



INFORMATION BULLETIN 21-06

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U13 AA structure changes for 2022-23 season

Hockey Alberta is updating the AA Hockey Model to introduce new criteria on the minimum number of U13 players in a Recruitment Area for hosting a U13 AA team, as well as amending the numbers at which more than one team will be required.

The new criteria will result in the following changes for the 2022-23 season:

- The modification of some recruitment areas; and
- The modification in the number of teams permitted to operate in some recruitment areas.

AA Hockey Committee members are contacting Recruitment Areas impacted by the changes.

The AA Hockey Model continues to offer a regionalized hockey system that provides opportunities for all players to access the AA level of hockey within a reasonable distance of travel from their Resident MHA. The changes are intended to improve competitive balance by ensuring each Recruitment Area operates with similar pools of players.

The changes are based on recommendations made to the AA Hockey Committee from an *Ad Hoc* AA Review Committee that was established in September to address competitive balance at U13 AA and identify the best overall structure for the top category of U13 hockey.

The Review Committee's work included a province-wide survey, open to all MHAs, to generate feedback on the current structure of U13 male hockey, as well as a review of registration trends.

The Review Committee found correlation between winning percentage and a Recruitment Area's total U13 registration numbers. Areas with historically lower numbers of total U13 players per U13 AA team also regularly finished in the bottom third of their league standings.

Currently, the percentage of U13 players selected from each AA Recruitment Area varies between 8% and 23% of U13 registration in a given Recruitment Area. This means that AA teams in some Recruitment Areas represent nearly three times more of their total U13 registrants than teams from other Recruitment Areas.

The Committee determined this gap was too wide and criteria needed to be implemented to ensure recruitment areas operate with and select a more similar percentage of their top players for the highest category of U13 hockey.

Please direct questions through U13 AA Recruitment Area hosts to Hockey Alberta.

Hudson Kelly,
Coordinator, Elite Male Hockey
hkelly@hockeyalberta.ca