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**OPERATIONAL POLICY: MHA BOUNDARY RESOLUTION**  
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### **POLICY STATEMENT**

Hockey Alberta's Boundary Resolution process is available to Minor Hockey Associations (MHA) to assist them in resolving disputes involving existing boundaries between two or more MHA's. The Boundary Resolution process is a voluntary process to help MHA's bring their dispute to an amicable settlement. It allows MHA's better input / control of the dispute, allows the MHA's to be creative in their discussion / settlement and gives the MHA's certainty as to the outcome of their dispute compared to the uncertainty associated with a decision imposed by an independent party.

### **PROCESS**

This Boundary Resolution process can be initiated in one of two ways:

- A. When the MHA's involved have tried to resolve their boundary issue(s) together and have come to an impasse and cannot agree upon a settlement; or
- B. When one of the MHA's is not willing to participate, the MHA wanting to resolve the issue can request in writing that Hockey Alberta become involved.

By activating the Boundary Resolution process, the MHA's agree to complete the process as outlined and led by Hockey Alberta.

Upon receiving a request for Boundary Resolution, the Chief Executive Officer (or designate) will appoint a neutral party to help solve the dispute by bringing a fresh perspective along with problem solving and communication skills. This neutral party can identify common ground, help generate options and deal with deadlock emotions that can often be a barrier to constructive dialogue or a settlement.

The appointed neutral party will request that each MHA provide written documentation outlining their concerns/ positions and or issues. After reviewing the documentation, the neutral party will determine if a meeting(s) is required (whether in-person or via conference or video call) or further communication is required between the opposing MHA's. If an in-person meeting is required, the Hockey Alberta neutral party will determine and book the location.

The Hockey Alberta appointed neutral party will hear the MHA's concerns/ position and/or issues and will endeavor to have the MHA's come to a resolution. Should a resolution to the dispute, be agreed to by all parties, then the resolved boundary issues are binding for a period of 5 years. Should the MHA's not agree after the meeting with the Hockey Alberta appointed neutral party, the following will take place:

- (i) Working with the CEO (or designate), the Hockey Alberta neutral party will review the dispute and give a written decision to the MHA's involved in the dispute;
- (ii) Should either MHA decide to appeal the written decision of Hockey Alberta, it will be handled as outlined by Hockey Alberta's policy regarding Appeals;
- (iii) Decisions made through this process are binding for a period of 5 years.



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## **GUIDELINES FOR MEDIATION/ DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

The purpose of using a neutral third party in Boundary Resolution is to assist the Associations in finding a resolution to their issues regarding boundaries. The neutral third party is responsible to ensure that all parties understand the objective of this process.

The neutral third party will ensure that the following items are in place and considered when conferring with the MHA's on their respective positions:

- The existing boundaries and any rationale for them are identified;
- Any historical adjustments and any rationale for them are identified;
- Written reason(s) for all suggested new amendments are provided;
- Written reason(s) for not accepting the suggested amendments are provided;
- Supporting documentation/ facts may include, but are not limited to:
  - Registration projections;
  - Letters from parents affected;
  - Maps outlining residences;
  - Municipal/ County projections;
  - Annexation proposals;
  - School locations;
  - Accessibility to existing arenas;
  - League play travel areas;
  - Availability of Ice;
  - Positions of/ considerations of other MHA's that are affected.