



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, U17 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.

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

- **“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;
- **“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

June 1	- Deadline for Elite Player Movement Applications
July 15	- Decisions for Elite Player Movement communicated
August 15	- AAA Tryouts can start
September 1	- Exhibition Games can start
September 7	- Teams can begin entering Tryout Rosters into HCR
September 18	- Deadline for Players to declare whether or not they are electing to participate in tryouts within their Resident Draw Zone
September 18	- U18 AAA teams must cutdown to no more than 40 players
September 25	- U18 AAA teams must cutdown to no more than 25 players
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)
January 10	- Final date to Release a Player from a Team - Deadline for Draw Zone changes to be communicated to Host MHA's
January 15	- Deadline for MHA's to file Affiliation by 5:00PM MST
February 10	- Final date to Register a Player to a Team
February	- U18 AAA Regular Season ends * - U18 AAA Playoffs begin *
March	- U15 AAA & U17 AAA Regular Season ends * - U15 AAA & U17 AAA Playoffs begin * - U15 AAA Provincial Championship * - U18 AAA Provincial Championships *
April	- U17 AAA Provincial Championship * - 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.



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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.



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Lethbridge U18 AAA		Okotoks U18 AAA	
Bassano Bow Island Brooks Cardston Claresholm Coaldale Crownsnest Pass Duchess Foremost Fort MacLeod Irvine Kainai	Lethbridge Lomond Magrath Medicine Hat Oyen Picture Butte Piikani Nation Pincher Creek Raymond Redcliff Taber Vauxhall Warner	Blackie Chestermere Foothills High Country Hussar Indus	Nanton Okotoks Rockyford Siksika Standard Strathmore Vulcan
Medicine Hat U17 AAA	Lethbridge U17 AAA	Okotoks U17 AAA	
Bassano Bow Island Brooks Duchess Foremost Irvine Medicine Hat Oyen Redcliff	Cardston Claresholm Coaldale Crownsnest Pass Fort MacLeod Kainai Lethbridge Lomond Magrath Picture Butte Piikani Nation Pincher Creek Raymond Taber Vauxhall Warner	Blackie Chestermere Foothills High Country Hussar Indus	Nanton Okotoks Rockyford Siksika Standard Strathmore Vulcan
Medicine Hat U15 AAA	Lethbridge U15 AAA	Okotoks U15 AAA	
Bassano Bow Island Brooks Duchess Foremost Irvine Medicine Hat Oyen Redcliff	Cardston Claresholm Coaldale Crownsnest Pass Fort MacLeod Kainai Lethbridge Lomond Magrath Picture Butte Piikani Nation Pincher Creek Raymond Taber Vauxhall Warner	Blackie Chestermere Foothills High Country Hussar Indus	Nanton Okotoks Rockyford Siksika Standard Strathmore Vulcan



ELITE MALE HOCKEY MODEL

Airdrie U18 AAA		Red Deer U18 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 U17 AAA		Red Deer U17 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 Camrose Devon Drayton Valley 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 U17 AAA		Fort Saskatchewan U17 AAA	
Beaumont Calmar Camrose Devon Drayton Valley 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 Camrose Devon Drayton Valley 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



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Sherwood Park U18 AAA		St. Albert U18 AAA	
<p>Battle River Holden Sherwood Park</p>	<p>Strathcona Thunderstars Tofield Viking</p>	<p>Barrhead CR Knights Edson Enoch Fox Creek Hinton Jasper Mayerthorpe Onoway</p>	<p>Spruce Grove Stony Plain St. Albert Swan Hills Whitecourt</p>
Sherwood Park U17 AAA		St. Albert U17 AAA	Spruce Grove U17 AAA
<p>Battle River Holden Sherwood Park</p>	<p>Strathcona Thunderstars Tofield Viking</p>	<p>Barrhead CR Knights St. Albert</p>	<p>Edson Enoch Fox Creek Hinton Jasper Mayerthorpe Onoway Stony Plain Spruce Grove Swan Hills Whitecourt</p>
Sherwood Park U15 AAA		St. Albert U15 AAA	Spruce Grove U15 AAA
<p>Battle River Holden Sherwood Park</p>	<p>Strathcona Thunderstars Tofield Viking</p>	<p>Barrhead CR Knights St. Albert</p>	<p>Edson Enoch Fox Creek Hinton Jasper Mayerthorpe Onoway Stony Plain Spruce Grove Swan Hills Whitecourt</p>



ELITE MALE HOCKEY MODEL

Lloydminster U18 AAA	Grande Prairie U18 AAA
<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>
Lloydminster U17 AAA	Grande Prairie U17 AAA
<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>
Lloydminster U15 AAA	Grande Prairie U15 AAA
<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>

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Calgary U18 AAA	Edmonton U18 AAA
4 U18 AAA	2 U18 AAA
Calgary U17 AAA	Edmonton U17 AAA
4 U17 AAA	4 U17 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 2025-26 season must be submitted by May 1, 2024**). 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. Historical statistics will be reviewed to determine how competitive the Teams within that Draw Zone have been within the Province.
3. Player Development is an important factor in the rationale for expansion or reduction.
4. 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.



ELITE MALE HOCKEY 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, U17 AAA and U15 AAA) in Alberta.

ELITE PLAYER MOVEMENT

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

- Players will not be considered “Import” Players to the Draw Zone Team in which their resident Minor Hockey Association is located.

Players may be permitted to have their first tryout 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 **June 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 **July 15**.

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

TRYOUT PROCEDURE

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

- a) 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 tryout and register with the team. There may be an opportunity where players are afforded a second tryout opportunity, as imports from other Draw Zones. Players on a second tryout 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.



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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.

U18 AAA - A 16 or 17-year-old player may choose a maximum of two (2) U18 AAA teams to tryout for. The player must first tryout 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 that do not make the first team they are trying out for will have the following options:

- The player will obtain an Elite Waiver Form from the team releasing them and have seven (7) days once they have been released from their first U18 AAA tryout to contact and arrange a tryout with a second U18 AAA team;
- If accepted by a U18 AAA team on a second tryout, it will be the responsibility of the accepting team host MHA to submit for approval of the second tryout to Hockey Alberta, using the "Elite Waiver Form";
- Once approved by Hockey Alberta, the player will be eligible to participate in the second tryout; or
- return to their resident MHA in order to obtain permission to tryout for a "AA" program; or
- return to their resident MHA to access other minor hockey programs.

Players that cannot or choose not to arrange a second tryout within seven (7) days of being released will be returned to their Resident MHA in order to obtain permission to tryout for a AA program.

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

U17 AAA - A 15 or 16-year-old player may choose a maximum of two (2) U17 AAA teams to tryout for. The player must first tryout 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 team they are trying out for, they have the following options:

- The player will obtain an Elite Waiver Form to access a U17 AAA tryout within their resident Draw Zone; or
- The player will obtain an Elite Waiver Form from the team releasing them and have seven (7) days once they have been released from their first U17 AAA tryout to contact and arrange a tryout with a second U17 AAA team;
- If accepted by a U17 AAA team on a second tryout, it will be the responsibility of the accepting team host MHA to submit for approval of the second tryout to Hockey Alberta, using the "Elite Waiver Form";
- Once approved by Hockey Alberta, the player will be eligible to participate in the second tryout; or
- return to their resident MHA in order to obtain permission to tryout for a "AA" program; or
- return to their resident MHA to access other minor hockey programs.



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Players that cannot or choose not to arrange a second tryout within seven (7) days of being released will be returned to their Resident MHA in order to obtain permission to tryout for a “AA” program or access other minor hockey programs.

U15 AAA - A 13 or 14-year-old player may choose a maximum of two (2) U15 AAA teams to tryout for. The player must first tryout 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 team they are trying out for, they have the following options:

- The player will obtain an Elite Waiver Form from the team releasing them and have seven (7) days once they have been released from their first U15 AAA tryout to contact and arrange a tryout with a second U15 AAA team;
- If accepted by a U15 AAA team on a second tryout, it will be the responsibility of the accepting team host MHA to submit for approval of the second tryout to Hockey Alberta, using the “Elite Waiver Form”.
- Once approved by Hockey Alberta, the player will be eligible to participate in the second tryout; or
- return to their resident MHA in order to obtain permission to tryout for a AA program; or
- return to their resident MHA to access other minor hockey programs.

Players that cannot or choose not to arrange a second tryout within seven (7) days of being released will be returned to their Resident MHA in order to obtain permission to tryout for a AA program.

Players will not be afforded the opportunity to access tryouts for more than two (2) 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.

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 the Host Team’s Elite Draw Zone for that specific age category, as well as all associations that have players participating at tryouts. An updated list must be sent for any players accepted on second tryouts.

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 U17;
- 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.



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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' tryouts 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' tryout 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 tryout 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 U17 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 tryout portion of the season, U18 AAA teams will be required to register all the players remaining in the formal tryout process onto a Tryout Roster no later than September 18 of each season. Each Team can list a maximum of 40 players on this listing in the HCR. Players listed on this Tryout Roster will be eligible to continue along in the formal tryout process and participate in exhibition games or preseason tournaments. Those that do not make this Tryout Roster by September 15 will be eligible to either coordinate a second tryout with another U18 AAA team or will return to their Resident MHA in order to obtain permission to tryout for a AA program.

U18 AAA teams who do not declare the maximum of 40 players onto the Tryout Roster by September 18 will be eligible to register players approved on second tryouts or players returning from Junior Hockey to the Tryout Roster after September 18. Teams who release players from the Tryout Roster will not be able to register an additional player in their place.

- The transfers will be entered into HCR with the Elite Male Waiver Form (if applicable – second tryouts only) and uploaded to the transfer. Transfers 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 Tryout Roster in the Registry and will return to their resident MHA.



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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 25 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 tryout during the course of the five (5) scheduled Pre-Season games. This auxiliary list of 10 tryout players must be finalized by September 30 in advance of these first (5) games.
- Upon the commencement of the 6th scheduled League game, tryouts 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 Regional 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 tryout players.

U17 AAA and U15 AAA

During the tryout portion of the season, Teams are to register tryout players on a "Tryout 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 tryout players on this roster. Players participating in the tryout process and who do not participate in exhibition games or tournaments are not required to be registered as tryout players. This is not applicable to those players skating at tryout sessions, only those players in exhibition games.

- The transfers will be entered into HCR with the Elite Male Waiver Form (if applicable – second tryouts only) and uploaded to the transfer. Transfers 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 Tryout 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.



ELITE MALE HOCKEY MODEL

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 Administration Coordinator for the Region 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.

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.



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.

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 tryout 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.



ELITE MALE HOCKEY MODEL

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.