitted said letter to the League;**

The League will notify the player whether or not the request will be granted and which nearby Recruitment Area the try-out has been granted for.

If approved, a player on a second tryout must be evaluated for a minimum of two (2) ice times and it must be determined as to whether or not the player has made the team by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

A player making the designated AA Team will receive permission to play for the season and will be returned to his/her Resident MHA at the end of the season.

Note: Recruitment Area's can only charge a maximum try-out fee of \$50.00 for players approved on a second try-out.

### PLAYER ACCELERATION

The objective 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. All underage players will only be considered as an exception.

- (a) Underage players will only be considered if they are one year younger than the age Division they are applying to participate in;
- (b) A formal application must be submitted prior to the Evaluation Camp beginning. The player's Resident MHA must support the request for an Underage Player Exception by providing the necessary AA Notification of Tryout Form;
- (c) Along with the AA Notification of Tryout Form, the Player must submit a letter outlining the rationale for being considered as an Underage Player;
- (d) No underage players will be granted a second try-out;
- (e) An underage player approved for participation in the Evaluation Camp, must evaluate in the top third of skaters by position;  
  
i.e. The player must evaluate as a top three forward, top two defenseman, or the top goaltender, to make the AA team in question.
- (f) The underage player's participation with the AA team must be determined within the first seven days of the Evaluation Camp, through a minimum of two ice times.



## AA HOCKEY MODEL

### TEAM REGISTRATION

All Regional AA Teams will be registered in the Registry by the MHA that has been identified as the Recruitment Area Host MHA. The Recruitment Area Host MHA will register the team(s) in accordance with the Hockey Alberta Minor Hockey Regulations.

All Hockey Teams must be properly and duly 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 duly registered in the Registry before participating in their first League game. Any Hockey Team whose registration is received after November 15, will not be eligible to compete in Provincial Play.

In order to support the ADM and to align the system of player development within Alberta, Regional AA Teams are not permitted to begin the player evaluation and selection process for the current season until *September 1*. Each Regional 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.

Each Regional AA Team must register a minimum of 15 skaters and 2 goaltenders and will be permitted to register a maximum of 17 skaters and 2 goaltenders at any one time during the season.

*Upon receiving permission from their Branch, Team(s) from a Branch other than Hockey 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 Branch at a Provincial, Regional or National Championship.*

### COACH AND PLAYER SELECTION

Coach and Player selection is the responsibility of the Recruitment Area's Host MHA.

One principle of the AA Hockey Model is for each Recruitment Area to consider all eligible coaches and players from the MHA's within their Recruitment Area when selecting their team(s). Regardless of where a coach or player resides within the Recruitment Area, they should all be treated equally during the evaluation and selection process.

There are no "quotas" permitted to be exercised within the AA Hockey Model and there shall be no restrictions, based on place of residence, placed on the coaches or players. It is the expectation that Recruitment Areas build Teams with the best possible players and coaches available to them.



## AA HOCKEY MODEL

### AFFILIATION POLICY

The Affiliation Policy is used to accommodate athlete development under the AA Hockey Model. To allow for Affiliation within each Recruitment Area, the Regional AA Teams are eligible to Affiliate players that reside within the boundaries of an MHA within that specific Recruitment Area. All players to be registered for affiliation within the AA Hockey Model must meet and qualify in accordance with the Hockey Alberta and Hockey Canada Regulations.

Affiliation needs to be filed in the Registry and approval will come from the Minor Administration Coordinator for the Region in which the Recruitment Area Host MHA is located within.

- An AA minor hockey team may affiliate nineteen (19) players from within the team's designated geographic region (Team to Team Affiliation is not permitted).
- Prior to participation as an affiliated player, Hockey Alberta's AA and AAA Player Affiliation Agreement must be signed by all parties, and the player's name must appear on the team's affiliation list filed within the Branch.
- Once a player's affiliation is approved, the player's name may not be dropped from the affiliation list during the current season and replaced, unless the team with which the player registered releases him/her on or before January 10.
- No player is permitted to be part of more than one (1) specially affiliated players list at any time during the current season.
- An affiliated player must have the approval of his/her registered team in order to play.

Note: All Affiliated players must reside in the Recruitment Area of the team they will be Affiliated with, in the AA Hockey Model.

All affiliations shall terminate at the end of the current playing season.

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.

For clarification purposes, the intent of this policy is to allow Players to Affiliate to Teams in the AA Hockey Model from any MHA in the Recruitment Area regardless of the LMHA Categorization. The reason is to provide for the development of Players in the AA Hockey Model within their Recruitment Area.

### REGIONAL TEAM MANAGEMENT

The following model guides the management of the regional teams within each Recruitment Area and establishes the communication protocol that will be used in order to ensure the success of the AA Hockey Model.

Each Recruitment Area Host MHA is responsible for identifying a representative that will attend regular League Meetings throughout the season in order to ensure proper communication between the League and their Regional Team(s).





## AA HOCKEY MODEL

Seasonal reviews have been established in order to highlight how the model is operating within the Province as well as within each Recruitment Area. Utilizing the feedback from these reviews will provide the opportunity to make amendments as necessary and ensure parity within the AA Hockey Model.

### Communication with Regional AA Teams

- Each Recruitment Area will host meetings a minimum of two (2) times per year to discuss AA hockey within their area. These meetings will be chaired by a representative from the Host MHA of the Recruitment Area. The Host MHA will be responsible for communicating the date and time of the meeting to all Teams within the Recruitment Area as well as reporting feedback from the meeting back to the Hockey Alberta AA Hockey Committee.
- These meetings will occur at the start of the season and end of the season, with the second meeting taking place so that the feedback would be gathered and reviewed by the AA Hockey Committee prior to the end of the season so that adjustments could be dealt with prior to the following season.
- In the case of Edmonton and Calgary, these meetings would be hosted by the member Minor Hockey Association.
- Some agenda items for these meetings will be submitted by the AA Hockey Committee so that there is consistency throughout the Province in the information that is being provided to / gathered from the stakeholders.

### Communication with Minor Hockey Associations

- The AA Hockey Model encourages MHA's to work together to provide the best possible developmental experience for the players. The model supports moving practices and games around within the Recruitment Area in order to include the MHA's in hosting the Regional AA Team and to promote the program within each community.
- Each Recruitment Area will meet a minimum of one (1) time per year with all of the MHA's within their area to discuss AA hockey. This meeting would occur at the end of the season so that the feedback could be gathered and reviewed by the AA Hockey Committee and adjustments could be dealt with prior to the following season.
- This Recruitment Area Meeting will be chaired by the Recruitment Area Host MHA and they would be responsible for communicating the date and time of the meeting as well as reporting any feedback that is received to the Hockey Alberta AA Hockey Committee.
- Feedback will also be gathered from the MHA's every so often through the use of an on-line survey. The feedback will be gathered and reviewed by the Hockey Alberta AA Hockey Committee so that adjustments could be dealt with prior to the next season.

In each of the cases above, information will be gathered through the means listed above, reviewed by the AA Hockey Committee, with recommendations then being sent to the CEO (or designate) of Hockey Alberta.



## AA HOCKEY MODEL

### PROVINCIALS

Provincial Championships for each Division within the AA Hockey Model will be operated by Hockey Alberta in the same manner as other Minor Hockey Provincials. Only Hockey Alberta Teams approved to participate within the AA Hockey Model's Leagues / Organizations will be eligible to play in the Provincial Championship. League play will determine which Team(s) earn the right to represent their League / Organization at Provincials. AA Hockey Model Leagues / Organizations must declare their representative Teams for all of the AA Provincial Championships at least 10 days prior to the Provincial Tournament.

The AA Hockey Model has a AA Provincial Championship Host Site Rotation to determine which League, and subsequently which MHA and Teams, are eligible to host the U13 AA, U15 AA and U18 AA Provincial Championships.

### ARBITRATION AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

The AA Hockey Model requires issues by arbitration and/or conflict resolution to be reviewed and remedied within a timely manner. The Host MHA can refer to the Hockey Alberta Game and Conduct Management Guidelines if they do not have their own clearly defined steps for an arbitration and/or conflict resolution process.

Any requests for arbitration or conflict resolution that are submitted to the MHA, in writing, need to be dealt with accordingly. Due process is required to complete a review of the situation, and upon completion of the review a written response shall be sent to the complainant.

If, after all process is exhausted at the level of the MHA, further review is required, a second level of arbitration and/or conflict resolution can be accessed at the League level. The first level of review, within the MHA, may not be bypassed in favor of League review.

In the event both levels of review were not completed to the satisfaction of the complainant, the matter may be able to be turned over to Hockey Alberta.