



FEMALE HOCKEY ALLIANCE FAQs

WHAT IS THE FEMALE HOCKEY ALLIANCE INITIATIVE?

In 2023-24, U13 players choosing to play on all-female teams will register with a single organization inside Hockey Edmonton. This organization will be operated by the Female Hockey Committee (FHC) who will transition the organization into a female minor hockey association during that year. Also, the organization will operate one premier, top-tier all-female U9 and U11 team. Starting in 2024-25, players choosing to play on all-female teams at other age divisions will also register with this new Female Association. Transition of female players at all ages and skill levels into this new association will be completed no later than 2026. This means that there will be one large all-female hockey association in Edmonton, much like Girls Hockey Calgary.

WHY ARE CHANGES BEING MADE TO FEMALE HOCKEY PROGRAMMING IN EDMONTON?

The game of female hockey is growing rapidly. Edmonton now has more than 1,200 female players, the majority of whom play on all-female teams. This alliance initiative will create a larger player base, which is critical for creating teams that match the skill and interest levels of all female players. The alliance means there can be more all-female teams, playing across more of the elite to recreational spectrum, while also continuing to invest in development, player friendships, and growth of the female game overall.

I'VE HEARD THAT HOCKEY ALBERTA IS CREATING AN ALL-FEMALE U13AA LEAGUE THIS YEAR. WHAT WILL THE PROGRAMMING LOOK LIKE?

The new U13AA programming is modelled after similar programming that already exists at the U15AA and U18AA levels (EFAC Pandas). There are 16 all-female teams across the province that will form this new elite female league. Hockey Alberta is still finalizing some of the operating regulations and requirements, but we expect teams will play about 25 games and have a recommended 60 hours of development through the season. There will be a season end provincial tournament after 8 North and 8 South teams finish divisional playoffs. Tryouts can begin on or after September 1.



WHERE WILL FEMALE PLAYERS PRACTICE AND PLAY HOME GAMES?

Hockey Edmonton purchases ice all over the city. Hockey Edmonton will ensure that ice allocated to the Female Hockey organization are representative of their player demographics. The FHC will work with teams to beset distribute allocated ice.

WILL I STILL GET TO PLAY WITH MY FRIENDS, COMMUNITY MEMBERS OR PAST TEAMMATES?

All play at elite or upper-tier levels will be based on skill, competitiveness and tryout performance. Once evaluations determine selection, play-together and geographical requests may be considered. At more recreational levels of play, play-together and geographical requests will be accepted and accommodated where possible.

I LIVE OUTSIDE EDMONTON'S CITY AND HOCKEY BOUNDARIES. CAN I TRY OUT FOR ANY OF THE U13, U11 OR U9 TEAMS THIS COMING YEAR?

No. Hockey Edmonton is focusing on aligning and growing its female game, so we are focusing on resident players.

HOW MUCH WILL HOCKEY COST IN THIS NEW ORGANIZATION?

The Female Hockey Committee will set fees that are reflective of total costs in other associations and areas, both at the community and elite levels. The FHC wants female hockey to be affordable and provide options for development and levels of play that meet player and parent expectations.

WHEN WILL REGISTRATION OPEN?

Registration in the new Female organization will open in June 2023. Introductory and ID skates teams will begin in April/May 2023.

I'M A FEMALE PLAYER. CAN I CHOOSE TO PLAY ON A COED TEAM?

Yes, you can. You would play on a coed team in the association or area where you live, according to Hockey Edmonton boundaries.