



# CENTRAL ALBERTA HOCKEY LEAGUE

## Executive Memorandum

May 11, 2018

**To: All CAHL Member Associations and the CAHL Novice Steering Committee Members**

**Re: 2018 – 2019 CAHL Novice Division Hockey Season**

This letter is to inform you of the outcomes of the May 9<sup>th</sup> Novice Transition meeting in Strathmore. The CAHL Novice Steering committee and additional interested CAHL Members met and reviewed the current information available. From that discussion the following recommendations have been made we want to communicate to all Members for the upcoming season.

1. The CAHL will be continuing to provide a full ice Tiered Novice Division in the 2018 – 2019 Season as we have before with all current rules in place. Members will continue to have the option to declare combined teams however they choose to do so in the current tiering grid. The following consideration will be made:

In the event that Novice team declaration numbers are lower than expected we will consider more regional play options to reduce travel with the play-offs being against more competitive team groups. This would be similar to the reduced travel pilot project used this season for the Lower tiers in Novice, Atom and Pee Wee. This will benefit the members by reducing travel concerns and then still providing a portion of the season with like teams. It also will allow all skill levels of play an opportunity to win a banner.

2. The CAHL will also be prepared to accommodate those who wish to transition immediately to the new Hockey Canada Intro to Hockey Program. Members will have the opportunity to declare they wish to do this for the upcoming season. Seasonal Structure Guidelines will be adjusted as recommended by Hockey Alberta to meet the CAHL Members needs at that time.

The CAHL then would provide the website communication tools and game scheduling services for this new program similar to what we do now and provide the added benefit of the Home Team not having to get Exhibition Game sanction and visiting Team having to get Travel Permit for each game under the new program as it will be sanctioned by the CAHL under our general sanction. Note: This is a change in the Hockey Alberta Insurances processes, all exhibition games require a game sanction and all visitors require a travel permit (regardless of the distance travelled or zone boundaries) starting in the upcoming season.

As many CAHL Members have not decided as yet what they are doing for sure in the upcoming season, the concerns around this will be managed to ensure no one is geographically left out during this transition. This will be addressed in the September 1 initial team summary submission. We will have the information available and communicated as needed and then we would have until the October 1<sup>st</sup> declaration date to finalize all of the decisions the members will need to make for this process.

Thank you for your support and patience while we work through these challenging times. As always please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, concerns or would like to hear more about what we are going to try and accomplish in our upcoming hockey season.

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