



Frequently Asked Questions – New U18AAA Team Announcement

January 22nd, 2024

AAA Teams – Tryouts & Team Formation:

Q. With the addition of the two U18AAA Female AFHL teams in Alberta, has a move back to 'structured draw zones' been re-considered?

A. Hockey Alberta has designated U18 AAA Female as an 'Open Boundary' league. The fact that Calgary will now have 2 teams does not change this. Hockey Alberta has confirmed that open borders will remain, and girls from outside the Calgary boundaries will have the opportunity to tryout for one of the two teams.

Q. Will the 2 Calgary teams be created equal? Will there be a draft to ensure parity of the two teams?

A. Both Calgary teams will continue to operate under the Hockey Alberta 'Open Boundary' model. Therefore, players will have the choice of which team they wish to select for their 'first tryout', as they do with all teams in the AFHL. There will not be a draft to equalize teams in Calgary, we are confident that both teams will be competitive in the new league structure.

Q. How will players access a second tryout with Calgary? Will they pick which team they are trying out for?

A. Players will need to declare/pick which team they are trying out for first. Players who wish to access a second tryout, will follow the same process as any other AAA team.

Q. For ID camps, will players need to declare who they are trying out for?

A. ID camps can be run/operated in partnership. GHC is currently reviewing options for the upcoming season and are considering the option of having both teams work together for the 'identification phase' of tryouts. Hockey Alberta has never dictated that separate camps need to be operated.

i) Hockey Alberta is currently reviewing parameters surrounding a 'short list for Fall Tryouts' for AAA members to use as an option moving forward. This is still TBD.

Q. If only one camp, does this count as two tryouts for players?

A. No, fall tryout camps will be held separately for all teams.

i) The proposal of eliminating the maximum number of tryouts at the AAA level is in front of the AFHL elite committee – no formal answer on this at this time.

Q. Currently there is a limit of 5 – 15 year olds allowed per AAA team, will that change?

A. This is not under GHC or HC control. Hockey Alberta currently has this question under review with their elite committee, we have no formal answer at this time.

Q. There are currently a maximum of 5 players and 1 goalie allowed to be formally committed to a team prior to fall tryouts, will that change?

A. This is a decision of Hockey Alberta. It is our understanding that it will remain at 6 players (not specified by position). Hockey Alberta has an elite committee reviewing the two new teams for the upcoming season and considering adding additional commitments - more to follow.

Q. Currently players cannot be officially committed to a team until June 15th, will that date be adjusted to align with school recruitment?

A. This date and information is not correct. Players are permitted to commit to a team for the following year once their obligations to the current team/year are complete, and the playing season is done. As per Hockey Alberta, the current wording regarding recruitment in the regulations is as follows:

i) *Program Promotion and Recruitment: Players who are registered to a team that has not yet completed the current season are **not eligible** to be recruited and/or participate in U18 AAA practices (unless properly affiliated within HCR) until their Team's season is complete.*

ii) *U18 AAA teams are permitted to commit a maximum of five (5) skaters and one (1) goaltender prior to August 15th. This will be completed through the 'Player Agreement' process.*

Q. Will players from other zones continue to be allowed to affiliate to and from Calgary? Will AFHL provide best practices in cross organization affiliation?

A. Yes, players will be able to affiliate into Calgary (and out of Calgary) for the purposes of AAA. If there are specific questions, Hockey Alberta will help in terms of best practice documents.

Q. With the addition of another team, will the playing rosters remain the same size?

A. Roster sizes for all levels of hockey are governed and determined by Hockey Canada. At this time there is no plans to alter roster size, rosters will stay the same for the 2024-25 season.

Q. Will there be a reduction in U18 AA Female Team in Calgary with the addition of a U18 AAA team?

A. The number of GHC U18 AA teams will remain the same in Calgary. The GHC program has seen significant growth in recent years and the registration numbers are sufficient to host competitive teams.

Q. Who will be the coach for the new AAA team?

A. Applications for the new AAA coach are being accepted. GHC is working quickly to ensure that we secure a quality coach to lead the new program. A coach selection committee, made up of various members from the Calgary Hockey community has been created and is in the process of creating a short-list and beginning interviews. Once the process is complete and a candidate selected, GHC will announce the name of the new coach to the membership.



Q. What arena will the new AAA team play out of?

A. Hockey Calgary and GHC are working collaboratively to engage with arenas throughout the city. It is our goal to have the new AAA team play and practice in one facility. Once a facility has been finalized GHC and Hockey Calgary will provide further details. The current AAA team will continue to practice and play at Father David Bauer Arena.

Q. Will the new team have access to permanent dressing room facilities in the new 'home facility' as does the current team at FDB?

A. The most important thing for GHC is to secure the ice in one facility. We will do our best to secure dressing room facilities as well, but this may take some time and may not happen in year #1.

Q. What will the dryland/off-ice look like for the new AAA team.

A. GHC will aim to provide both teams a similar 'playing experience'. Once a venue is confirmed GHC will work to secure a provider that will be of the highest caliber and operate in close proximity to home facility.

Q. With the growth of the Fire elite program, will GHC become 2 separate associations? One Association for Elite and one for Community Hockey?

A. Both Fire and Jr. Inferno programs will continue to be governed by GHC. However, with the AA expansion for the 23/24 season and the AAA expansion for the 24/25 season, we recognize that the current structure needs to be revised. GHC is in the process of reviewing the current structure, with the goal of increasing the representation of board members on the elite arm of the association to provide proper representation at the board and committee level. Once the new structure has been finalized GHC will communicate to the membership. With this change comes the need for an increased number of volunteers, GHC will be actively recruiting for these new volunteer positions. If you feel as though you would be a positive contribution to the FIRE elite stream, please let us know at elite@girlshockeycalgary.com.