

2010 – 2012	Hockey Alberta hears from its stakeholders that its Female Development System may not be adequate.
October 2013	Hockey Alberta commissions an independent, third-party review to confirm or refute the information on the adequacy of the system.
February 2014	<p>Review takes place. Results circulated to membership, common themes identified, and recommendation from the review is approved by the Board of Directors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The status quo in the female structure is not acceptable, and the system expects Hockey Alberta to lead the creation of a new structure. Female Hockey is unique, and needs a model that reflects the number of females playing hockey in the province and within individual local minor hockey associations. Hockey Alberta, the Team Alberta Program, leagues, and teams are not aligned to create the best system for female players. A new female hockey structure is required in Alberta. This includes elite hockey (in both LMHA and non LMHA programming) but also cascades to support level(s) and includes grassroots.
March 2014	<p>The need for change is determined. A Female Review Committee is established.</p> <p>Recommendation: Form a consortium or group of experts in female hockey to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make recommendations to Hockey Alberta's Board of Directors Develop a Female ADM and supporting framework Draft a vision for female hockey and create a growth plan Identify ways to establish complementary programs for female players Bring LMHAs, Leagues, and Sport Schools together
March 2015	<p>The Committee reports back to the Board of Directors with key recommendations to move forward. The Board approves the recommendations.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To approve the following principles as the framework for establishing the Female Hockey Model in Alberta. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A feeder system approach must be established and sustained Team Alberta programs are the pinnacle of the pyramid and take precedent over Club Team activities. In saying this, dates and communication must occur to have the system function properly and cohesively in order to benefit the athletes. Yearly meetings must occur prior to schedules and dates being finalized by any one group. Long term player development philosophy is to be adhered to. Regionalization approach to support teams and numbers (Midget AA, Bantam AA and some local programs as well) Peers playing with peers: A player can move up one age division for the purpose of creating teams. If players are needed to form a team, a regional approach should be taken and not a combination of age divisions Provincial number of teams are set at each level (elite and AA) in order to keep the competitive balance and nature of the level of hockey. No boundaries for the Midget AAA division. Establish a letter of intent process to be signed by the player and team. Create a player acceleration policy. To reduce the number of teams categorized and participating in the top level of Midget in Alberta. To create a "feeder" system via league play and other opportunities that would complement the AAA level by establishing a Midget AA league (maximum 16 teams). To define the top level of Bantam Female hockey as "developmental" that is part of a "feeder" system that will enable the players to refine their skills prior to Midget. To adopt a regional philosophy and education model for Minor Hockey Associations to rebuild and structure grassroots leagues and systems into a provincially-organized model. To approve two implementation committees to begin their work immediately to establish the processes and structure based on the above recommendations and the outlined female hockey model. To approve a plan for focused resources for Female Hockey in order to support the needs of the game and the female hockey community.
March 2015	Formation of Elite Hockey Implementation Committee and Grassroots Hockey Implementation Committee is approved by the Board of Directors.
October 2015	<p>Elite Hockey Implementation Committee circulates information on principles for application for franchises in Midget AAA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a standardized, province-wide system of hockey and the opportunity for female players to develop and progress from Grassroots hockey through to Elite hockey and up into Team Alberta's High Performance programs. Establish criteria to determine the appropriate number of Teams within each Category and define the terms and conditions under which these teams will operate. This criteria establishes an environment to provide players with the ability to access the level of hockey at which they are capable of playing, ranging from grassroots programs up to elite level opportunities for the top "Elite" level players. Foster development through the Female Hockey Model. Provide an opportunity for players to access Grassroots teams within close proximity to their home town. Provide an opportunity for players to access the AA Developmental program regionally within a reasonable distance of travel. Provide an opportunity for players to access the AAA Elite program within the Province with no defined boundaries. <p>The next step was to identify where teams will be located to provide an opportunity for all players to access the proper level of hockey for their skill level. To allow all LMHAs to demonstrate their interest in being involved in the new Female Hockey Model, the Elite Implementation Committee asked for LMHAs that are interested in hosting Female AAA and/or AA teams to submit a letter of interest.</p>
January/February 2016	<p>After Letters of Intent, submission of full bid packages, in-person presentations, and deliberation by the Elite Implementation Committee, decisions are made as to the locations for the six Midget AAA franchises, and communities are asked to confirm their intent to operate teams in these regions.</p> <p>Hockey Alberta issues information to its membership and overall hockey public informing of the decisions, the locations of the Midget AAA teams but most importantly the new model which is being formed, which includes Atom, Peewee, Bantam and Midget divisions.</p> <p>The six locations for Midget Female AAA franchises are: Calgary, Edmonton, Lloydminster, Okotoks, Red Deer, and St. Albert. In addition to hosting AAA franchises, the six centres will host Midget Elite and Bantam Elite teams. The Midget and Bantam Elite divisions each will have 12 teams.</p> <p>The Review committee determined that approximately 10 per cent of all female hockey players in Alberta should be playing at the Midget AAA level. For the Midget and Bantam Elite levels, which are designed as a bridge between the Grassroots and AAA Midget programs, it was determined that approximately 20 per cent of players, or 12 teams, should be playing at that level.</p> <p>The remaining approximately 70 per cent of female hockey players would play within a grassroots model of tiered divisions. Grassroots Female hockey would see approximately 60 teams playing at each of the Atom and Peewee level across the province, with approximately 40 Bantam and 35 Midget grassroots teams, in addition to the AAA and Elite teams in divisions.</p>