



INFORMATION BULLETIN 21-08

May 11, 2022

U16AA Pilot Project expands to entire province

The South Central Alberta Hockey League (SCAHL), Hockey Calgary and the Rural & Edmonton Minor Hockey League (REMHL), in partnership with Hockey Alberta's AA Hockey Committee, are expanding the operation of the U16 AA pilot division for the 2022-23 season.

The original pilot was hosted by SCAHL and Hockey Calgary; the expanded pilot will be provincewide. The pilot is part of a continuing review around providing additional options for 15-year-old players entering the U18 division, so that they can continue their development with like-sized and like-skilled players. The pilot will help review and determine the place of U16 AA division, and if it should be brought in under the existing AA Hockey Model.

With the Alberta Elite Hockey League changing from U16 AAA to U17 AAA for 2022-23, the U16 AA category will be the only opportunity for 15-year-old players across the entire province to participate together exclusively. Following the 2021-22 pilot, the AA Committee believed it would be premature to render a formal decision on the merit of U16 AA given the potential change in the number of 15-year-olds playing AAA due to the shift to U17 AAA.

Host MHAs & Recruitment Areas

The AA Hockey Committee has identified 27 host organizations that will each operate one team within the U16 AA division. All seven teams from the U16 AA SCAHL will return, along with four teams in Calgary and an additional 16 teams in the REMHL. Recruitment Areas have been assigned to all U16 AA teams, which will allow them to draw 15-year-old players from their designated Recruitment Area to form their team. The pilot project U16 AA Recruitment Areas are enclosed with this document.

Player Movement

For the 2022-23 season, players born in 2007 who reside within the boundaries of one of the associations listed within the enclosed Recruitment Areas, will be eligible to try out for the U16 AA team to which their association has been assigned. Although this category of hockey has not been incorporated into the AA Hockey Model, players will use the same tryout process and U16 AA host associations must communicate with the MHAs in their recruitment area the players who are registered for tryouts.

Because this is a pilot project, Player Movement application requests will not be accepted for a first tryout with a team outside the player's U16 AA Recruitment Area. Second tryouts will be permitted using the standard AA Hockey second tryout process.

Affiliation

For the purposes of affiliation, U16 AA teams have been placed below U17 AAA teams, but above U18 tiered hockey teams (Tier 1-6). U16 AA teams will be eligible to affiliate players born in 2007 and subsequent years from within their Recruitment Area, who are not participating on a U17 AAA team or U18 AA team. Players on U16 AA teams will be eligible to affiliate to U17 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, 2022, and will terminate at the end of the hockey season.

Questions? Contact your U16 AA Host MHA, the SCAHL, Hockey Calgary, the REMHL or the Hockey Alberta Office.



U16 AA PROVINCIAL PILOT PROJECT

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
Grande Prairie	Peace River	Fort Saskatchewan	Bonnyville
Grande Prairie Beaverlodge Clairmont East Smoky Grande Cache Grovedale Horse Lake Hythe La Glace Rycroft Savanna Sexsmith Spirit River Wembley	Peace River Fairview Grimshaw High Level High Prairie Hines Creek La Crete Loon River Manning Nampa Rainbow Lake Smoky River Valleyview Slave Lake Fox Creek	Fort Saskatchewan Andrew Boyle Bruderheim Josephburg Lamont Redwater Smoky Lake Thorhild Two Hills Vegreville Sturgeon HC Athabasca CNN Wabasca Westlock	Bonnyville Cold Lake Elk Point Frog Lake Glendon Goodfish Lake Kikino Lac La Biche Mallaig Plamondon Saddle Lake St. Paul
Spruce Grove	Camrose	Lloydminster	Beaumont
Spruce Grove Enoch Onoway Pembina Stony Plain Whitecourt Edson Hinton Jasper Mayerthorpe Swan Hills Barrhead CR Knights	Camrose Bashaw Battle River Holden Maskwacis Thunderstars Wetaskiwin 3 C's Hardisty Hughenden Irma Viking	Lloydminster Dewberry Kitscoty Marwayne Onion Lake Paradise Valley Wainwright Chauvin Edgerton Mannville Provost Vermilion	Leduc Calmar Drayton Valley Millet Thorsby Warburg Winfield Beaumont Devon New Sarepta
Strathcona	Fort McMurray	St. Albert	Sherwood Park
Strathcona Tofield	Fort McMurray	St. Albert	Sherwood Park
Edmonton			
Four Teams Canadian AC South Side AC Knights of Columbus Maple Leaf AC			