



# ELITE MALE HOCKEY MODEL





## **ELITE MALE HOCKEY MODEL**

### **INTRODUCTION**

In 2007, at the direction of the Hockey Alberta Board of Directors, a committee was formed to develop a process to enable Alberta's top hockey athletes to compete at the highest level in a fair and equitable manner. The process focused on elite level hockey and resulted in the establishment of the "Elite Male Hockey Model".

The Elite Male Hockey Model provides guidance and direction so that players have opportunity and movement options available to meet their needs as well as that of the teams involved. The most significant principle of the model is the agreement that, at all times, everyone will act in the best interest of the athlete and work to provide them with the ability to play at the highest level they can attain. The Elite Male Hockey Model further recognizes and supports the fact that each athlete has the right to consider all options.

The Elite Male Hockey Model is based on four (4) principles and uses these principles to create a system that better meet the needs of the athlete as they progress through the system of development. The model creates an improved development system that strives to provide a positive experience for all participants through improved communications and a system-wide understanding of the principles.

### **PRINCIPLES**

The four (4) guiding principles of the Elite Male Hockey Model are as follows:

1. At all times, everyone will act in the best interest of the athlete and work to provide them with the ability to play at the highest level they can attain;
2. The foundation is a "Made, Played and Developed in Alberta" philosophy;
  - Establishing, supporting and promoting a Provincial system of development that starts at U15 AAA and concludes at Major Junior (U15 AAA, U16 AAA, U18 AAA, Junior A, and Major Junior);
  - All Elite Leagues and Minor Hockey Associations are to focus on moving players through the system to the next level.
3. The Elite Male Hockey Model will determine the appropriate number of Teams within each Division of play in the Alberta Elite Hockey League (AEHL), the location of the teams and the terms and conditions under which the Teams will operate. Elite Teams will provide elite level opportunities for the top players within their Elite Draw Zone (EDZ).
4. Affiliation is an integral part of the Elite Male Hockey Model and the structure accommodates the developmental needs of the athlete and team by providing the option for all players within an EDZ to be identified and properly registered as an affiliate.



## ELITE MALE HOCKEY MODEL

### DEFINITIONS

This document provides specific rules and regulations that apply to the Leagues, MHA's and Teams operating within the Elite Male Hockey Model. All Minor Hockey Regulations apply, unless regulations within this model alter the meaning of said Regulations for the purpose of AAA Hockey. The following definitions for words and phrases are to be applied solely for the purposes of the Elite Male Hockey Model 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.

- **“Elite Male Hockey Model”** means the document established by Hockey Alberta that was developed to provide Alberta players with a program that focuses on the development of the elite athlete;
- **“Elite Draw Zone” or “EDZ”** defines the area in which Teams in the Elite Stream can access Players from.
- **“Import Player”** shall be defined in elite hockey as a player who resides in one Elite Draw Zone and registers with a team in another Elite Draw Zone due to accessing the Elite Player Movement process and/or an additional tryout;
- **“Non-Resident Player”** shall be defined in elite hockey as a player who resides outside of the Boundaries of the host MHA of the Elite Team but within the boundaries of their respective Elite Draw Zone;
- **“Notification of Tryout Form”** is the designated Hockey Alberta form that is required to be completed for players to access a tryout within the Elite Stream of Hockey.
- **“Tryout Roster” is the official roster used by Elite Teams during the formal tryout process in order for players to be eligible for participation in a pre-season exhibition or tournament game(s).**

### CRITICAL DATES

July 1	- Deadline for Elite Player Movement Applications
August 1	- Decisions for Elite Player Movement communicated
August 15	- AAA Try-Outs can start
September 1	- Exhibition Games can start
September 7	- Teams can begin entering “Tryout Rosters” into HCR
September 15	- Deadline for Players to declare whether or not they are electing to participate in tryouts within their Resident Draw Zone
October 1	- AAA Regular Season schedule can begin *
October 15	- Tryout Rosters are complete * (Players participating in tryout processes have been registered or returned to a lower level)
December 15	- Deadline for MHA's to file Affiliation
January 10	- Final date to Register a Player to or Release a Player from a Team
	- Deadline for Draw Zone changes to be communicated to Host MHA's
February 28	- Regular Season ends *
March	- Playoffs and Championships *
April	- Pacific Regional Championship (U18 AAA)
	- Telus Cup (U18 AAA)
May 1	- Deadline to submit Applications to expand or reduce the number of Teams within a Draw Zone for future years

\* These dates reflect the ideal state and actual dates may alter somewhat from these targets.



## ELITE MALE HOCKEY MODEL

### ELITE DRAW ZONES

In order to make it fair and equitable for all teams within the Elite Male Hockey Model, “*Elite Draw Zones*” (EDZ) have been established. The Elite Draw Zones ensure there is an opportunity for all players that want to play, and have the skill to play, Elite hockey with the ability to access it. The EDZ’s establish a consistent development system for players throughout the Province by structuring a feeder system from Minor Hockey up through to ‘AAA’.

- Elite Draw Zones for each Team do not overlap;
- Entire Minor Hockey Associations are located within one specific EDZ and the players that live within an MHA’s boundaries are not split up;
- Each EDZ has a Host Minor Hockey Association identified within it and this Host MHA is responsible for operating the AAA Team(s) as identified for the area, in accordance with this Elite Male Hockey Model and the EDZ Operating Model document;
- EDZ’s are based on registration numbers, geographic location and travel time to the Host Minor Hockey Association.



## ELITE MALE HOCKEY MODEL

<b>Lethbridge U18 AAA</b>		<b>Okotoks U18 AAA</b>	
<p>Bassano Bow Island Brooks Cardston Claresholm Coaldale Crownsnest Pass Duchess Foremost Fort MacLeod Irvine Kainai</p>	<p>Lethbridge Lomond Magrath Medicine Hat Oyen Picture Butte Piikani Nation Pincher Creek Raymond Redcliff Taber Vauxhall Warner</p>	<p>Blackie Chestermere Foothills High Country Hussar Indus</p>	<p>Nanton Okotoks Rockyford Siksika Standard Strathmore Vulcan</p>
<b>Medicine Hat U16 AAA</b>	<b>Lethbridge U16 AAA</b>	<b>Okotoks U16 AAA</b>	
<p>Bassano Bow Island Brooks Duchess Foremost Irvine Medicine Hat Oyen Redcliff</p>	<p>Cardston Claresholm Coaldale Crownsnest Pass Fort MacLeod Kainai Lethbridge Lomond Magrath Picture Butte Piikani Nation Pincher Creek Raymond Taber Vauxhall Warner</p>	<p>Blackie Chestermere Foothills High Country Hussar Indus</p>	<p>Nanton Okotoks Rockyford Siksika Standard Strathmore Vulcan</p>
<b>Medicine Hat U15 AAA</b>	<b>Lethbridge U15 AAA</b>	<b>Okotoks U15 AAA</b>	
<p>Bassano Bow Island Brooks Duchess Foremost Irvine Medicine Hat Oyen Redcliff</p>	<p>Cardston Claresholm Coaldale Crownsnest Pass Fort MacLeod Kainai Lethbridge Lomond Magrath Picture Butte Piikani Nation Pincher Creek Raymond Taber Vauxhall Warner</p>	<p>Blackie Chestermere Foothills High Country Hussar Indus</p>	<p>Nanton Okotoks Rockyford Siksika Standard Strathmore Vulcan</p>



## ELITE MALE HOCKEY MODEL

Airdrie U18 AAA		Red Deer U18 AAA	
Airdrie Banff Beiseker Canmore Carstairs Cochrane Cremona	Crossfield Didsbury Drumheller Hanna Kneehill Morrin	Alix Bashaw Bentley Big Valley Blackfalds Bowden Caroline Clive Delburne Eckville Endmoor	Innisfail Lacombe Olds Red Deer Rimbey Rocky Mountain House Spruce View Stettler Sundre Sylvan Lake
Airdrie U16 AAA		Red Deer U16 AAA	
Airdrie Banff Beiseker Canmore Carstairs Cochrane Cremona	Crossfield Didsbury Drumheller Hanna Kneehill Mini Thni Morrin	Alix Bashaw Bentley Big Valley Blackfalds Bowden Caroline Clive Delburne Eckville Endmoor	Innisfail Lacombe Olds Red Deer Rimbey Rocky Mountain House Spruce View Stettler Sundre Sylvan Lake
Airdrie U15 AAA		Red Deer U15 AAA	
Airdrie Banff Beiseker Canmore Carstairs Cochrane Cremona	Crossfield Didsbury Drumheller Hanna Kneehill Mini Thni Morrin	Alix Bashaw Bentley Big Valley Blackfalds Bowden Caroline Clive Delburne Eckville Endmoor	Innisfail Lacombe Olds Red Deer Rimbey Rocky Mountain House Spruce View Stettler Sundre Sylvan Lake



## ELITE MALE HOCKEY MODEL

Leduc U18 AAA		Fort Saskatchewan U18 AAA	
Beaumont Calmar Devon Drayton Valley Edson Hinton Jasper Leduc Maskwacis	Millet New Sarepta Pembina Ponoka Thorsby Warburg Wetaskiwin Winfield	Andrew Athabasca Boyle Bruderheim CNN Fort McMurray Fort Saskatchewan Goodfish Lake Kikino Lac La Biche Lamont	Plamondon Redwater Saddle Lake Smoky Lake St. Paul Sturgeon Hockey Thorhild Two Hills Vegreville Wabasca Westlock
Leduc U16 AAA		Fort Saskatchewan U16 AAA	
Beaumont Calmar Devon Drayton Valley Edson Hinton Jasper Leduc Maskwacis	Millet New Sarepta Pembina Ponoka Thorsby Warburg Wetaskiwin Winfield	Andrew Athabasca Boyle Bruderheim CNN Fort McMurray Fort Saskatchewan Goodfish Lake Kikino Lac La Biche Lamont	Plamondon Redwater Saddle Lake Smoky Lake St. Paul Sturgeon Hockey Thorhild Two Hills Vegreville Wabasca Westlock
Leduc U15 AAA		Fort Saskatchewan U15 AAA	
Beaumont Calmar Devon Drayton Valley Edson Hinton Jasper Leduc Maskwacis	Millet New Sarepta Pembina Ponoka Thorsby Warburg Wetaskiwin Winfield	Andrew Athabasca Boyle Bruderheim CNN Fort McMurray Fort Saskatchewan Goodfish Lake Kikino Lac La Biche Lamont	Plamondon Redwater Saddle Lake Smoky Lake St. Paul Sturgeon Hockey Thorhild Two Hills Vegreville Wabasca Westlock



## ELITE MALE HOCKEY MODEL

Sherwood Park U18 AAA		St. Albert U18 AAA	
Battle River Camrose Holden Sherwood Park	Strathcona Thunderstars Tofield Viking	Barrhead CR Knights Enoch Fox Creek Mayerthorpe Onoway	Spruce Grove Stony Plain St. Albert Swan Hills Whitecourt
Sherwood Park U16 AAA		St. Albert U16 AAA	Spruce Grove U16 AAA
Battle River Camrose Holden Sherwood Park	Strathcona Thunderstars Tofield Viking	Barrhead CR Knights St. Albert	Enoch Fox Creek Mayerthorpe Onoway Spruce Grove Stony Plain Swan Hills Whitecourt
Sherwood Park U15 AAA		St. Albert U15 AAA	Spruce Grove U15 AAA
Battle River Camrose Holden Sherwood Park	Strathcona Thunderstars Tofield Viking	Barrhead CR Knights St. Albert	Enoch Fox Creek Mayerthorpe Onoway Spruce Grove Stony Plain Swan Hills Whitecourt





## ELITE MALE HOCKEY MODEL

<b>Lloydminster U18 AAA</b>	<b>Grande Prairie U18 AAA</b>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>3Cs Bonnyville Chauvin Cold Lake Dewberry Edgerton Elk Point Frog Lake Glendon Hardisty Hughenden</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Irma Kitscoty Lloydminster Mallaig Mannville Marwayne Onion Lake Paradise Valley Provost Vermilion Wainwright</p> </div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Beaverlodge Clairmont East Smoky Fairview Grande Cache Grande Prairie Grimshaw Grovedale High Level High Prairie Hines Creek Horse Lake Hythe La Crete</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>La Glace Loon River Manning Nampa Peace River Rainbow Lake Rycroft Savanna Sexsmith Slave Lake Smoky River Spirit River Valleyview Wembley</p> </div> </div>
<b>Lloydminster U16 AAA</b>	<b>Grande Prairie U16 AAA</b>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>3Cs Bonnyville Chauvin Cold Lake Dewberry Edgerton Elk Point Frog Lake Glendon Hardisty Hughenden</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Irma Kitscoty Lloydminster Mallaig Mannville Marwayne Onion Lake Paradise Valley Provost Vermilion Wainwright</p> </div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Beaverlodge Clairmont East Smoky Fairview Grande Cache Grande Prairie Grimshaw Grovedale High Level High Prairie Hines Creek Horse Lake Hythe La Crete</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>La Glace Loon River Manning Nampa Peace River Rainbow Lake Rycroft Savanna Sexsmith Slave Lake Smoky River Spirit River Valleyview Wembley</p> </div> </div>
<b>Lloydminster U15 AAA</b>	<b>Grande Prairie U15 AAA</b>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>3Cs Bonnyville Chauvin Cold Lake Dewberry Edgerton Elk Point Frog Lake Glendon Hardisty Hughenden</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Irma Kitscoty Lloydminster Mallaig Mannville Marwayne Onion Lake Paradise Valley Provost Vermilion Wainwright</p> </div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Beaverlodge Clairmont East Smoky Fairview Grande Cache Grande Prairie Grimshaw Grovedale High Level High Prairie Hines Creek Horse Lake Hythe La Crete</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>La Glace Loon River Manning Nampa Peace River Rainbow Lake Rycroft Savanna Sexsmith Slave Lake Smoky River Spirit River Valleyview Wembley</p> </div> </div>



## ELITE MALE HOCKEY MODEL

Calgary U18 AAA	Edmonton U18 AAA
4 U18 AAA	3 U18 AAA
Calgary U16 AAA	Edmonton U16 AAA
8 U16 AAA	4 U16 AAA
Calgary U15 AAA	Edmonton U15 AAA
4 U15 AAA	4 U15 AAA



## **ELITE MALE HOCKEY MODEL**

### **EXPANSION & REDUCTION OF TEAMS**

The Elite Male Hockey Model has defined the maximum number of Teams that are permitted at each Division and Category within Alberta. Teams have been allotted 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.

All changes to the draw zones, expansion and contraction of teams, will be the responsibility of the Elite Male Committee to review. An MHA can apply to Hockey Alberta for expansion or reduction of the number of teams within their draw zone area. Applications must be submitted by May 1. Applications will only be considered by the committee one full season in advance (i.e. Applications for the 2022-23 season must be submitted by May 1, 2021). Applications must be based on the following criteria:

1. Hockey Alberta registration numbers are to be used, in conjunction with other factors, in determining an appropriate draw ratio of available players per Division.
2. Each Elite Draw Zone Area will include a minimum of one U18 AAA team, one U16 AAA team and one U15 AAA team.
3. Historical statistics will be reviewed to determine how competitive the Teams within that Draw Zone have been within the Province.
4. Player Development is an important factor in the rationale for expansion or reduction.
5. Expansion requests will consider the possible effects to existing teams / programs and the existing number of teams within the same Category.

### **ELITE MALE COMMITTEE**

Hockey Alberta has established the Elite Male Committee to oversee League play for Male AAA hockey in Alberta. The committee will monitor the day-to-day operations of League play in accordance with the established Bylaws, Regulations, Policies and Procedures. They will encourage communication between the League representatives and Host MHA's as well as monitor, formulate and recommend changes and improvements for the Elite Male Hockey Model.

The Elite Male Committee will report to the CEO (or designate). Upon making a decision regarding recommendations, if approved, the committee shall have the responsibility to supervise and carry out the decisions. The committee shall be an Operational Standing Committee of Hockey Alberta and shall have a Terms of Reference in place that stipulates the purpose, goals and objectives and composition of the committee. Some items the Elite Male Committee is tasked with are:

- Encourage communication between the Teams, MHA's and the committee in order to develop and grow hockey in Alberta;
- Make recommendations to encourage development opportunities to the Players, Teams and MHA's related to the Elite Male Hockey Model;
- Review and recommend changes (if necessary) with respect to the reduction and addition of Teams, as well as on the assignment of MHA's within the Draw Zones;
- Establish a communications protocol and conflict resolutions procedure to ensure good governance;
- Administer Discipline in accordance with Hockey Alberta Regulations for conduct and rule violations;
- Host meetings for the members to discuss the game and make recommendations for change to the Elite Male Hockey Model.



## **MALE HOCKEY ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT MODEL**

### **ELITE LEAGUE STRUCTURE**

Hockey Alberta has identified the Alberta Elite Hockey League (AEHL) to conduct the day-to-day operations of play in accordance with the established Bylaws, Regulations, Policies and Procedures. There is only one league identified to sanction and operate Male AAA hockey (U18 AAA, U16 AAA and U15 AAA) in Alberta.

### **ELITE PLAYER MOVEMENT**

Players are expected to first try out for the Draw Zone team that draws from the Minor Hockey Association the player is a resident within.

- Players will obtain the necessary permission from their resident MHA, in accordance with the Notification of Try Out Procedures to try out for the Draw Zone team.
- Players will not be considered “Import” Players to the Draw Zone Team in which their resident Minor Hockey Association is located.
- The Players’ resident Minor Hockey Association may not refuse to give permission to a player that wishes to try out for his Resident Draw Zone Team.

Players may be permitted to have their first try out within a Draw Zone that is not their resident MHA’s Draw Zone with special permission from the Elite Male Committee.

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

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



## ELITE MALE HOCKEY MODEL

### NOTIFICATION OF TRYOUT PROCEDURE

Any Player may try-out for the Alberta Elite Hockey League (AEHL) team that they are eligible for provided:

- a) the player has filed a completed Notification of Try-Out form;
- b) the team has been approved for membership by Hockey Alberta in the Elite Male Hockey Model.

Teams participating in the Elite Male Hockey Model must allow for Non-Resident Players from outside the host MHA's boundaries, but within the team's Elite Draw Zone area, to have the opportunity to try out and register with the team. There may be an opportunity where players are afforded 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> try out opportunities, as imports from other Draw Zones. Players on a 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> try out must also be provided an equal opportunity to make the team. The top, eligible, players should be selected for each team, regardless of where they reside within the Draw Zone. The objective is to provide opportunities for the best players from within each Draw Zone.

*For clarity, MHA's hosting Elite Draw Zone Teams must ensure that there are no restrictions on the number of players that reside outside of that respective MHA and within the Draw Zone that are eligible to make and register with the Elite Draw Zone Team. The top 19 or 20 players, by position, should be selected, regardless of where they reside.*

It is incumbent upon the Host MHA to ensure they have a plan for accommodating non-resident players in their Elite Draw Zone. This would include information on the following:

- Living arrangements for players that need to be billeted if they make the team;
- Schooling so the player can maintain their academics;
- Tryouts scheduled appropriately to ensure out of town players can properly participate.

Players wishing to try out with a U18 AAA, U16 AAA, or U15 AAA Team must first complete a Notification of Try-Out Form and submit it to their resident MHA (the MHA within whose boundaries the player resides), and the applicable host MHA of the Team that the player wishes to try out for (*NOTE – If the Team the player is wishing to try out for is hosted within the Player's Resident MHA they are not required to submit this form*).

U18 AAA - A 16 or 17-year-old player may choose a maximum of three (3) U18 AAA teams to try out for. The player must first try out for the team in the Draw Zone in which the player resides (unless previous approval has been obtained through the Elite Player Movement process).

**Players who are added to a try out roster will generally be afforded three (3) opportunities to make an Elite Stream team (subject to clarity below). If a player does not make the first (or second) team they are trying out for, they have the following options:**

- obtain an Elite Waiver form and move onto the second (or third) Midget "AAA" team they have requested to try out for; or
- return to their resident MHA in order to obtain permission to try out for a "AA" program; or
- return to their resident MHA to access other minor hockey programs.

**Note: As there are sufficient tryout opportunities within the Calgary and Edmonton Draw Zones, players that fall within either the Calgary or Edmonton Draw Zones will not be granted additional tryout opportunities outside their resident Draw Zone.**



## ELITE MALE HOCKEY MODEL

Note: 15-Year-Old U18 Players are permitted to try out with one (1) U18 AAA Team within their Resident Draw Zone only.

U16 AAA - A 15-year-old player may choose a maximum of three (3) AAA teams (U18 AAA and U16 AAA) to try out for. The player must first try out for the team in the Draw Zone in which he resides (unless previous approval has been obtained through the Elite Player Movement process as discussed above).

If the player does not make the first (or second) team they are trying out for, they have the following options:

- if first tryout was at U18 AAA - obtain an Elite Waiver form to access a U16 AAA tryout within your resident Draw Zone; or
- if first tryout was at U16 AAA - obtain an Elite Waiver form and move onto the next closest U16 AAA team that was identified on their Notification to Try Out form.
- if cut a second time, obtain an Elite Waiver form and move onto the next closest U16 AAA team, that was identified on their Notification to Try Out form, in order to access a third and final Elite try out; or
- return to their resident MHA in order to obtain permission to try out for a “AA” program; or
- return to their resident MHA to access other minor hockey programs.

Note: A 15 Year Old Player may travel to the next closest Draw Zone(s) to try out for additional U16 AAA Teams.

**Note: As there are sufficient tryout opportunities within the Calgary and Edmonton Draw Zones, players that fall within either the Calgary or Edmonton Draw Zones will not be granted additional tryout opportunities outside their resident Draw Zone.**

U15 AAA - A 13 or 14-year-old player may choose a maximum of three (3) U15 AAA teams to try out for. The player must first try out for the team in the Draw Zone in which the player resides (unless previous approval has been obtained through the Elite Player Movement process).

If the player does not make the first (or second) team they are trying out for, they have the following options:

- move onto the second (or third) U15 AAA team they requested to try out for by obtaining an Elite Waiver form;
- return to their resident MHA in order to obtain permission to try out for a AA program;
- return to their resident MHA to access other minor hockey programs.

**Note: As there are sufficient tryout opportunities within the Calgary and Edmonton Draw Zones, players that fall within either the Calgary or Edmonton Draw Zones will not be granted additional tryout opportunities outside their resident Draw Zone.**

Players will not be afforded the opportunity to access tryouts for more than three (3) teams within a specific category of hockey. A player making any designated AAA Team will receive permission to play for the season and will be returned to their Resident MHA at the end of the season.



## ELITE MALE HOCKEY MODEL

### PLAYER ACCELERATION

One of the objectives of the Elite Male 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.

- a) Each U18 AAA Team is permitted to register only one (1) “Underage Player” at any one time during the season. Only second year U15 aged players will be considered for acceleration to U18 AAA;
- b) There will be no acceleration for U15 aged players to U16;
- c) Each U15 AAA Team is permitted to register only one (1) “Underage Player” at any one time during the season. Only second year U13 aged players will be considered for acceleration to U15 AAA.

### TEAM REGISTRATION

All AAA Teams will be registered in the Hockey Canada Registry (HCR) by the MHA that has been identified as the Host MHA. The Host MHA will register the team(s) in accordance with the Hockey Alberta Regulations. All Hockey Teams must be properly and duly registered in the Registry, prior to their first League Game. All Players and Team Officials participating with a Hockey Team must be duly registered in the Registry before participating in their first League game.

In order to support the Elite Male Hockey Model and to align the system of player development within Alberta, AAA Teams are not permitted to begin the player evaluation and selection process for the current season until *August 15*.

- Players are asked to declare, by September 15, whether or not they are electing to participate in AAA try outs within their Resident Draw Zone (Players that do not notify their Resident Draw Zone of their intent by this date may not be provided an opportunity to access the AAA try out process later on).

Each AAA Team will be required to obtain a commitment, in writing, from all players prior to registering them in the Registry as a try out player (refer to the “Player Agreement” process). Each U18 AAA Team will be permitted to register a maximum of 18 skaters and 2 goaltenders at any one time during the season. Each U16 AAA and U15 AAA Team will be permitted to register a maximum of 17 skaters and 2 goaltenders at any one time during the season.

Each Team is provided the opportunity to utilize Exhibition and Pre-Season games for the purpose of Team roster declaration.

### U18 AAA

During the try out portion of the season, Teams are to register try out players on a “Try Out Roster”. Each Team may list a maximum of 40 players on this listing in the HCR. All players playing in exhibition games and preseason tournaments MUST be listed as try out players on this roster. Players participating in the try out process and who do not participate in exhibition games or tournaments are not required to be registered as try out players. This is not applicable to those players skating at try out sessions, only those players in exhibition games.



## ELITE MALE HOCKEY MODEL

- The transfers will be entered into HCR with the NTO uploaded to the transfer and the transfer will be approved using “Approve (Share)” so that both the Resident MHA and the MHA in which the AAA Team is hosted can view the player’s profile.
- If the player makes the AAA team, the primary association of the player will be changed to the MHA of the AAA team he is now registered with.
- All players that do not make the AAA team will be released off the “Try Out Roster” in the Registry and will return to their resident MHA.

**The AEHL U18 AAA division has declared five (5) games at the beginning of the season as being Pre-Season games for the purpose of Team roster declaration. This structure was developed to better reflect the current Hockey Alberta Regulations and to address the dates by which players are released from higher divisions. To follow is the structure by which Teams in the AEHL U18 AAA division will register:**

- The first five (5) games of the AEHL U18 AAA division scheduled season have been declared as Pre-Season games for the purposes of Team roster declaration.
- AEHL U18 AAA teams will have no more than 25 players remaining in the formal tryout process by September 30 of any season in advance of these first five (5) games. AEHL U18 AAA Teams will register a maximum of 15 Players in the Registry by September 30 to their official team roster.
- Beyond this maximum number of 15 registered players, teams will have access to an auxiliary list of 10 players that remain on try out during the course of the five (5) scheduled Pre-Season games. This auxiliary list of 10 try out players must be finalized by September 30 in advance of these first (5) games.
- Upon the commencement of the 6<sup>th</sup> scheduled League game, try outs will be complete, team rosters will be finalized and all players will be registered in the Registry.
- All Discipline matters will be administered by the AEHL with all notifications of suspensions during the AEHL Pre-Season to be forwarded to the respective Zone Minor Discipline Coordinator for review.

**Note: Players who return from Junior Tryouts after September 30 will be eligible to join the formal tryout process of their resident Draw Zone team and will not count against the 25-player requirement. These players must either be registered to the teams’ official team roster or added as an addition on the teams auxiliary list of try out players.**

### U16 AAA and U15 AAA

During the try out portion of the season, Teams are to register try out players on a “Try Out Roster”. Each Team may list a maximum of 30 players on this listing in the HCR. All players playing in exhibition games and preseason tournaments MUST be listed as try out players on this roster. Players participating in the try out process and who do not participate in exhibition games or tournaments are not required to be registered as try out players. This is not applicable to those players skating at try out sessions, only those players in exhibition games.

- The transfers will be entered into HCR with the NTO uploaded to the transfer and the transfer will be approved using “Approve (Share)” so that both the Resident MHA and the MHA in which the AAA Team is hosted can view the player’s profile.
- If the player makes the AAA team, the primary association of the player will be changed to the MHA of the AAA team he is now registered with.





## ELITE MALE HOCKEY MODEL

- All players that do not make the AAA team will be released off the “Try Out Roster” in the Registry and will return to their resident MHA.

### PLAYER AGREEMENTS

In order to be eligible to play during the regular season and playoffs / provincials, all players must sign a “Player Agreement” form with the team that wishes to register them.

### AFFILIATION POLICY

The Affiliation Policy is used to accommodate athlete development under the Elite Male Hockey Model. To allow for Affiliation within each Elite Draw Zone, the Teams playing in the Alberta Elite Hockey League are eligible to Affiliate players that reside within the boundaries of an MHA within that specific Elite Draw Zone. All players to be registered for affiliation to AAA teams 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 Zone Administration Coordinator for the Zone in which the Elite Draw Zone Host MHA is located within.

- An Elite team may affiliate nineteen (19) players from within the team’s designated geographic region.
- Prior to participation as an affiliated player, 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 Elite Draw Zone of the team they will be Affiliated with, in the AEHL. 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 AAA Teams from any MHA in the Elite Draw Zone regardless of the MHA Categorization. The reason is to provide for the development of Players within their Elite Draw Zone as per this Elite Male Hockey Model.



## **ELITE MALE HOCKEY MODEL**

### **TEAM MANAGEMENT**

The following model guides the management of the teams within the Elite Male Hockey Model and establishes the communication protocol that will be used in order to ensure the success of the model.

Each 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 Elite Male Committee and their Host MHA / Team(s).

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

#### Communication with Elite Male Hockey Model Teams

- Each Host MHA will host meetings a minimum of two (2) times per year to discuss hockey within their area. These meetings will be chaired by a representative from the Host MHA. The Host MHA will be responsible for communicating the date and time of the meeting to all Teams as well as reporting feedback from the meeting back to the Elite Male 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 could be gathered and reviewed by the Elite Male 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 Elite Male 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 Elite Male 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 in order to include the MHA's in the model and to promote the program within each community.
- Each Elite Team Host MHA will host a meeting a minimum of one (1) time per year with all of the MHA's within their Draw Zone. This meeting would occur at the end of the season so that the feedback could be gathered and reviewed by the Elite Male Hockey Committee and adjustments could be dealt with prior to the following season.
- This Draw Zone Meeting will be chaired by the 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 Elite Male 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 Elite Male Hockey Committee so that adjustments could be dealt with prior to the next season.

In each of the cases, information will be gathered through the means listed above, reviewed by the Elite Male Committee, with recommendations then being sent to the CEO (or designate) of Hockey Alberta. Sanctions will be imposed on Host MHA's for any non-compliance to the principles established within the Elite Male Hockey Model.



## **ELITE MALE HOCKEY MODEL**

### Coach and Player Selection

Coach and Player selection is the responsibility of the Host MHA. One principle of the Elite Male Hockey Model is for each Team to consider all eligible coaches and players when selecting their team(s). Regardless of where a coach or player resides, provided they are eligible to try out and/or be selected, they should all be treated equally during the evaluation and selection process.

There are no “quotas” permitted to be exercised within the Elite Male Hockey Model and there shall be no restrictions, based on place of residence, placed on the coaches or players. It is the expectation that Teams are built with the best possible players and coaches available to them.

### **PROVINCIALS**

Provincial Championships for each Category within the Elite Male Hockey Model will be operated by Hockey Alberta and teams participating in the Championship will be determined through League play.

Only Hockey Alberta Teams approved to participate within the Elite Male Hockey Model will be eligible to play for the Provincial Championship.

### **ARBITRATION AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

The Elite Male Hockey Model requires that issues resolved by arbitration and/or conflict resolution to be reviewed and remedied within a timely manner. The Host MHA can refer to the Hockey Alberta 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 through the Elite Male Committee. The first level of review, within the MHA, may not be bypassed in favor of an Elite Male Hockey Model review.