



# CENTRAL ALBERTA HOCKEY LEAGUE

## Executive Memorandum

October 31, 2021

**To: To the Attention of All CAHL Member Associations**

**Re: Update regarding CAHL Teams and Alberta One Inter-League Play**

For several years now, Hockey Alberta has asked the Alberta One Minor Leagues Committee to participate in inter-league play if it was possible for the benefit of Hockey Alberta Members. For the CAHL teams it would be the same as we play inter-tier in our game schedules now. The primary benefit is to create more regional play between like skilled teams. The CAHL has used this for quite some time including expanded testing of regional play models back as far as 2015. The members of the CAHL benefitted in these strategies and we have used Inter-tier play since as far back as 2014. In every case it was utilized, it has reduced the travel of the participants involved. Inter-League play is expected to have the same result. While allowing other League's teams without a sufficient number of like teams to play, an opportunity at meaningful games in a more regional travel area as the need arises.

This season it appears that we may have realistic Inter-League opportunities potentially with the Northern Alberta Interlock League (NAI) and the North Eastern Alberta Hockey League (NEAHL) all immediately to the northern edge of the CAHL League Area. While this would not affect the more southern areas of the CAHL, I am sending this to all members for transparency and awareness of what is going to potentially happen with this Hockey Alberta and joint Alberta One Minor Leagues Committee's Initiatives.

I will be reaching out to potentially impacted Members shortly as the tiering rounds in the other leagues are coming to a close and as ours will do so shortly as well.

In all cases that this is considered, the intent is:

- Reduce the travel in both leagues for example – U13 tier 1 that has a north and south tier. We would substitute the north tiers games with a closer team in the north instead of going to their furthest away games in the south. Travel distances would not exceed our normal practices for these occurrences for inter-league play games.
- We hope that since everyone is following the Alberta One tiering grid that the participants are like teams. There are plans for everyone in a participating tier to make playoffs under this format so if issues are encountered with skill disparities we have already planned and will remove its effect by allowing everyone go to playoffs. The guest Inter-League participants will all return home for their own version of playoffs.
- Number of games involved may vary depending on the situation, however there is no intent to create increased scheduled game numbers with this process in the regular season. Games will be added to your schedule as TBA games and you and any potential guests would figure out the best time to play the assigned games.

We will know more of what the potential involvement is shortly, I will be reaching out to those who are impacted when that happens.

If you have further questions or comments, please feel free to reach out to me. Thank you,

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