



June 27, 2023

Dear GHC Families,

Thank you for the support you've shown for the decision to move all GHC teams to the female competition model, and for the excellent feedback you've provided. GHC has always been a firebrand for change — our evolution from a 12-player team in 1989 to **Calgary's largest hockey association** demonstrates our shared desire to build an exceptional, equitable home for our players.

As a Board, we took the responsibility of this decision very seriously. This change is the right path forward, and no duo is better-suited to blaze this trail than GHC and Hockey Calgary. Please see [Hockey Calgary's Information Bulletin](#) supporting this joint achievement.

Operating all-female divisions and providing a first-class hockey experience is not mutually exclusive, however, we are well aware of the challenges and are ready and equipped to enrich your player's experience in all aspects of their season. This includes our continued efforts to improve evaluation and team formation processes and transparency; an exciting new Coach Development Summit and technical in-season seminars and support; and one of the most comprehensive in-house skill development menus of any minor hockey association. On top of all that, a female competition model provides our players with the positive league representation they've earned and deserve.

I understand the resistance to this move. Our hybrid competition model was in place just long enough to feel status quo, and despite steps in the right direction, the male hockey structure still dwarfs what we can build for ourselves on the female side, especially if we remain divided. This move summons an uncomfortable dialogue about how we value female spaces in sport, exposing a chasm between what we all seem to agree is needed for female players in the long-term, and what some believe is best for their individual player in the short-term. This is why it's so important to follow through with our founding objectives and allow female hockey to finally thrive as its own successful entity.

We will never waiver in our mission to create a fun, safe, competitive environment for all female hockey players in Calgary. It is very early in the registration period, but our numbers already show growth in all age categories compared to this time last year. We're excited for the possibilities of next year and those to come.

My sincere thanks to everyone who has engaged in this conversation and I thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Shannon Cleary
President, Girls Hockey Calgary Association (GHC)

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