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OPPORTUNITIES FOR ELITE HOCKEY IN ALBERTA

Approved: 26 May, 2009

1.0 BACKGROUND

As there are no opportunities to play elite (AA, AAA) hockey within the Hockey North Branch players must move to Alberta or other branches to pursue their hockey goals. Generally, Hockey Canada does not encourage the free movement (does not include the relocation of a family) of players between branches but will consider a request under justified circumstances. There is an informal agreement between the presidents of Hockey Alberta and Hockey North to allow a limited number of elite northern players to transfer to Alberta – if they are selected to play at the AAA level (only).

2.0 THE PROCESS

The “application to transfer” process involves the following steps:

- A written application must be submitted to Mike Olesen, Manager Hockey Alberta Regulations and Registries, by 01 July.
- Mike may be contacted at:

Hockey Alberta	Phone: 403-342-6777
#1, 7875 – 48 Avenue	Fax: 403-346-4277
Red Deer, Alberta	Email: molesen@hockeyalberta.ca
T4P 2K1	
- The application should, among other relevant information, include:
 - A short profile (resume) of the player including relevant personal information and hockey experience
 - The reason (to pursue elite hockey opportunities) and the rationale (no opportunities in NWT) for the application
 - Reference to the informal transfer agreement between the two branches
 - A letter of support from the Local Minor Hockey Association and the President, Hockey North
 - A letter of support from an identified potential host team in Alberta and the potential host association would be very helpful.
 - A signed copy of the Parent Acknowledgement form (see attached)
- Hockey Alberta must file an appeal with Hockey Canada by 15 July for the appeal to be considered by 01 August.

- The application must include a cheque for \$300 to cover the appeal fee.
- The cheque should be made payable and issued to Hockey Alberta
- Hockey Canada will deal with the appeal within a very short time frame. A response will usually be provided to Hockey Alberta within 7 days of Hockey Canada receiving the appeal.
- Hockey Alberta (Mike Olesen) will notify the appellant of the Hockey Canada decision within 2 (two) days of receiving the Hockey Canada decision.
- If Hockey Canada approves the transfer, the Hockey North player may pursue opportunities in Alberta subject to Hockey Alberta policies.
- The requirement to associate with a particular Hockey Alberta draw zone by 01July is waived pending the Hockey Canada decision.

3.0 GENERAL

- Hockey Canada's National Appeals Committee meets regularly to consider appeals. The informal agreement between Hockey North and Hockey Alberta is understood at the National Level and it provides an opportunity for elite players from the North to play 'AAA' Hockey.
- Players are strongly encouraged to:
 - Make contact with prospective Alberta teams to confirm interest by a potential host team and association
 - Make contact with prospective teams as early as possible so that Hockey Alberta administrative requirements may be addressed in an efficient and timely manner.

PARENT / TEAM OFFICIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

1. REGULATION K.6 (a) & (b) of the Hockey Canada Regulations states:

K.6 (a) No player of Midget eligibility or under (refer to Hockey Canada B.1) maybe transferred from Branch to Branch, or from USA Hockey to Hockey Canada, or from any other IIHF Federation to play other than Major Junior Hockey unless such player comes under Regulation H. 8 (b). There is an exception for those Midget players in their last year of Midget eligibility, when there is no Junior A hockey in their home Branch.

In order to address regional differences that exist within the hockey program in Canada, Branches may enter into Agreements with other Branches, which would authorize the transfer of players in their last year of Midget eligibility. Said Agreements shall only be in effect upon being ratified by the Hockey Canada Board of Directors. In order for Hockey Canada to provide its ratification, such Agreements shall include provisions whereby any Branch which is a party to an Agreement may terminate the Agreement at the end of each playing season. K.6 (b) No player of second year Midget eligibility or under may be transferred from Hockey Canada to USA Hockey unless a player resides with his parent and the parent changes his place of residence to the USA and the player continues to reside with his parent.

Regulation H.8 (b) indicates that the player must move with their parents.

2. Parents and Team Officials are often led to believe that exceptions to this regulation are routinely granted. **This is not the case.** Exceptions may be granted upon application to the National Appeals Committee in circumstances where the player must move for some reason other than the playing of hockey. These reasons must be backed up by written documentation from the professional dealing with the players' situation. Frequently, when these transfers are approved, restrictions are placed on the level of play, affiliation and Inter-Branch play. Some Branches or leagues may place further restrictions of their own based on their policies.

3. Frequently, parents and team officials move players and enroll them in school prior to the necessary authorization from the National Appeals Committee. Parents and Team Officials must acknowledge by signing below in the appropriate spaces that they understand that if the transfer is not authorized, the player must be returned to the home environment.

Father's Signature:

Date:

Mother's Signature:

Date:

Team Official Signature:

Date: