



## Tiering Policy

### Edmonton Federation Hockey League

#### Guiding Principles:

Guided by the Hockey Edmonton Tiering Policy, the purpose of the Edmonton Federation Hockey League Tiering Committee is to create parity throughout the Divisions and Categories under the jurisdiction of the Edmonton Federation Hockey League. This ensures the 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, not players.

By adopting the following Tiering Principles, a more transparent and open process will result, reducing the number of times teams are re-tiered ensuring consistency of process and review across all divisions and categories. Where possible, we want to place teams in their proper tier from the outset of the season. This provides a more stable season schedule for all teams in the Edmonton Federation Hockey League and reduces the amount of movement between categories 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.

#### The Following Principles will be followed for Tiering Categories:

1. Initial Tiering for the tiering round will place teams as per the Hockey Alberta Tiering model based on the number of teams an organization will field for the upcoming season. Any deviation from such placement must be approved by League Governor of Division in consultation with District or Interlock Division Directors at the initial tiering meeting and the reasons be document and published
2. Where a District or Interlock is responsible for entering multiple teams in the same Division and Category, those teams are required to be equally blended and balanced
3. Re-tiering consideration will take into account a guideline threshold of plus or minus six goals a game for all divisions and categories of Atom, Peewee, Bantam and Midget.
4. The EFHL guideline for all teams having cumulative goals for or against over the above threshold per game, should be moved to a higher or lower tier. Multiple tier movement would be at the discretion of the League Governor consulting with the District and Interlock Division Directors at the Tiering Meeting and reasons be documented and published
5. Teams that do not exceed the above thresholds for goals for or against, should remain in the same tier regardless of request to move. Discretion will exist with the League



## Tiering Policy

Governor and a tiering committee vote, which would be recorded and documented for transparency if there is reason to move outside the stated guidelines.

6. If it is determined by the Tiering Committee that smaller conferences be established in larger tiers, they will be colour coded as follows: Red, Blue, Green, Orange, Yellow and White.

### **Discretionary Authority of Tiering Committee**

To protect Edmonton Federation Hockey League programs 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 “Non-Competitive Team”. A “Non-Competitive Team” is defined as a team that cannot be re-tiered competitively. It is the responsibility of the District or Interlock Association to provide scheduled ice for such teams.

1. Once a team has been declared Non-Competitive, the District or Interlock Association from which the Non-Competitive team was formed is responsible for providing opposition for the team or re-structuring the team to ensure it can be tiered competitively within Edmonton Federation Hockey League
2. The Edmonton Federation Hockey League Tiering Committee; deals only with their tiering as it relates to Novice, Atom, Peewee, Bantam and Midget that are not part of the Hockey Alberta AA Model.
3. Appeals regarding decisions of the Edmonton Federation Hockey League Tiering Committee are heard by the Hockey Edmonton Appeal Committee

### **Edmonton Federation Hockey League Tiering Committee**

The Edmonton Federation Hockey League Tiering Committee is comprised of a Chairperson (non-voting), the League Governor of the Division and one designated representative from each District and Interlock Association participating within Edmonton Federation Hockey League. Decisions of Tiering and Re-Tiering are done by the consensus of the designated representatives. (Novice example: Chairperson, Novice League Governor, NWZ, SWZ, SEZ, NEZ, KC, EGHA, St. Albert, Beaumont, Spruce Grove, Strathcona, Stoney Plain and Sturgeon)

### **District and Interlock Team Formation Directives for Mandatory Team Numbers:**

Districts and Interlock Associations assume responsibility to ensure thresholds for team formation have been met and align with Hockey Alberta Tiering Grid, Hockey Edmonton Operating Directives and Board Motions.



## Tiering Policy

1. Districts and Interlock Associations who fail to form the Requisite Number(s) of Teams must adhere to the process below; The District or Interlock Association **MUST** apply to Hockey Edmonton if they are proposing not to field the required number of teams as set out by Hockey Alberta Tiering Grid, Hockey Edmonton Operating Directives and Board Motions
  - a. Deadline of March 1<sup>st</sup> to Align with the Hockey Alberta AA Model (Peewee) or Hockey Edmonton board motion (Novice and Atom).

The EFHL Chair with the assistance of EFHL Executive Committee and League Governors shall review the requests and provide a recommendation to the Hockey Edmonton Executive who will rule on behalf of the Board.

2. If the Hockey Edmonton supports the District or Interlock's position that they cannot field the requisite number of teams as per the Hockey Alberta Tiering Grid or AA model for Peewee, then Hockey Edmonton will provide direction with respect to which one of the following two program delivery options for the Division of play will be in effect. AA programs for players in that District or Interlock will be managed in one of two ways:
  - a. Any Player in the District or MHA **MUST** be given the opportunity to tryout with another AA or Tiered team. If not, they would have the opportunity to tryout in the alternative program offered in their Resident Area or within their Elite Club Boundary Districts (for example – NEZ players would have the ability to tryout with KC Rep or SEZ).

*NOTE: while this option on its own does not ensure that Edmonton Federation Hockey League is fielding the appropriate number of teams as per the Hockey Alberta AA Model it does deal with ensuring players have options to participate at an appropriate category of play.*
  - b. Athletic Clubs are provided with the option to operate the Team in Provincial Championship categories of play (all or none; at a fee schedule equal to the average Community Hockey Programs in those Divisions and Categories).
3. The District or MHA request **MUST** submit a development plan outlining the changes to their program to ensure they will be able to field the mandatory number of teams based on registrations the following season
4. If the District or MHA receives approval, the team will compete in the next highest category of play, however, the right to participate in QEMHW, Provincial Championships and City Championships at the level mandated by the Hockey Alberta Mandatory Team Placement. (Teams may be moved during tiering at the discretion of the League Governor and District and Interlock Tiering Representatives)



## Tiering Policy

Districts or Interlock's who do not receive approval to reduce or do not field the correct number of teams may face the following sanctions:

1. Offending Teams **WILL NOT** participate in Edmonton Federation Hockey League play, City Championships, QEMHW, or represent Edmonton Federation Hockey League in Provincial Championships
2. Exhibition, Tournament and travel permits may not be granted for any District Teams in the Division of Play
3. Offending Districts may not receive approval for tournament sanctions in the Division of Play