



February 6, 2023

Dear GHC Families:

GHC is thrilled to confirm that our **Calgary Fire Female Elite Hockey franchise is expanding for the 2023-24 hockey season**. Calgary currently has the largest number of female hockey players among all Female Elite Recruitment Zones in Alberta and this exciting advancement will better reflect their needs, abilities and ambitions. Here are a few highlights of today's [Hockey Alberta announcement](#):

- **Calgary Fire Will Debut Three (3) U13 Female AA Teams in 2023-24**

The Alberta Female Hockey League (AFHL)'s new U13 Female AA division allows athletes to access Hockey Alberta's Elite stream at an earlier stage. Beginning next season, female hockey players in Calgary will have three (3) try-out opportunities for U13 Female Elite. *If you are unfamiliar with the AFHL, visit afhl.ca for reference on programming, schedules, standings, etc.*

- **Calgary Fire Will Expand to Three (3) U15 Female AA Teams in 2023-24**

Currently, female hockey players in Calgary are limited to two (2) try-out opportunities for the U15 Female Elite stream. As mentioned above, this does not reflect the volume and skill of female hockey players in our city and results in a number of elite-level players in the Community stream. Beginning next season, female hockey players in Calgary will have three (3) try-out opportunities for U15 Female Elite.

- **Hockey Alberta Anticipates Future Growth at U18 AAA/AA in 2024-25**

Female hockey players in Calgary have access to two (2) try-out opportunities for U18 Female AAA and two (2) try-out opportunities for U18 Female AA. While the structure at U18 AAA and U18 AA will remain unchanged for the 2023-24 season, Hockey Alberta continues to review the structure and alignment of U18 AAA/AA with potential expansion in 2024-25.

This is a significant update to Alberta's Female Elite player pathway and an **exciting opportunity for female athletes in Calgary to compete in Elite divisions designed specifically for their advancement, enjoyment and success**. We will share much more information in the coming days, so please stay tuned!

Sincerely,

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Calgary Fire Female AAA/AA
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