

# ALBERTA ELITE HOCKEY LEAGUE

## PROPOSAL FOR INCLUSION OF AA WITHIN LEAGUE OPERATIONS

To create more consistency and to enable better mechanisms for promoting the league, programs and players, we are looking at aligning all AA and AAA hockey (male and female) under one brand and league (the Alberta Elite Hockey League).

**Priority Identified:** To provide an aligned player pathway from AA to AAA, inclusive of League Operations and MHA Operating Standards

**2024-2025 Objective:** To move all existing AA Teams into the Alberta Elite Hockey League Umbrella

### Overview:

- One Provincial League that oversees AA & AAA Hockey at the U13, 15, and U18 age categories
- 4 Regionalized Conferences at each division (U13, U15, U16, U18). Teams in each conference in each division shall be unchanged from below.
  - o Calgary Conference (currently exists as Hockey Calgary League)
  - o South Conference (currently exists as SCAHL)
  - o North Metro Conference (currently exists as NAHL Metro Conference)
  - o North Rural Conference (currently exists as NAHL Rural Conference)
- Game Count: Shall remain the same as exists currently in each conference/division. Counts can vary between conferences/divisions as occurs presently. 28-32 Regular Season Games
- Website: Structured in the same was as exists currently in the AEHL and AFHL. Each division (U13, U15, U16 and U18) will have their own landing page that houses standings, schedule, stats and information for the four conferences that comprise each division
  - o All games would be recorded on E-Game sheets
  - o No Livestreaming requirements at AA Divisions
- Scheduling: Individual schedules created per division and conference. Cross over play regionalized by Division of Hockey as occurs at present.
  - o Cross-over games can be factored into overall points/standings.
- Playoff formats to be designed to declare Conference Champions
- 1 Provincial Tournament
- Aligned Operating Procedures for AA & AAA Divisions of Hockey
- Creation of Operational Standards for Members to Support Player & Coach Development that would align both AA and AAA Hosts in their delivery.
- Targeted Marketing and Communication Plan for promotion about a unified Elite Hockey Model

U18AA			
U18AA North Metro		U18AA North Rural	
CAC	Fort Saskatchewan	Beaumont	Bonnyville
KC	Leduc	Camrose	Fort McMurray
MLAC	Sherwood Park	Grande Prairie	Lloydminster
SSAC	Spruce Grove	Peace River	Strathcona
St Albert 1	St Albert 2	Wainwright	Whitecourt
Sturgeon			
U18 AA South		U18 AA Calgary	
Airdrie	Cochrane	CBHA 1	CBHA 2



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Foothills	Lethbridge	CNHA 1	CNHA 2
Lacombe	Medicine Hat	CRAA 1	CRAA 2
Olds	Okotoks	NWCAA 1	NWCAA 2
Red Deer	Strathmore		
Sylvan Lake	Taber		

U16 AA			
U16AA North Metro		U16 AA North Rural	
CAC	KC	Bonnyville	Camrose
MLAC	SSAC	Fort McMurray	Fort Saskatchewan
Beaumont	Sherwood Park	Grande Prairie	Lloydminster
Spruce Grove	St Albert	Strathcona	Whitecourt
U16 AA South		U16 AA Calgary	
Airdrie	Cochrane		CBHA
Medicine Hat	Lethbridge		CNHA
Okotoks	Red Deer		CRAA
Strathmore	Sylvan Lake		NWCAA

U15AA			
U15AA North Metro		U15AA North Rural	
CAC 1	CAC 2	Beaumont	Bonnyville
KC 1	KC 2	Camrose	Fort McMurray
MLAC 1	MLAC 2	Fort Saskatchewan	Grande Prairie 1
SSAC 1	SSAC 2	Grande Prairie 2	Lloydminster
Leduc 1	Sherwood Park 1	Peace River	Strathcona
Sherwood Park 2	Spruce Grove 1	Sturgeon	Wainwright
Spruce Grove 2	St Albert 1		Whitecourt
St Albert 2	St Albert 3		
U15AA South		U15AA Calgary	
Airdrie	Cochrane	CBHA 1	CBHA 2
Foothills	Lethbridge	CBHA 3	CNHA 1
Lacombe	Medicine Hat	CNHA 2	CNHA 3
Olds	Okotoks	CRAA 1	CRAA 2
Red Deer	Strathmore	CRAA 3	NWCAA 1
Sylvan Lake	Taber	NWCAA 2	NWCAA 3

U13AA			
U13AA North Metro		U13AA North Rural	
CAC 1	CAC 2	Bonnyville	Camrose
KC 1	KC 2	Fort McMurray	Fort Saskatchewan
MLAC 1	MLAC 2	Grande Prairie 1	Grande Prairie 2
SSAC 1	SSAC 2	Leduc	Lloydminster
Beaumont	Sherwood Park	Peace River	Strathcona



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<i>Spruce Grove</i>	<i>St Albert 1</i>	<i>Sturgeon</i>	<i>Wainwright</i>
	<i>St Albert 2</i>		<i>Whitecourt</i>
<b>U13AA South</b>		<b>U13AA Calgary</b>	
<i>Airdrie</i>	<i>Cochrane</i>	<i>CBHA 1</i>	<i>CBHA 2</i>
<i>Foothills</i>	<i>Lethbridge</i>	<i>CBHA 3</i>	<i>CNHA 1</i>
<i>Lacombe</i>	<i>Medicine Hat</i>	<i>CNHA 2</i>	<i>CNHA 3</i>
<i>Olds</i>	<i>Okotoks</i>	<i>CRAA 1</i>	<i>CRAA 2</i>
<i>Red Deer</i>	<i>Strathmore</i>	<i>CRAA 3</i>	<i>NWCAA 1</i>
<i>Sylvan Lake</i>	<i>Taber</i>	<i>NWCAA 2</i>	<i>NWCAA 3</i>

\*\* Teams located in British Columbia would be permitted to continue being involved in AA leagues. A decision would need to be rendered whether they would be permitted to participate in the AA playoffs.

### SCHEDULING

- Regional Schedulers shall be contracted to create the annual schedule for each team within the conferences at all levels of play following the AGM. Should Conferences/Divisions utilize an existing scheduler, the League would look to retain those individual(s) within their existing role.
- Once the schedule is created for each conference, the Division Directors shall manage and approve any game changes in consultation with the Division Governor.
  - Calgary scheduler is in charge of the Calgary scheduling – inclusive of Game Changes
- The schedulers shall send the season schedule to the necessary referee coordinators and division directors along with the division governor shall then manage any schedule changes in consultation with the referee coordinator.

### SEASON STRUCTURE

- Maintain the current season start & end dates, provincial championship weekends
- Number of games: Range of 28 - 32 for each Division/Conference, exceptions may need to be made for specific Divisions/Conferences
- Game Length: 2.25 hour slots is ideal, however ice constraints may only permit certain Divisions/Conferences to utilize 90 minute game slots (i.e. U13).
- Showcase: Not anticipated to operate AA Showcases in 2024-25 but with Member Feedback, it could be an option to build out in subsequent seasons.

### PLAYOFF STRUCTURE

- Would look to use existing structures/formats for the 2024-2025 season, adjustments could be made subsequent seasons in consultation with Membership.

### TEAM FEES AND BUDGETS

Budgets will be set individual for each conference. Teams fees may vary slightly per conference but will be approximately the same overall, around \$2,000 per team (Hockey Calgary, as both a conference and an MHA, will set separate budgets for their teams and will cover their own scheduling, thus the fees they pay the AEHL will be significantly less than other teams, as will be what is provided by the AEHL to those clubs). Budgets will be finalized and provided for review ahead of league AGMs.



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### GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS:

Hockey Alberta has established the Elite Hockey Committee to oversee and operate League play, under the banner of the Alberta Elite Hockey League. This Committee will expand beyond AAA operations to incorporate AA levels at U13, U15, and U18. The committee will conduct the day-to-day operations of League play in accordance with the established Bylaws, Regulations, Policies and Procedures.

The Elite Hockey Committee composition shall be:

Elite Hockey Committee		
Elite Hockey Commissioner – Aaron Rawlake		
<b>AEHL Chair – Devin Selte</b>	<b>AA Chair – Trevor Hittel</b>	<b>AFHL Chair – Jody Forbes</b>
AAA Vice Chair – Lee Hellyer	South Officer* - VACANT	AFHL Vice Chair – Lise Cote
18AAA Governor – Robert Olynyk	Calgary Officer* - Kevin Kobelka	U18 AAA Governor – Jason Reynolds
17AAA Governor – Darcy Robinson	North Metro Officer* - Tracey Orbell	18AA Governor – Stacey Keyowski
15AAA Governor – Dean Melnyk	North Rural Officer* - Earl Reid	15AA Governor – Lorissa Nafziger
		13AA Governor – Herman Iglesias
Elite Referee in Chief – Craig Decoursey		

\*Due to volume of teams, each AA Officer may have three (3) Division Governors appointed beneath them, tasked with overseeing the U13 AA, U15 AA and U16/U18 AA divisions in that conference.

Ad-Hoc Work Groups: MHA Representatives (similar to existing AA & Elite Male Committee structures) who are responsible for being leaders within their respective geographic regions. They are asked to collect feedback and trends from fellow Associations for consideration of the Elite Hockey Executive. They do not contribute to the day-to-day operations (game rescheduling, discipline, etc) of any one Division of hockey.

Governors: will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of their respective Divisions/Conferences of Hockey. They are responsible for consistent governance that aligns with the Alberta Elite Development Model Principles. In addition to League Operations, Governors are responsible for listening to teams and membership on recommendations for enhancements (i.e. League scheduling adjustments) to bring forward to the Elite Hockey Committee Executive for discussion.

Executive: Will be responsible for the oversight and alignment of the entire system of AA & AAA Hockey. They will work directly with their Respective Governors (i.e. Female Divisions), on league operations and enhancements. The Executive are bolded in the Chart above.

### MEETING SCHEDULE/STRUCTURE:

The Staff Lead or Chair will call Executive meetings a minimum of four (4) times per year.  
 The Staff Lead or Chair will call meetings of the entire Committee a minimum of four (4) times per year.  
 A Vice-Chair will call Meetings by Category of hockey a minimum of six (6) times per year.

### DECISION MAKING / AUTHORITY

Determining recommendations for change must be done through proper process and consultation of key stakeholders. Prior to submitting any recommendations, the committee must have engaged the Member MHA's, and other relevant stakeholders. The committee will either reach consensus or hold a vote of the members in attendance on each subject at hand. Each



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confirmed committee suggestion will be submitted to Hockey Alberta's Management as a recommendation.

### HONORARIUMS

Honorariums may be paid to the following positions within the Alberta Elite Hockey League

- AAA Governors
- AA Governors
- AA Officers

### APPOINTMENT

- Hockey Alberta will appoint all volunteers for AA leagues (includes Chair, Officers and Governors.)
- Hockey Alberta is looking to make this transition to one league as seamless as possible, will look to ensure all governors are given opportunity to be involved in hiring Directors and want to ensure as much continuity as possible from current leagues.

### ROLE OF CONFERENCE GOVERNOR

- Preside over the three division directors and division meetings throughout the season
- Keep informed of the League and division activities and be prepared to assist and work with other members of the Committee at any time;
- Work with the Referee in Chief to oversee and track complaints about Officiating in the division and act as a liaison between the League and the Officials Committee;
- Work with assigned Directors on determining suspensions for major incidents to ensure consistency;
- Participate as a voting member of the AA Hockey Committee, representing the concerns and perspective of the Division Directors and MHAs within the division at all AA Hockey Committee Meetings and at Elite Hockey Committee meetings as required.

### ROLE OF DIVISION DIRECTOR

- The respective Division of Play Director will be responsible to preside over the Division of Play and all day-to-day division operations of the respective Division
- Be the first contact for teams within his/her jurisdiction and first contact for all division discipline matters.
- Oversee and approve the schedule of game play for their division of hockey.
- Oversee and approve all necessary game changes recommended by the "committee" or member Minor Hockey Associations
- Administer discipline. The Governor shall have the power to suspend, suspend and fine, or discipline any coach, manager, player, trainer, or other official connected with a team playing within this Division and under its jurisdiction for any infringement of the rules or regulations of either this League, Hockey Alberta or Hockey Canada. To obtain consistency within this League each Director shall contact the Division Governor for advice and direction before implementing any disciplinary action
- Accept protests filed by the members and immediately advise the Governor
- Verify the accuracy of game stats periodically
- Work with the Marketing and Communications department of Hockey Alberta to build a process for gathering of League and team news on a weekly basis for publishing on the website;



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- Keep records of all suspensions and provide to Hockey Alberta if necessary
- Assist the "committee" in matters of policy
- Attend all meetings of the League and from time to time the Committee
- Chair a meeting with all Coaches and Managers before the start of League play.
- Chair any disciplinary review committees struck from time to time.
- Serve as league liaison to team management and coaching staffs to ensure objectives/rules are known and adhered to;
- Be responsible for the nomination of Player of the Month candidates and presentation of all monthly award winners.
- Be responsible for the nomination of recipients of individual division of hockey awards;
- Attend team and/or association year end functions to distribute league awards and scholarships;
- Summarize at the Annual General Meeting, all suspensions, gross misconducts and match penalties for League information and trending purposes from the previous season.

### EXPENSES

- From time-to-time members of the League Management may incur expenses as part of effectively managing the day to day operations of the league. In addition, Elite Hockey Committee members may incur expenses, not specifically related to the League, which will be the responsibility of Hockey Alberta, as appropriate.
- All league expenses will be budgeted in the annual League budget process. Any expenses for meals, travel and accommodations by any individual will be reimbursed as per the Hockey Alberta fee guidelines and paid monthly after expenses are submitted to the Staff Lead
- The Staff Lead will be responsible for approving all expenses filed by the league management group and informing the Chair with a monthly expense report.
- No one directly involved with the coaching, management, or administration of the League may profit from any matters pertaining to the League unless approved by the Governor.
- Any contracting for services will be led by Hockey Alberta staff and must be approved by the League Executive.

### WEBSITE & ADMINISTRATION

- Rosters, schedule changes & the verification of game sheets shall be the responsibility of the Division Directors and Conference Governors.
- Prior to each season, Division Directors shall each run a coach manager meeting to set expectations for live scoring and division operations
- Hockey Alberta will also operate a training session for all online scorekeepers prior to each season.

### OFFICIALS

- AA Hockey games shall require a three-official system generally and are encouraged to use four official systems wherever possible.
- Officials will be scheduled through local Association and paid by the home Association hosting the league game.

