

# NORTHERN ALBERTA INTERLOCK

Executive Memorandum

October 28, 2022

**TO: All NAI Member Associations**

**RE: Final Tiering Placements & Season Timeline (U11 to U18)**

As the 4<sup>th</sup> and final weekend of tiering play comes to an end, the league would like to explain the next steps of placing teams in their final tiers for the 2022-23 regular season.

## Step 1: (Optional) (Team Manager/Coach)

Teams through their team manager or coach have the option of submitting a “Tiering Request Form,” (available on the website under the Manager tab) to the league. This form is an opportunity for teams who would like to submit additional information or make recommendations on which teams they are comparable to. *These online submissions are accepted until 11:00PM Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022.*

The NAI Scheduling and Tiering Committee will meet following this weekends games, and it is imperative that scores be added to the website as soon as games are done this weekend. A proposed list of the tiers will be released no later than the morning of Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

## Step 2: (Association NAI Representatives)

Association NAI reps should review the proposed tiers and discuss with their teams as necessary. If the association is in agreeance, no further action is required. If an association wishes to either move a team to a higher tier, or does not agree with the placement of a team and feels they should be in a lower tier, the association rep must send a short email to: [ryan@nainterlock.com](mailto:ryan@nainterlock.com) and [karen@nainterlock.com](mailto:karen@nainterlock.com) simply indicating any team that they feel is in the wrong tier and what tier they would like to be placed in, typed in the following format. Do not send information or rationale on why you would like the change, as this is covered in Step 3.

Example:

Athabasca 1 U11- Move up to Tier 2

Or

Athabasca 1 U11- Move down to Tier 4.

This email must be from the association rep with the name of both the rep and association name and submitted to the NAI *no later than 11:00pm Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.*

Note: Upward movement will automatically be approved, however any requests for downward movement will need to be spoken to at the final placement meeting along with rationale provided by the association rep.

Step 3: (Association NAI Representatives)

A league-wide final placement meeting will be held online starting at 7:00pm on Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022. The format of this meeting is attached, and a zoom meeting link will follow. This meeting will determine the final placements for all teams to begin regular season play.

Step 4: Final Placements and Schedule Format Released

The final placements, including geographical splits where able and the format of the regular season (number of games, interleague potential, etc.) will be released by Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Please note, this may be delayed if the NAI is late receiving information required from associations.

As a reminder, please note the following season schedule critical dates for the U11, U13, U15 and U18 divisions:

Critical Season Item	Date
Break	Monday, November 1, 2022, to Friday, November 11, 2022
Regular Season	Saturday, November 12, 2022, to Sunday, February 19, 2022
Christmas Break	Monday, December 19, 2022, to Thursday, January 5, 2023
Playoff Season	Friday, February 24, 2023, to Sunday, March 12, 2023 *U18 may extend to Sunday, March 19, 2023, if required

Schedule Releases:

A partial schedule release for regular season play will be released no later than Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The remainder of the league schedule will be released no later than Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022. This time is very busy for all involved in the creation and release of schedules, especially with the implementation this season of interleague play. The NAI will make every effort to release schedules sooner if able.

If you have any questions, please reach out to the league.

*Neil Rogers*

Neil Rogers, President  
Northern Alberta Interlock

*Final Tiering Placement Meeting Format Attached*



## Final Tiering Placement Meeting Format

The Final Placement Meeting will start at 7:00pm on Wednesday, November 2, 2022. Please be signed into the meeting a few minutes prior and change your displayed name to include the name of your minor hockey association.

- The league administrator will commence a roll call at 7:00pm for all member associations in attendance.
- The list of proposed tiers and movement will be displayed on screen share.
- The Moderator of the call will start with the U18 division and work downwards to U11. For each tier presented, the Moderator will call each association involved in the tier for any brief feedback. There will then be a call to the rest of the associations for any party who disagrees with the placement and their rationales. These discussions must be very brief in nature and concise. The committee has notes and scores on all the teams so a logical rationale will need to be presented by the association rep in cases of disagreement with placements.
- Following the meeting, the tiering and scheduling committee will create geographical tiers, where able, and proposed regular season formats. These will be posted to the associations by the upcoming weekend.

In the case of disagreement on tier placement during the meeting:

- The question will be tabled to the Tiering & Scheduling Committee who will re-consider the placement following the conclusion of the regular portion of the meeting and decide on final placement.

How Can You Help?

- Please come prepared for a brief and concise rationale on why your team needs to move downwards, in the event you disagree.
- If your team may be too strong for the recommended tier, please move them up. There are processes in place to deal with a mismatched team during the regular season although very time consuming and disruptive. Please note, there are provincial eligibility issues that arise should a team be too strong in a tier.