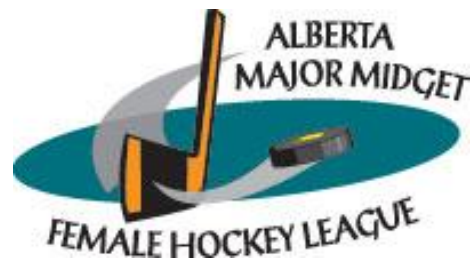




**FEMALE
ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT MODEL**

“Female Elite Hockey Development”



July 1, 2011



FEMALE ALBERTA DEVELOPMENT MODEL Elite Hockey

INTRODUCTION

Female Council, working in conjunction with the AMMFHL developed a process to enable Alberta's top female hockey athletes to compete at the highest level in a fair and equitable manner.

The focus of the process deals with the elite Midget and Bantam Female system within Hockey Alberta and provides for the development of the elite athlete.

The idea is to provide guidance and direction so that player opportunity and movement is done in recognition of the needs of the player and the teams involved. The guiding principle that has unanimous consensus is the agreement at all times for making responsible decisions and everyone will act in the best interest of the athlete's ability to play at an elite level. It further recognizes and supports that each athlete has the right to consider all options.

This model is based on the Alberta Development Model from the male side of the program and the principles remain the same.

The document is based on three (3) principles and uses these principles to create a system that better meet the needs of the athlete as they progress through the system of development. This document creates an improved development system providing a positive experience for all participants through improved communications and a better understanding of the principles.



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PHILOSOPHY OF LEAGUES WITHIN THE ELITE STREAM OF HOCKEY

PRINCIPLES

The three (3) agreed upon principles of the Elite Development Model are as follows

1. *Accept a "Made and Played in Alberta" philosophy modeled after the Alberta Development Model from the male side of the program. All Female Elite Leagues and Local Minor Hockey Associations are to focus on moving players through the system to the next level.*
2. *The Female Elite Development System will include criteria to determine an appropriate number of Teams within the League and the terms and conditions under which these Teams will operate. Elite Level Teams will provide elite level opportunities for the top players within their Boundaries.*
3. *Establish an Affiliation structure that accommodates athlete development under the new development model.*
 - *The AMMFHL, AMMFHL Teams and designated Bantam AAA Teams within the development system shall be known as the "Female Elite Stream" of hockey.*
 - *The AMMFHL, AMMFHL Teams and designated Bantam AAA Teams within the Female Elite Stream are not allowed to have Bylaws and Regulations that impact the development system. All Bylaws and Regulation changes are to be approved by Hockey Alberta Board of Directors.*
 - *Sanctions will be imposed for any non-compliance to the principles established within the Female Elite Development System and is to be enforced by Hockey Alberta.*



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DEFINITIONS

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

1. "Female Alberta Development Model" or "FADM" means the document established by Hockey Alberta that was developed to provide Alberta Female players with a program that focuses on the development of the elite athlete
2. "Affiliation" means the process that provides the opportunity for higher Division/Category teams to dress the maximum number of players allowable for a game in accordance with the Hockey Canada Playing Rules;
3. "Affiliated Player" shall mean a Player, referred to and approved by Hockey Alberta, as eligible to play for a team in a higher Category/Division than the team in the Category/Division with whom the Player is registered;
4. "Board" means the Board of Directors of Hockey Alberta;
5. "Boundaries" shall mean that line, as mutually agreed upon and/or recognized by Hockey Alberta, that separates one LMHA from another, and defines that area from which each LMHA may register participants as Resident Players;
6. "Bylaws" mean the Bylaws of the League(s) as approved by Hockey Alberta;
7. "Category (i.e.)" means the sub-divisions of Divisions as follows "AAA, AA, A, B, C, D, Minor, Major";
8. "Conferences" means those sub-divisions of a League used to separate areas of a League as follows "North, South, Central, etc.";



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9. "Division" means one of the following: Junior, Midget, Bantam, Pee Wee, Atom, Novice, and Initiation;
10. "Female Elite Draw Zone Area" or FEDZA shall mean that line, in accordance with recognized boundaries and determined by Hockey Alberta, that separates one draw area of the Female Elite Stream from another, and defines the area by which Teams in the Female Elite Stream can access Players from. In the instance of more than one (1) team in a specific division/category within the recognized EDZA, the area that they will be able to draw players from shall be agreed to between them and approved by HA. In the event of the teams being unable to agree, the Hockey Alberta Board of Directors shall set the boundaries.
11. "Female Elite Hockey" means those Divisions and Categories considered as high performance (Female Midget AAA and Female Bantam AAA);
12. Geographical Sub Division – may include a city, town, municipality, rural area or zone as established from time to time by a Branch within its own jurisdiction.
13. "Import Player" shall be defined in elite hockey as a non-resident / import / resident player who resides in one Female Elite Draw Zone Area and registers with a team in another Female Elite Draw Zone Area.

Note: All players will be automatically released back to their resident LMHA's at the end of the hockey season.

14. "League" means those groups of teams (Midget AAA and Bantam AAA) forming province wide leagues as recognized by Hockey Alberta for the purpose of participating in the elite stream, which has adopted Bylaws and Regulations that are consistent with the Alberta Development Model and Bylaws and Regulations of Hockey Alberta and are approved by the Board of Hockey Alberta;
15. "Local Minor Hockey Association" or "LMHA" means an association, registered as a body corporate in the Province of Alberta, which has adopted bylaws and regulations that are consistent with the bylaws and regulations of Hockey Alberta, are approved by the Board of Hockey Alberta;



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16. "Non Resident Player" shall be defined in elite hockey as a Player who resides outside of the Boundaries of the host LMHA of the Female Elite Team but within the boundaries of the Female Elite Draw Zone Area that the Player is registered with in any playing season;
17. "Notification of Try-Out Form" shall be defined as the designated Hockey Alberta form used by Players to try-out with teams within the Female Elite Stream of Hockey.
18. "Provincials" means the Hockey Alberta playoff competition;
19. "Regulations" means those regulations of League(s), approved by Hockey Alberta, used for the administration and advancement of Hockey;
20. Registry – means the electronic registration system used by Hockey Alberta to register all players and coaches
21. "Release" means the unconditional discharge of a Player from a LMHA;
22. "Resident Player" shall be defined in elite hockey as a Player who resides within the Boundaries of the host LMHA of the Female Elite Team that the Player is registered with in any Playing Season;
23. "Stakeholders" means those Leagues, LMHA's, Clubs, and Teams involved in the Elite Stream;



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ELITE DRAW ZONE AREAS

In order to make it fair and equitable for all teams within the Female Elite Stream, "Female Elite Draw Zone Areas" have been established. These Female Elite Draw Zone Areas are to be used to establish a feeder system throughout the Minor Elite Stream.

Hockey Alberta has limited the number of Leagues at the Midget level of development system to one (1) league (AMMFHL) that focus on minimized travel requirements and lower costs for regular season play.

Hockey Alberta has established consistent Female Elite Draw Zone Areas that allow for a feeder system under Female Midget AAA.

- Elite Draw Zone Areas for each Division/Category within the elite structure do not overlap.
- Entire Minor Hockey Associations are within specific Draw Zones and not split.

Provincial Championship at the Midget AAA level of the Female Elite Stream are to be determined via League Play. Only Elite League teams will be eligible to play in the Championships.

The winner of the AMMFHL will be the sole representative to the Western Female Midget Championship (and the proposed HC Female Midget National Championship).



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EXPANSION & REDUCTION OF TEAMS IN THE LEAGUES

Expansion and reduction of teams in the Leagues within the Elite Stream will be based on the following criteria

Female Midget “AAA”

1. Hockey Alberta registration numbers are to be used, in conjunction with other factors in determining an appropriate draw ratio of available Midget aged players.
2. Teams within the existing Boundaries of Edmonton and Calgary remain the same until such time as they feel an expansion and reduction of teams is required.
3. Each Female Elite Draw Zone Area will include a minimum of one Midget “AAA” team.
4. Expansion Criteria include considerations:
 - (a) Detrimental effects on existing teams
 - (b) Number of same category teams
 - (c) Female feeder system
5. The Expansion Committee will be comprised of:
 - (a) Not less than four (4) League Directors – two (2) each from the North and South Divisions, appointed by the President of the AMMFHL.
 - (b) A representative of Hockey Alberta (non-voting).

The Committee will be responsible to ensure that prospective members meet all criteria. After reviewing application(s) and completing investigations, the Expansion Committee will make appropriate recommendations to the League on the acceptability of the prospective member(s). The League will then put forward their recommendations to the Hockey Alberta Board of Directors for their approval.



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Female Bantam AAA

1. Female Bantam AAA Hockey League(s) or tiers within existing Leagues needs to be developed in the upcoming season.
2. There is a minimum of at least one Female Bantam AAA Team within an Elite Draw Zone Area.
3. The objective is to provide opportunities for the best Bantam players from within a Team's Draw Zone.
4. Expansion of more than one Bantam AAA team within a draw zone is possible by application to the Female Bantam AAA Expansion and Boundaries committee by the 10th of January of the current season
5. The Female Bantam AAA expansion and Boundaries committee shall consist of the following members:
 - a. Female Council (Chair and Minor Female Representatives)
 - b. HA Director assigned to Female Council
 - c. League representatives
6. Consideration for the application will be based on
 - a. Detrimental effects on existing teams
 - b. Number of same category teams
 - c. Female feeder system
 - d. Commitment to the Hockey Alberta Development Model



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MIDGET AAA DRAW AREAS & FEEDER SYSTEM

Medicine Hat		Red Deer	
LMHA'S WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES		LMHA'S WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES	
Bassano	Kainai	Alix	Hobbema
Bow Island	Lethbridge	Bashaw	Innisfail
Brooks	Lomond	Bentley	Lacombe
Castor	Medicine Hat	Big Valley	Olds
Coaldale	Morrin	Blackfalds	Ponoka
Consort	Oyen	Bowden	Red Deer
Coronation	Peigan	Buffalo Lake	Rimbey
Delia	Picture Butte	Caroline	Rocky Mtn House
Duchess	Red Cliff	Clive	Spruce View
Foremost	Taber	Delburne	Stettler
Hanna	Vauxhall	Didsbury	Sundre
Hussar	Warner	Drumheller	Sylvan Lake
Irvine		Eckville	
Okotoks		Spruce Grove	
LMHA'S WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES		LMHA'S WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES	
Airdrie	High Country	Calahoo	Spruce Grove
Banff	High River	Calmar	Stoney Plain
Beisker	Indus	Devon	Swan Hills
Blackie	Kneehill	Drayton Valley	Thorsby
Canmore	Morley	Edson	Wabamum
Carstairs	Nanton	Evansburg	Warburg
Chestermere	Okotoks	Hinton	Whitecourt
Claresholm	Pincher Creek	Jasper	Winfield
Cochrane	Rockyford	Onoway	Barrhead
Cremona	Siksika	Leduc	Sangudo
Crossfield	Stavley	Mayerthorpe	
Crowsnest Pass	Strathmore		
Ft. Macleod	Vulcan		



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Edmonton	Calgary
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ELITE PLAYER MOVEMENT APPLICATION

APPLICATION FOR PLAYER MOVEMENT PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF THE SEASON

Upon application, players that are required to move in order to have access to the Elite Stream, the following process is in place.

1. Complete "Player Movement Application Form" stating reasons why player cannot try out for designated Elite Zone Team.
2. Indicate where player will be residing if making the team.
3. Must make application prior to July 1 of the upcoming hockey season.
4. Player will return to his resident Local Minor Hockey Association at the end of the playing season.
5. Submit completed form and supporting documentation to Elite Stream Committee for review. Committee will approve or deny within an appropriate period of time.



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NOTIFICATION OF TRY-OUT PROCEDURE

Any Player may try-out for the team for which the Player is eligible of the: AMMFHL (Alberta Major Midget Female Hockey League) or a Female Bantam AAA Team provided that:

- a) the player has filed a completed Notification of Try-Out form;
- a) the team has been approved for membership by Hockey Alberta in the Female Elite Development stream.

Players wishing to try-out with an Elite Team (as defined) must first complete a Notification of Try-Out Form and submit to their resident LMHA (the LMHA of which the player resides), the applicable league for which the team is a member of and the Team to which the player wishes to try-out for.

Residency of the player is determined as per Hockey Canada Residency Qualifications.

A player must first try-out for the team in the Female Elite Draw Zone Area where the player resides (unless previous approval has been obtained via Elite Player Movement Application).

If the player does not make the team they are trying out for, they may have the option to try-out for the next closest Female Elite Team as defined by the Female Elite Draw Zone Areas. (If there is any dispute with the next closest Elite Team, the dispute shall be settled by Hockey Alberta upon application).

1. The player must first obtain a waiver from the team of which he did not make and then return to his resident LMHA.
2. The player would then submit an additional Notification of Try-out form for the next closest Elite team. This Notification of Try-out form is required in order to try-out for the next team. His previous waiver(s) and Notification of Try-Out forms must accompany the request.



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A player making the designated Female Elite Team will receive an unconditional release from the LMHA of which the player was registered in the previous season and/or their resident LMHA. The player must pay any outstanding fees or other financial obligations owing to the previous registered Team

Once a Player has made the Female Elite Team of which she was trying out for, the Player must ensure that his Notification of Try-out Forms and all applicable Waivers are submitted together at the time of registration to Hockey Alberta.

Failure to submit the Notification of Try Out form and applicable waivers (as required for an Import Player), at the time of registration, will result in that player being not registered.

In cases where a Player is found to have played in a game, without first having submitted his Notification of Try Out form and applicable waiver(s) at the time of registration, the Team Officials of the Hockey Team with which the Player has played, will be subject to discipline in accordance with Hockey Alberta Regulation Section 13.0 – Discipline.

Notifications of Try-Out are only applicable to players trying out for teams in the AMMFHL and for Female Bantam AAA Teams. Normal Permission to Try-Out is required for all other levels of Female play (see Hockey Alberta Rules and Regulations).

The Minor Hockey Association's of Calgary and Edmonton governs the rules regarding residence and the movement of players released from teams under their jurisdiction.

Please Note: Players trying out for any of the Female Elite Teams, should also be cognizant of the fact that IF they don't make these Female Elite Teams, they should ensure that they determine which team and apprise them of their possibility of playing for the team at the next level of which they are eligible for. The worst situation for a player to be in is to Try-Out for the Female Elite Teams, not make one of them, and then not have an appropriate team of their skill level to try-out for within the appropriate time frame. Timely and informed decisions must always be kept in consideration.



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TEAM REGISTRATION

All Hockey Teams must be properly and duly registered in the Registry with Hockey Alberta, prior to their first League Game or November 15, whichever occurs first. All Players participating on a Hockey Team must be duly registered in the Registry before their first league game.

Any Hockey Team, whose registration is received after November 15, will not be eligible for Provincials.

AFFILIATION POLICY

To allow for Affiliation within the Female Elite Draw Zone Area for the teams currently playing in the Alberta Major Midget Female Hockey League (AMMFHL) and for teams playing at the level of Female Bantam AAA.

The Affiliation Policy is used to accommodate athlete development under the Female Alberta Development Model

The Teams within the Female Elite Stream of Hockey are eligible to affiliate players from within their entire Female Elite Draw Zone Area for Female Midget AAA and Female Bantam AAA.

PROCEDURE AND CRITERIA TO HAVE AFFILIATION APPROVED BY HOCKEY ALBERTA

STEP ONE

All players to be used and registered for affiliation within the AMMFHL or Female Bantam AAA teams must meet and qualify in accordance with Hockey Canada Regulation **(E) Teams, Clubs and Affiliations:**

The following wording of HC regulation E will be changed when HC rewords their regulation to accommodate the HC registry



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13.
 - a) A minor hockey team may affiliate nineteen (19) players from within the teams designated geographic subdivision, as defined and approved by the team's Branch.
 - b) A geographic subdivision may include a city, town, municipality, rural area or zone as established from time to time by a Branch within its own jurisdiction.
 - c) A player is only permitted to participate as an affiliated player with one Minor hockey team of a higher division or category during a playing season. Prior to participation as an affiliate player, the player's name must appear on the team's affiliation list filed with that Branch Executive Director.

14. A Specially Affiliated Player shall not be permitted to play for the selecting team until his Hockey Canada card has been endorsed by the Branch Executive Director as being a specially affiliated player. Such endorsement may not be given by the Branch Executive Director before the written consent form from both teams involved in the affiliation is filed with that Branch Executive Director.

15. Once a player's Hockey Canada Card has been endorsed by the Branch Executive Director as being a specially affiliated player, his name becomes part of the selecting team's list of specially affiliated players and may not be dropped from such list during the current season and replaced, unless the team with which he signed his Hockey Canada Registration Certificate releases on or before January 10.

16. No player is permitted to be part of more than one (1) specially affiliated players list at any time during the current season.

19. An affiliated player must have the approval of his/her carded team.

Affiliation needs to be filed with the zone register of which the Elite Team is registered in as well as the zone where the player resides (if different).

STEP TWO

All Players being used and registered for Affiliation with the AMMFHL or Female Bantam AAA teams must abide by Hockey Alberta Regulation **3.0 (Player Registration)** in its entirety.



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NOTE: All Affiliated players must reside in the Female Elite Draw Zone Area of the team they will be affiliated with.

All teams must adhere to Hockey Alberta Regulation, Female Minor Supplementary Regulations, **3.0 (Affiliation)**

- (3.1) Female Players playing on Minor Male hockey teams may not affiliate to Female Teams. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- (3.2) Final approval of all Female Minor affiliations rests with the Hockey Alberta Minor Female Representative in consultation with the HA Zone Director or their designate.
- (3.4) Affiliation will only be recognized where:
 - a) Players are added to Teams in the Registry and identified as "Affiliates"
 - b) the General Manager or his designate(s) acknowledge receipt and identify said Players as approved prior to an affiliate Player participating, in any game, with the Hockey Team to which she is affiliated.
 - c) the affiliation has been endorsed by the President of the applicable LMHA

Note: All affiliations shall terminate at the end of the current playing season.

For clarification purposes, the intent of this policy is to allow Players to Affiliate to Teams in the AMMFHL or Female Bantam AAA teams from any LMHA in the Female Elite Draw Zone Area regardless of the LMHA Categorization. The reason is to provide for the development of Players in the Female Elite Stream of hockey within their Female Elite Draw Zone Area as per the Female Alberta Development Model.