



## AA HOCKEY MODEL

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### HISTORY

The idea of a standardized AA category of hockey in Alberta has been under review since 2012. In 2014, at the direction of the Hockey Alberta Board of Directors, a committee was formed to review Minor Hockey, below the Elite level, and develop a structure that would enable Alberta's hockey athletes to compete at a level that is fair and equitable for the specific skill level of each athlete. The focus of the review was to create a developmental system for athletes, at a Regional level, to progress through to Elite hockey.

The AA Hockey Model, as it became known, provides guidance and direction for the minor hockey administrators to recognize both the needs of our players and the MHAs. The model is based on making responsible decisions for the best interest of the athlete. This model also recognizes that each athlete should be able to access a level of hockey that is consistent with his/her skill level.

### COMMITTEE MANDATE

The AA Hockey Implementation Committee was established to devise the AA Hockey Model to be implemented in the 2015-2016 hockey season. The committee addressed rules, regulations, policies, and procedures pertaining to the operations and governance of hockey at the AA level. The Committee's recommendations were submitted to, and approved by, the Hockey Alberta Board of Directors at the Board's March 2015 meeting.

### COMMITTEE OBJECTIVES

- Gather feedback from MHAs and stakeholders with regard to draft versions of the model;
- Gather detailed registration statistics, travel distances, and other relevant information on which to base the final model;
- Create the ideal operational guidelines and regulations of AA Hockey League(s);
- Create the detailed Recruitment Areas;
- Establish protocol to ensure standardization and consistency;
- Review the first season of the model's implementation and recommend revisions as necessary.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Chair:** Graham Parsons

**Members:** Duncan Cathcart (Cochrane MHA), Betty Chmilar (Zone 8), Greg Davenport (SCAHL), Steven Holt (NCMHA), Kevin Kobelka (Hockey Calgary), Danny Povaschuk (Zone 6), Earl Reid (NAMHL), Dave Schotte (Sherwood Park MHA), and Bryden Burrell and Kevin Macrae (Hockey Alberta staff)

### INCLUDING PEEWEE IN THE AA MODEL

The committee recommended a course of action for Hockey Alberta with respect to AA hockey at the Peewee, Bantam and Midget divisions.

Including Peewee has generated much discussion. However, the committee determined that if Peewee was not included in the AA Model, a gap potentially would be created in the development progression of players between Peewee and Bantam AA or AAA. The Committee identified that the only possible rationale for not including Peewee in the AA Model would be if everyone believed that players of this age should not be permitted an opportunity to play a higher level of hockey. That was not the case. There were concerns about the amount and time of travel appropriate for Peewees. As a result, it was determined the AA Model could be built to provide a different structure, especially pertaining to travel, for Peewees.

Including Peewee in the AA Model is reflective of the principles of the Long Term Player Development (LTPD) Model. The LTPD model identifies Atom as a learning stage, where players are still developing individual skills; Atom players should not yet be introduced to higher levels of team tactics or "competition". In contrast, including Peewee in the AA Model aligns with the LTPD model, as it is at Peewee where players begin to learn about training and mastering skills, and higher levels of competition are introduced.



## AA HOCKEY MODEL

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### RECRUITMENT AREAS

Using registration numbers, the committee identified the maximum number of teams that should be operating at the AA level in Alberta. The AA Model is designed to create an “ideal” state, where all AA teams would be able to compete at the same level. Based on an analysis of other Leagues within Canada, as well as LTPD principles, the committee determined that approximately 15% of all players in Alberta should be competing at the more “competitive” levels (AA and AAA) and the remaining 85% should be developing their skills within the tiered or grassroots system.

In order to apply these numbers to the AA Model, the committee looked specifically at each division. In Peewee, which does not have AAA, there would need to be enough teams to have the top 15% of all players in AA. In Bantam and Midget, there are already approximately 5% of players in AAA and therefore enough AA teams would be needed for the next 10%.

The number of Recruitment Areas was determined based on these percentages and the committee structured each area based on geographical distances and registration numbers. The committee started with data from the past five years and established parameters on how to interpret registration numbers. It was not realistic to assume that all the players within an area were going to try out and have an impact on the regional team, so a “discount policy” was established. Depending on the distance an MHA was located from the Host MHA for a recruitment area, the MHA would have only a percentage of its registration numbers applied to the Region (i.e., an MHA more than 100 km away from the Host might only have 20% of their registrations applied to the region).

Using this “discount policy”, Recruitment Areas were structured with approximately 100 eligible players per team. There are still some areas, most notably in the far North and far South, that do not quite meet the requirements; however the commitment at this point is to review these areas annually to determine if change is required.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations that the committee made to the Board of Directors are based on much input and many factors, including: numerous meetings, a review of research and stakeholder feedback, and an overview of historical information on this topic. The recommendations, as outlined below, were approved at the March 2015 Board of Directors meeting.

1. Establish a new structure for AA Hockey in Alberta that creates a standardized model across the Province for Peewee, Bantam and Midget by adopting the AA Hockey Model as the only system of hockey at this particular level within Alberta.
2. Approve the proposed League(s) as sanctioned Hockey Alberta Leagues.
3. Adopt a “regional” philosophy with regard to player residency for the purpose of AA Hockey.
4. Approve the sanctioned AA Leagues to operate Provincial Playdowns and identify the regional representative teams that will compete for the AA Championship in each Division.
5. Establish the AA Hockey Committee as a standing committee of Hockey Alberta to oversee the AA Hockey Model and work with the Minor Regulation, Minor Administration and Discipline Committees to govern AA Hockey on a daily basis.

# ALBERTA "AA" HOCKEY MODEL





## **“AA” HOCKEY MODEL**

### **INTRODUCTION**

In 2014, at the direction of the Hockey Alberta Board of Directors, a committee was formed with the intent of reviewing Minor Hockey, below the Elite level, and developing a process that would enable Alberta’s hockey athletes to compete at a level that is fair and equitable for the specific skill level of each athlete. The focus of the process deals with the “competitive” system within Hockey Alberta and provides for the development of athletes at a Regional level, 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**

The principles of the “AA” Hockey Model are as follows:

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 Peewee, Bantam and Midget 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 LMHA. The “AA” Hockey Model is designed to balance the needs of the player with that of the LMHA 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 local 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>September 1<sup>st</sup></b>	“AA” Recruitment Area Evaluation Camps start; Deadline for “AA” Player Movement Applications;
<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>December 15<sup>th</sup></b>	Deadline for MHA's to file Affiliation.
<b>January 10<sup>th</sup></b>	Final date to Register a Player to or Release a Player from a Team;
<b>February 28<sup>th</sup></b>	League Playoffs complete; Representatives for Provincial Tournaments determined;
<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 Peewee AA Division vary from the Bantam and Midget AA Divisions based on registration numbers, geographic location and time of travel.



## “AA” HOCKEY MODEL

### “AA” HOCKEY MODEL RECRUITMENT AREAS

#### MIDGET “AA”

Grande Prairie	Peace River	Wainwright	Fort Saskatchewan
Grande Prairie Beaverlodge Clairmont East Smoky Grande Cache Grovedale Horse Lake Hythe La Glace Rycroft Savanna Sexsmith Spirit River Sturgeon Lake Valleyview Wembley	Peace River Fairview Grimshaw High Level Hines Creek La Crete Manning Nampa Rainbow Lake Smoky River	Wainwright Castor Chauvin Consort Cornation Edgerton Hardisty Hughenden Irma Mannville Provost Vermilion	Fort Saskatchewan Andrew Bruderheim Josephburg Lamont Mundare Redwater Thorhild Two Hills Vegreville
Bonnyville	Lac La Biche	Camrose	Whitecourt
Bonnyville Cold Lake Elk Point Frog Lake Glendon Mallaig Saddle Lake St. Paul	Lac La Biche Athabasca Boyle Goodfish Lake Kikino Plamondon Smoky Lake	Camrose Bashaw Holden Killam Rosalind Sedgewick Thunderstars Viking	Whitecourt Edson Fox Creek Hinton Jasper Mayerthorpe Sangudo Swan Hills
Sturgeon	Lloydminster	Spruce Grove	Leduc
Sturgeon Barrhead Calahoo CNN Riviere Qui Barre Westlock	Lloydminster Dewberry Kitscoty Marwayne Paradise Valley	Spruce Grove Onoway Pembina Stony Plain Wabamun	Leduc Calmar Drayton Valley Thorsby Warburg
Wetaskiwin	Slave Lake	Beaumont	Strathcona
Wetaskiwin Maskwacis Millet Ponoka Winfield	Slave Lake Fort Vermilion High Prairie Wabasca-Desmerais	Beaumont Devon New Serepta	Strathcona Tofield
St. Albert	Sherwood Park	Fort McMurray	
St. Albert	Sherwood Park	Fort McMurray	
**Two Teams**			



## “AA” HOCKEY MODEL

### “AA” HOCKEY MODEL RECRUITMENT AREAS

#### MIDGET “AA”

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



## “AA” HOCKEY MODEL

### “AA” HOCKEY MODEL RECRUITMENT AREAS

#### BANTAM “AA”

Grande Prairie	Peace River	Wainwright	Fort Saskatchewan
Grande Prairie Beaverlodge Clairmont East Smoky Grande Cache Grovedale Horse Lake Hythe  La Glace Rycroft Savanna Sexsmith Spirit River Sturgeon Lake Valleyview Wembley  **Two Teams**	Peace River Fairview Grimshaw High Level Hines Creek La Crete Manning Nampa  Rainbow Lake Smoky River	Wainwright Castor Chauvin Consort Cornation Edgerton Hardisty Hughenden  Irma Mannville Provost Vemilion	Fort Saskatchewan Andrew Bruderheim Josephburg Lamont Mundare Redwater Thorhild  Two Hills Vegreville
Bonnyville	Lac La Biche	Camrose	Whitecourt
Bonnyville Cold Lake Elk Point Frog Lake Glendon Mallaig Saddle Lake St. Paul	Lac La Biche Athabasca Boyle Goodfish Lake Kikino Plamondon Smoky Lake	Camrose Bashaw Holden Killam Rosalind Sedgewick Thunderstars Viking	Whitecourt Edson Fox Creek Hinton Jasper Mayerthorpe Sangudo Swan Hills
Sturgeon	Lloydminster	Spruce Grove	Leduc
Sturgeon Barrhead Calahoo CNN Riviere Qui Barre Westlock	Lloydminster Dewberry Kitscoty Marwayne Paradise Valley	Spruce Grove Onoway Pembina Stony Plain Wabamun  **Two Teams**	Leduc Calmar Drayton Valley Thorsby Warburg
Wetaskiwin	Slave Lake	Beaumont	Strathcona
Wetaskiwin Maskwacis Millet Ponoka Winfield	Slave Lake Fort Vemilion High Prairie Wabasca-Desmerais	Beaumont Devon New Serepta	Strathcona Tofield
St. Albert	Sherwood Park	Fort McMurray	
St. Albert  **Three Teams**	Sherwood Park  **Two Teams**	Fort McMurray	





## “AA” HOCKEY MODEL

### “AA” HOCKEY MODEL RECRUITMENT AREAS

#### BANTAM “AA”

Strathmore	Olds	Lacombe	Taber
Strathmore Bassano Chestermere Drumheller Hanna Hussar Indus Morrin Rockyford Siksika	Olds Bowden Carstairs Didsbury Innisfail Kneehill Spruce View Sundre	Lacombe Alix Big Valley Blackfalds Clive Delburne Endmoor Stettler	Taber Bow Island Coaldale Foremost Lomond Picture Butte Raymond Vauxhall Warner
Lethbridge	Medicine Hat	Foothills	Sylvan Lake
Lethbridge Cardston Crowsnest Pass Fort MacLeod Kainai Magrath Pincher Creek	Medicine Hat Brooks Duchess Irvine Oyen Redcliff	Foothills Blackie Claresholm High Country Nanton Vulcan	Sylvan Lake Bentley Caroline Eckville Rimbey Rocky Mtn House
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Edmonton	Calgary		
Edmonton	Calgary		
** To Be Determined by “AA” Committee **	** To Be Determined by “AA” Committee **		



## “AA” HOCKEY MODEL

### “AA” HOCKEY MODEL RECRUITMENT AREAS

#### PEEWEE “AA”

Grande Prairie	Peace River	Wainwright	Fort Saskatchewan
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St. Albert	Sherwood Park	Fort McMurray	
St. Albert  **Three Teams**	Sherwood Park  **Two Teams**	Fort McMurray	



## “AA” HOCKEY MODEL

### “AA” HOCKEY MODEL RECRUITMENT AREAS

#### PEEWEE “AA”

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Strathmore Bassano Chestermere Drumheller Hanna Hussar Indus Morrin Rockyford Siksika  **Two Teams**	Olds Bowden Carstairs Didsbury Innisfail Kneehill Spruce View Sundre	Lacombe Alix Big Valley Blackfalds Clive Delburne Endmoor Stettler	Taber Bow Island Coaldale Foremost Lomond Picture Butte Raymond Vauxhall Warner
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Cochrane	Airdrie	Red Deer	Okotoks
Cochrane Banff Canmore Cremona Mini Thni	Airdrie Beiseker Crossfield  ** Two Teams**	Red Deer  **Two Teams**	Okotoks
Edmonton	Calgary		
Edmonton  ** To Be Determined by “AA” Committee **	Calgary  ** To Be Determined by “AA” Committee **		



## “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 **March 1**, 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 (Peewee, Bantam and Midget).
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.

### 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 (Peewee AA, Bantam AA, Midget AA). The Leagues / organizations are:

- **Northern Alberta Hockey League (NAHL)**
- **South Central Alberta Hockey League (SCAHL)**
- **Hockey Edmonton**
- **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.



## “AA” HOCKEY MODEL

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 LMHA’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” PLAYER MOVEMENT

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

- Players will obtain the necessary permission from their Resident LMHA, via the Minor Hockey Player Movement Form, to try out for the “AA” Hockey Team that operates in the area in which they reside.
- Players will not be considered “Import” Players to the Recruitment Area Team in which their Resident Local 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/her Resident Recruitment Area Team.

Players are only permitted to try out within a Recruitment Area that is not their Resident LMHA’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 Minor Hockey Player Movement Form and supporting documentation, through the Hockey Alberta office prior to **September 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



## “AA” HOCKEY MODEL

### NOTIFICATION OF 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 player has filed a completed Minor Hockey Player Movement form;
- b) 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 LMHA’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.**

Players wishing to try out with a “AA” Team (as defined) must first complete a Minor Hockey Player Movement Form and submit to their Resident LMHA (the LMHA within whose boundaries the player resides) and the applicable host LMHA of the “AA” Team to which the player wishes to try-out for.

Residency of the player is determined as per Hockey Canada Residency Qualifications.

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 LMHA.

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;
- b) The Recruitment Area must have gained support in accepting “Import” Players from its participating LMHA partners prior to being able to request players for a second try-out;
- c) The player’s Resident LMHA 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;
- e) The player has submitted a new Minor Hockey Player Movement Form, along with the Letter from the Resident Recruitment Area, to the League;



## **“AA” HOCKEY MODEL**

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 try-out must be evaluated by independent evaluators for a minimum of two (2) ice times and it must be determined as to whether or not the player has made the team within seven (7) days;

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

### **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 LMHA must support the request for an Underage Player Exception by providing the necessary Player Movement form;
- (c) Along with the Player Movement 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 LMHA. The Recruitment Area Host LMHA 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 13 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 Zone Administration Coordinator for the Zone in which the Recruitment Area Host LMHA 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, 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.
- A player, registered with a team which has a “team to team” affiliation with a higher Division/Category team may not be selected as a specially affiliated player.
- Once a player has been selected as a specially affiliated player, the team with which that player is registered may not enter into a “team to team” affiliation agreement with a higher Division /category team.
- 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.**

For clarification purposes, the intent of this policy is to allow Players to Affiliate to Teams in the “AA” Hockey Model from any LMHA 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.



## **“AA” HOCKEY MODEL**

### **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 LMHA 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).

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 LMHA of the Recruitment Area. The Host LMHA 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 Local 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.



## **“AA” HOCKEY MODEL**

- This Recruitment Area Meeting will be chaired by the Recruitment Area Host LMHA 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 LMHA’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 Executive Director of Hockey Alberta.

### **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.

### **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.



## **“AA” HOCKEY MODEL**

### **“AA” HOCKEY COMMITTEE**

The purpose of the “AA” Hockey Committee will be to encourage communication and development between the Regional Teams, MHA’s and Leagues and communicate those concerns and ideas to Hockey Alberta.

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 2 times per year to discuss the “AA” Hockey Model and any topics that have been brought forth through the Recruitment Area meetings.

The Terms of Reference 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.