



Proposal for EFHL Tiering Policy Revision

Guiding Principles

The purpose of the Edmonton Federation Tiering Committee is to create parity throughout the Divisions and Categories under the jurisdiction of the Edmonton Federation Hockey League. This ensures positive participation and the fair and equitable treatment of all participants through the tiering and re-tiering of teams within divisions.

The objective of tiering is to allow all participants to play at a competitive level. Therefore, the tiering committee places its emphasis on tiering teams and not players, although this is not to say that a player may not impact the tiering of the team.

By adopting the following tiering processes and principles, a more transparent and open process will result, reducing the number of times teams are re-tiered and ensuring consistency of process and review across all divisions and categories. Where possible, it is the goal to have teams remain competitive in their assigned tier at the outset of the season. This provides a more stable season schedule for all teams and reduces the amount of movement between tiers during the season. While taking player development into consideration, we want to ensure that all players are equally challenged to improve their skills and reach for the next level as the season progresses.

Proposed Amendments to EFHL Tiering Policy

1. Tiering Committee Structure:

- A separate and dedicated **Tiering Committee** per age division (U9, U11, U13, U15, U18)
- 5 voting members per group, all from non-conflicted MHA Reps (e.g. U15 members vote on U11 decisions and no committee members have any connection to the Division of play)
- Each EFHL Member Association will nominate a Tiering Committee Representative.
- Separate Tiering Committees will be established at all age divisions by August 31st prior to season start.

The following tiering principles and policies will be followed for all Tiering Categories of play:

2. Initial placement of teams will follow the Hockey Alberta and EFHL supported tiering grid. Any such deviation from the approved Hockey Alberta Tiering Grid will need to be submitted to the EFHL Tiering Committee 7 days prior to when confirmed team numbers and tiers are due to EFHL Administration. The EFHL Tiering Committee for that Division of play will review and approve or deny the application. A denied application can follow EFHL Appeals policy and will be heard as soon as possible to avoid any delay in scheduling.
3. Where an association is responsible for entering multiple teams in the same division and tier, those teams are required to be equally blended and balanced by the association through their evaluation processes.
4. Following any tiering or regular season round, the EFHL Tiering Committee will use the following guidelines to provide tiering recommendations to all associations within 12 hours of the scheduled being completed and included the following:
 - a. Goal Differential where base is set at +-6 goal differential for initial consideration.
 - b. Strength of Schedule Statistics based on competitive balance of tiering during the round or regular season, which will assist with the following issues:
 - i. Prevent teams from moving up solely due to blowouts vs. weak opponents
 - ii. Prevent teams from being dropped due to tough losses to the strongest competition
 - iii. Ensure all teams are evaluated through the lens of contextualized performance
5. The above process provides for a refined, data-forward-but not data exclusive-approach designed to:
 - a. Improve consistency and transparency



EFHL Tiering Policy Review 2025-2026

- b. Incorporate strength of schedule as a contextual metric
 - c. Establish standardized voting criteria
 - d. Enable swift and unbiased decision-making under real work time constraints.
6. Formalized Tiering Review at completion of Tiering Round
- a. Tiering Committee will complete initial tiering placement using automated recommendation based on objective metrics including sub-tiering to create more competitive tiers between 8-12 teams. This initial tiering will be communicated to associations within 12 hours of the end of the tiering season games.
 - b. Once association directors have received the tiering committee recommendations, access will be provided to an online form submission where associations can request changes to the initial tiering placement for Tiering Committee review. This submission will need to be completed within 24 hours of the initial tiering being circulated.
 - c. The tiering committee will review and discuss all submitted requests, rendering final placement decisions 24 hours following the associations submission deadline.
 - i. Submitted requests will be reviewed by EFHL Operations and presented to the committee in the following manner removing all team an association identification:
 1. Division/Tier
 2. Win/Loss Record
 3. Win %
 4. Goal Differential
 5. Strength of Schedule Rating
 6. Submitted Consideration of Request
 - ii. Voting Procedures
 1. Held within 24 hours of initial submission deadline
 2. Near threshold teams and those with consideration submissions
 3. Anonymous voting
 4. Stricter adherence to data-driven decision making
 - d. Final tiering Committee decision will be communicated to all EFHL Contacts.
 - e. Appeal of Final Tiering Committee decision needs to be submitted within 24 hours of Final Tiering Placement following EFHL Appeal guidelines for fees, an appeal hearing will not occur as the appeal will be reviewed based on submissions.
 - i. Appeal filed within 24 hours of tiering recommendations and include \$315.00 non-refundable appeal fee via electronic transfer
 - ii. Review by Appeal Committee within 12 hours of Appeal Submission
 - iii. Appellant is provided with reasoning behind the committee decision via email.
 - f. EFHL Appeal Committee will review submission and render a decision within 12 hours of appeal being submitted an appellant is provided with decision reasoning via email.
 - g. This structured timeline ensures transparency, provides a structured timeframe for discussions, and promotes a more efficient and informed tiering meeting process.
7. Post-Tiering Movement for Playoff and Provincial Qualification
- a. Teams may request upward movement following the regular season round to align with provincial competition goals
 - b. Teams that voluntarily move up for league play are not eligible to request a return to their original tier for playoffs
 - c. Any movement decisions must be supported by objective performance metrics
 - d. The EFHL should establish clear timelines and criteria for approving upward movement, while eliminating downward playoff movement requests after tiering is complete
 - e. EFHL Tiering Committee will follow the below process for tiering change requests prior to playoffs:



EFHL Tiering Policy Review 2025-2026

- i. EFHL Tiering Committee will review league standings upon completion of all games up to and including January 31st and using the same format following the tiering round, will send out notification to all associations of final tiering changes and placement for EFHL Playoffs.
- ii. Tiering change requests prior to playoffs will be submitted via EFHL form to the EFHL Tiering Committee and will include the following and be submitted within 24 hours of final tiering placement being provided to associations and will include the following:
 1. Division/Tier
 2. Win/Loss Record
 3. Win %
 4. Strength of Schedule Rating
 5. Submitted consideration for request and movement
- iii. The Tiering Committee will be provided all information with team and association identifiers removed and provide final Playoff Tiering Placement for all associations within 48 hours following the same tiering round process as indicated above.
- iv. Voting Procedures will be as follows:
 1. Held within 48 hours of playoff tiering proposals
 2. Near threshold teams and those with consideration requests
 3. Anonymous voting
 4. Stricter adherence to objective data-driven decision making
 5. Analysis of impact on all tiers for playoff competition
- f. Final tiering Committee decision will be communicated to all EFHL Contacts.
- g. Appeal of Final Tiering Committee decision needs to be submitted within 24 hours of Final Tiering Placement following EFHL Appeal guidelines for fees, an appeal hearing will not occur as the appeal will be reviewed based on submissions.
 - i. Appeal filed within 24 hours of tiering recommendations and include \$315.00 non-refundable appeal fee via electronic transfer
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Discretionary Authority of Tiering Committee

To protect the Edmonton Federation Hockey League divisions and tiers from tampering or stacking of teams or registering teams that cannot be placed competitively in any tier, the Edmonton Federation Hockey League Tiering Committee has the authority to declare a team “Non-Competitive”. A “Non-Competitive” team is defined as a team that cannot be re-tiered competitively. Once a team is declared “Non-Competitive”, they will continue to participate in the tiering and league regular season but will be ineligible for playoffs or provincial competition. EFHL Tiering Committee decisions are appealable to the EFHL Appeals Committee.