



MEMORANDUM 18

2019-20

May 22, 2020

To: Minor Hockey Associations
From: Bryden Burrell, Coordinator, Hockey Programs

SUBJECT: SCAHL / Hockey Calgary U16 AA Pilot Project

The South Central Alberta Hockey League (SCAHL) and Hockey Calgary, in partnership with Hockey Alberta's AA Hockey Committee, have agreed to operate a U16 AA division during the 2020-2021 season, in order to review and determine the place for this category of hockey going forward.

This Pilot Project stems from the continued conversation in Alberta about providing additional options for 15-year-old players entering the U18 division (formally Midget), so that they can continue their development with like sized and like skilled players. Currently, the U16 AAA category of hockey is the only opportunity for 15-year-old players across the entire province to participate exclusively together. Additionally, the Rural & Edmonton Hockey League (REMHL) provides this option for players in select areas North of Red Deer.

Host MHAs & Recruitment Areas

The AA Hockey Committee has identified eleven (11) host Minor Hockey Associations, who will each operate one (1) team within the U16 AA division. Of those eleven (11), seven (7) currently host AA programs in the SCAHL, while four (4) operate AA programs within Hockey Calgary. Additionally, those seven (7) Host MHA's from the SCAHL, have had Recruitment Areas assigned to them, which will allow them to draw 15-year-old players from their designated Recruitment Area to form their team.

For those Host MHA's with assigned Recruitment Areas, the AA Hockey Committee looked at the existing U16 AAA Draw Zones and AA Recruitment Areas to form the new Recruitment areas. The current number of 15-year-old players was also reviewed to ensure that each Host MHA has access to an equal number of players to draw from. The U16 AA Recruitment Areas for the purposes of this Pilot Project have been enclosed with this document.

Player Movement

For the 2020-2021 season, those players born in 2005, who reside within the boundaries of one (1) of the associations listed within the enclosed Recruitment Areas, will be entitled and eligible to tryout for the U16 AA team their association has been assigned to. Although this category of hockey has not been incorporated into the AA Hockey Model, players from outside the Host MHA will use the "AA Notification of Tryout Form". A copy of this form can be found on the Hockey Alberta website.

AA Notification of Tryout Form:

<https://www.hockeyalberta.ca/uploads/source/Forms/AA%20Notification%20of%20Try%20Out.pdf>

All resident associations will be required to sign any player's "AA Notification of Tryout Form" who is looking to tryout for their Resident U16AA team.



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As this is considered a Pilot Project for the 2020-2021 season, Hockey Alberta will not be entertaining any Player Movement applications requesting a first tryout with a team outside the players U16 AA Recruitment Area, nor will any second tryouts be granted.

Affiliation

For the purposes of affiliation, U16 AA teams have been placed below U16 AAA teams, but above U18 tiered hockey teams (Tier 1 – 6). U16 AA teams will be eligible to affiliate players born in 2005 and subsequent years from within their Recruitment Area, who are not participating on a U16 AAA team or U18 AA team. Players on U16 AA teams will be eligible to affiliate to U16 AAA, U18 AA or U18 AAA teams, but will not be eligible to affiliate to U18 tiered hockey teams within their resident MHA.

Players affiliated to these U16 AA teams will be required to sign Hockey Alberta's Named Player Affiliation Agreement, which must be made available upon request and uploaded onto the players' affiliation transfer with all appropriate signatures, if applicable.

All affiliations must be filed by December 15, 2020 and will terminate at the end of the hockey season.

The Future Beyond 2020-2021

As previously mentioned within this document, the AA Hockey Committee will be using this Pilot Project to review and determine the place of U16 AA division, and if it should be brought in under the existing AA Hockey Model.

Should you have any questions related to the information provided within this document, please do not hesitate to reach out to your U16 AA Host MHA, the SCAHL, Hockey Calgary or the Hockey Alberta Office.



SCAHL / HOCKEY CALGARY U16 AA PILOT PROJECT

U16 AA RECRUITMENT AREAS

Lethbridge	Strathmore	Sylvan Lake	Airdrie
Lethbridge Cardston Claresholm Coaldale Crowsnest Pass Fort MacLeod Kainai Lomond Magrath Picture Butte Piikani Nation Pincher Creek Raymond Taber Vauxhall Warner	Strathmore Bassano Chestermere Drumheller Hanna Hussar Indus Kneehill Morrin Rockyford Siksika Standard	Sylvan Lake Bentley Blackfalds Bowden Caroline Eckville Innisfail Lacombe Olds Ponoka Rimbey Rocky Mountain House Spruce View Sundre	Airdrie Banff Beiseker Canmore Carstairs Cochrane Cremona Crossfield Didsbury
Medicine Hat	Red Deer	Okotoks	Calgary
Medicine Hat Bow Island Brooks Duchess Foremost Irvine Oyen Redcliff	Red Deer Alix Big Valley Clive Delburne Endmoor Stettler	Okotoks Foothills High Country Nanton Vulcan	** Four Teams ** Calgary Buffaloes Calgary Northstars NWCAA Calgary Royals