

APPENDIX "I"

# U11 'AA' HOCKEY MODEL





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### 1. INTRODUCTION

The U11 'AA' Hockey Model ensures that players across Alberta have an opportunity to access U11 'AA' hockey, providing them with the ability to play at the highest level they can attain. This model provides a regional hockey structure for the top level of U11 and provides players with an opportunity to play at a level that enables skill development and focuses on helping them get to the next level, bridging the gap between grassroots programs and Elite hockey. This model is designed around guiding principles that require all parents, coaches, and Minor Hockey Associations (MHA's) to always act in the best interest of the athlete to help them develop and progress through the hockey system.

This document outlines regulations that apply to the Leagues, MHA's, Teams and Players that are operating and/or participating in U11 'AA' hockey. All Minor Hockey Regulations apply to U11 'AA' hockey, unless specific regulations within this model alter the meaning for the purpose of U11 'AA' Hockey.

### 2. LEAGUE STRUCTURE

2.1 Hockey Alberta has established the U11 'AA' Hockey League to oversee U11 'AA' hockey in Alberta. Hockey Alberta has established the U11 'AA' Hockey Committee to implement and oversee operations of U11 'AA' hockey. The committee implements and monitors the day-to-day operations of League play in accordance with the established Bylaws, Regulations, Policies and Procedures.

2.2 The U11 'AA' Hockey League will use conferences and/ or divisions to operate the U11 'AA' Hockey Model across the Province. MHA's that have enough teams to operate a conference or division (more than ten (10) U11 AA teams) within their association may be given the opportunity to do so. If an MHA operates a conference or division, they will follow the U11 'AA' Hockey Model, as well as their own Bylaws, Regulations and Policies while operating the conference or division.

The conferences and divisions help to minimize the amount of travel required throughout the season, therefore reducing costs to the teams. Travel distances for game play will be considered for each conference and division, with restricted amounts of game play occurring outside of each established conference prior to playoffs.

2.3 The U11 'AA' Hockey League will:

- (a) Recognize U11 'AA' Host MHA's as Members of the League;
- (b) Plan and operate a regular-season schedule based on guidelines as outlined herein;
- (c) Coordinate a playoff structure to determine division, conference, and Provincial Champions;
- (d) Administer discipline in accordance with Hockey Alberta Regulations for conduct and playing rule violations;
- (e) Host League meetings for the members to discuss the game and make decisions related to the game.



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### 3. DEFINITIONS

The following definitions for words and phrases are to be applied solely for the purposes of the U11 'AA' Hockey Model and may or may not be the same as those definitions as outlined in other sections of the Hockey Alberta and Hockey Canada Bylaws and Regulations.

- (a) "U11 'AA' Hockey Model" means the regulations established to govern U11 'AA' hockey;
- (b) "Import Player" shall be defined as a U11 'AA' registered player who is a resident of another MHA.

### 4. CRITICAL DATES

September 1	Evaluation Camps and Team Selection processes can begin
October 1	Team Training and Exhibition games can begin
October 15	Regular season schedule can begin
December 1	Deadline to submit Applications to expand or contract the number of Teams
January 10	Final date to Release a player from a team
January 15	Deadline for MHAs to file Affiliation at 5:00 PM MST
February 10	Final date to Register a player to a team
February 28	Regular Season complete
March	Provincial Championships

*\* These dates reflect the ideal state and actual dates may alter somewhat from these targets.*

### 5. HOST MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATIONS

Hockey Alberta has identified MHAs to host U11 'AA' teams as part of the U11 'AA' Hockey Model. Appointing MHAs as U11 'AA' hosts allows for an aligned system ensuring a proper development pyramid and "feeder system" from grassroots to U11 'AA', and up to U13 'AA'.

5.1 Any MHA that is part of the 'AA' Hockey Model, hosting U13 'AA' teams will be required to host, at minimum, the same number of teams they operate at the U13 'AA' division, unless otherwise indicated.

5.2 U11 'AA' Host MHA's, and the number of teams they operate are as follows:

Airdrie	Beaumont	Bonnyville	Calgary (12)
Camrose	Cochrane	Edmonton (8)	Foothills
Fort McMurray	Fort Saskatchewan	Grande Prairie (2)	Lacombe
Leduc	Lethbridge	Lloydminster	Medicine Hat
Okotoks	Olds	Peace River	Red Deer
Sherwood Park (2)	Spruce Grove	St. Albert (2)	Strathcona
Strathmore	Sturgeon HC	Sylvan lake	Taber
Wainwright	Whitecourt		

5.3 Upon receiving permission from their Branch, Team(s) from outside of Hockey Alberta may apply to Hockey Alberta to be permitted to participate within the U11 'AA' Hockey Model. Out of Province Teams will not be eligible to participate in Provincial play.



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### 6. TRYOUT PROCEDURES

- 6.1 Players are expected to tryout for U11 'AA' within their resident MHA, where possible.
- 6.2 Players who do not have access to U11 'AA' hockey within their resident MHA will be permitted to pursue a U11 'AA' tryout with any other U11 'AA' program that is accepting tryout players:
  - (a) Should a player be released from a U11 'AA' tryout, they must return to their resident MHA.
  - (b) No second tryouts will be permitted.
  - (c) Players cannot be prohibited from pursuing a U11 'AA'.
  - (d) Players must obtain permission for a tryout if they are not a resident of the MHA they wish to tryout for.
  - (e) U11 'AA' Host MHAs can refuse to accept players not registered with their MHA.
  - (f) U11 'AA' Host MHAs should provide all players with four (4) skates prior to evaluations and team selection (as outlined in the [Hockey Canada U11 Pathway](#)).

### 7. PLAYER ACCELERATION

The objective of the U11 'AA' Hockey Model is to develop players within their specific age group, and not to displace the players from their age division by facilitating the movement of underage players.

- 7.1 Each U11 'AA' team is provided the ability to register a maximum of one (1) underage Player, at any time during the season, provided the underage Player:
  - (a) is a second-year U9 aged player (eight-year-old);
  - (b) participated in the tryout process and is selected for the Team;
  - (c) is otherwise eligible to be registered to the Team.

### 8. TEAM REGISTRATION

- 8.1 U11 'AA' teams must be registered in the Registry by the MHA that has been identified as the Host MHA. Teams must be registered in accordance with the Hockey Alberta Minor Hockey Regulations.
- 8.2 Teams must be properly registered in the registry prior to their first league game or November 15, whichever occurs first. All Players and Team Officials participating with a Hockey Team must be properly registered in the registry before participating in their first league game.
- 8.3 Each U11 'AA' team is provided the opportunity to utilize exhibition and pre-season games for the purpose of team roster declaration. Provided that these exhibition and pre-season games take place prior to the first scheduled league game and prior to November 15, teams will not be required to have all players identified on the roster in the Registry when playing these games.
- 8.4 Each team must register a minimum of 15 skaters and two (2) goaltenders.



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### 9. AFFILIATION

- 9.1 U11 'AA' teams are permitted to affiliate players from a lower division or category, that are registered within the host MHA and/ or any players registered with another MHA provided the player accessed a tryout with the U11 'AA' team.
- 9.2 To be approved as an affiliate player for a U11 'AA' Team, all players must be eligible in accordance with the Hockey Alberta and Hockey Canada Regulations.
- 9.3 Providing affiliation has been properly filed, an affiliated Player may play with the Hockey Team to which the Player is affiliated up to a maximum of ten (10) games, excluding exhibition and tournament games.
- 9.4 Should an affiliated Hockey Player play more than ten (10) games with the Hockey Team to which the player is affiliated, they shall be considered an "Ineligible Player".

However, if the player's registered team completes its regular season and playoffs before the player's affiliated team, the player may thereafter affiliate an unlimited number of times.

- 9.5 All Players must agree to register as an affiliate with the U11 'AA' Team.
- 9.6 Registered U11 'AA' players may affiliate up to U13 AA, U13 A (Tier 1) and U13 B (Tier 2) teams within the U11 'AA' Host MHA, or their resident MHA, if different.

### 10. PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 10.1 Provincial Championships for U11 'AA' will be operated by Hockey Alberta and teams participating in the Championship will be determined through League Play.
- 10.2 Only Hockey Alberta Teams approved to participate within the U11 'AA' Hockey Model will be eligible to play for the Provincial Championship.

### 11. EXPANSION / REDUCTION OF U11 AA TEAMS

The U11 'AA' Hockey Model has defined the number of U11 'AA' teams within Alberta. Teams have been allotted based on registration statistics and historical data. The annual review process provides an opportunity to identify any need to expand or contract the number of teams within this model.

- 11.1 An MHA can apply to Hockey Alberta for expansion or contraction of the number of teams they operate. Applications must be submitted by December 1 to be considered for the following season.
- 11.2 An MHA can apply for expansion to host a U11 'AA' team. Applications must be submitted by December 1 to be considered for the following season.



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11.3 Applications for expansion or contraction will be assessed based on the following:

- (a) Registration numbers, by Division, of the Host MHA and all MHAs within the area.
- (b) Historical statistics on how competitive the Team(s) have been within the Province.
- (c) Potential impact to player development and/ or the player pathways and feeder system.
- (d) Possible effects to other teams and programs in the area.