

# SASKATCHEWAN DEVELOPMENT MODEL



## Parent Manual 2023-2024

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## List of Contacts and Addresses

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## Introduction

The Saskatchewan Player Development Model parent manual is a collaboration of Hockey Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Male U18 AAA Hockey League, the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League and the Western Hockey League. It is designed to provide reliable information to parents of young Saskatchewan players that will answer questions they may have as their children progress through the hockey development system.

As the relationship grows between the partners, we expect to not only focus on the players and their development, but also officials, coaches and trainers. Our officials, coaches and trainers all got their start in the game as players so our players of today are our officials, coaches and trainers of the future and they are critical to the overall development of the game.



# Hockey Saskatchewan

## SASK FIRST HIGH-PERFORMANCE PROGRAM



The Sask First Program was introduced by the Hockey Saskatchewan in 1988 and since that time the program has brought great pride and accomplishment within our province. The Program was designed to provide a better understanding of the game as well as to promote the development of quality players, coaches, trainers, officials and administrators. The participants are enriched as individuals and can achieve self-satisfaction and enjoyment as part of the hockey community.

The Program promotes a team concept which encompasses the pursuit of common goals. It is emphasized that everyone on the team must pursue their personal goals within the team environment and that no one individual is more important than the team. Team success comes from all team members melding their talents, skills and energies toward the achievement of the team's goals.

The Sask First Program is about respecting the past, the tradition. Successes such as the gold- and silver-medal performances at the 1995 and 2023 Canada Winter Games, the 1998 Western International Under-17 Hockey Challenge, the 2004 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge and the 2019 WHL Cup are bench marks to remember and use as an incentive for future achievements.

Players who participate in the Sask First Program have their on-ice abilities tested, but also undergo off-ice evaluation and interviews as well as fitness testing. In the end, the players who are selected to move on to the next phase of this elite program prove to be good hockey players and most importantly good people. All those who take part in the Program know they are evaluated based on their hockey IQ, skills, ability and competitive level as well as their intensity, character, and attitude. Hockey Saskatchewan believes that all Team Saskatchewan players must be elite in all aspects, which includes both on and off the ice.

Hockey Saskatchewan created this elite Program to ensure not only players, but coaches and officials all receive ample opportunity for development both on and off the ice. The Program is unique as no other provincial branches offer such as in depth developmental program for athletes, coaches and officials. It remains the mission of Hockey Saskatchewan to

## Hockey Saskatchewan

lead, promote and develop positive hockey experiences across the entire Province of Saskatchewan.

The Sask First Program is also a gateway to Hockey Canada's High-Performance Programs which includes their National Teams. There is a long list of notable players who have gone through the Sask First Program which includes NHL players Brayden Pachal, Kevin Korchinski, Kaedan Korczak, Braden Schneider, Brayden Schenn, Chandler Stephenson, Damon Severson and Cole Sillinger, just to name a few. Up and coming players such as Joby Baumuller, Reese Hamilton, and Cole Reschny also went through the Sask First Program.

### **Sask First Under-15 Program Under-16 Team Saskatchewan**

The Sask First Program is open annually to all second-year U15 male players in the province. These age eligible players are invited to attend one of the regional camps. Players must attend the applicable camp based on the location of their parent or guardians' residency (the player's parents/guardian must also be permanent residents of Saskatchewan for the player to be involved in the Sask First Program).

The two Regional Camps will be broken down by provincial zones; players in zones 1-4 will attend the South Regional Camp while players from zones 5-8 will attend the North Regional Camp. From there, the top 8 goalies, 24 defencemen, and 48 forwards will be selected from each regional camp to take part in the U15 Program by first attending a Sask First Tournament being held in Regina over the Christmas break. Players are given a fair and equal opportunity at the Regional Camps to become one of 80 players chosen to represent their region. After the December top 160 tournament, the top 80 evaluated players will then be invited back in February to the 3-day Sask First Tournament held over the Family Day weekend.

Following the February tournament, 20-30 of the top players are invited to the Sask First Summer Camp. Those players will be invited back in the fall to take part in an exhibition series with teams from the Saskatchewan Male U18 AAA Hockey League which qualifies as the Sask First Fall Camp and the last selection phase. The top 20 players from the exhibition series and evaluations, will then be chosen to represent the U16 Team Saskatchewan at the WHL Cup. Every fourth year the U16 players would compete at the Canada Winter Games. The next Canada Winter

## Hockey Saskatchewan

Games will be held in 2023. These players will be entering their 15-year-old season (1st year U18 or U16).

### **Hockey Canada Under-17 Program**

Beginning in 2014-15, the Hockey Canada U17 Program of Excellence changed to Three (3) Hockey Canada U17 teams to compete at the World Under-17 Challenge.

In 2014-15, Hockey Canada invited the top 108 U17 players from across the country to compete to represent the three (3) Canadian teams sent for the World U17 Challenge. These players will be evaluated for further participation in Hockey Canada U18 and U20 programs.

Hockey Saskatchewan operates its High-Performance Programs according to a cyclical arrangement as outlined by Hockey Canada.

### **Sask First Under-18 Program**

This Sask First Program is open to all U18 aged players who are not registered with a AAA, Junior A, B, or C Team. The Sask First U18 Tournament held in April allows the players to be recognized and representatives from a variety of leagues will be in attendance. Notable players who have gone through the U18 Sask First Program include Regina's Tyler Bozak and Kindersley's Derek Dorsett.

Hockey Saskatchewan takes great pride in this Sask First Program because it's one for U18 hockey players. The Sask First U18 Program is sponsored in part by the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League (SJHL) and provides players another opportunity to showcase themselves to members of the Saskatchewan Development Model.

The High-Performance Program begins every February with two regional North and South camps that are open to all applicable players in the U18 category. From there, the top 160 players (80 from each regional camp) are invited to participate in the Sask First U18 Tournament. The process ensures all players not only have the opportunity to compete with their peers, but receive significant exposure at all Sask First events.



# Saskatchewan Player Development Model

## Mission Statement

Hockey Saskatchewan, in partnership with the Saskatchewan Male U18 AAA Hockey League, the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League and the Western Hockey League will develop and maintain a Saskatchewan “Athlete Centered Focus” Player Development Program.

## Objectives

- To create and validate a letter of understanding/agreement between the partners to outline operational, policy development and appeal mechanisms.
- To design a club system, that provides the smooth transition of players through the system and targets their movement to play at the highest level appropriate for their ability and circumstances.
- To ensure that all of the partners in the system agree to provide appropriate assessment and direction on an individual player’s potential and to make a professional decision on a player’s capability to play at a given level.
- To ensure the partners encourage players to play at the highest possible level within the system. The Partners agree to exercise patience in setting the pace at which players advance through the system and to act in the best interest of the players overall development. The partners agree that the best interest of the player may be to keep open all his avenues of opportunity.
- To encourage players that possess extraordinary skill combined with the necessary physical and mental maturity, to advance to an appropriate level provided the opportunity is available to play on a regular basis. Should the circumstances not be favorable to the player’s best interest, the player and parent/guardian will be counseled on the situation and advised of options on an appropriate career path.
- To structure the system to ensure the top players in Saskatchewan remain in Saskatchewan and participate in the Canadian Development System. It is our goal to design a structure that meets the needs of all Saskatchewan players and increase the number of players who choose each year to participate in the Canadian system. However, the players maintain the right to consider alternatives outside of the Canadian model.
- To ensure that the partners cooperatively structure all future agreements, regulations, player recruitment practices and scholarship opportunities in such a way to encourage our top players to remain in the Canadian System.

## Saskatchewan Player Development Model

- To create similar Saskatchewan development models for Coaches and Officials including Mentoring Programs, to advance through the club system in accordance with their capabilities to perform at the next level.

### Questions Players Might Ask

1. What are the ramifications of signing a Hockey Canada Player Registration Card?

Once a player signs a Hockey Canada player registration card with a U18 AAA or Junior Team, he will remain a member of that team until such time as he is released by that team or becomes too old for the age division.

2. Should you require in writing any understandings arrived at before signing a card?

Yes, it is always advisable that any commitments given to you before signing a player registration card be committed in writing and signed by an authorized person at that time.

3. How much ice-time can the player expect?

Under-18 AAA, Junior and Major Junior is not “Equal Time” hockey. The amount of ice time a player receives at these levels will be determined by his abilities, effort and commitment. **DO NOT** ask for assurance that you will be guaranteed to play on the first two lines, top four defensemen or specialty teams. No team can make such a commitment over the long term.

4. What is your team policy regarding releases?

Each team has its own release policy, ensure you know this information up front. All three leagues have league wide release policies.

5. What are the expectations of the player from the team?

Players would be expected to arrive at training camp mentally and physically prepared. Expect to earn every opportunity available to you based on your performance and attitude. Carry yourself in all aspects of your life like you intend to be a player at the appropriate level.

6. What are the expectations of the team from the player?

The player should expect that the relationship will be handled in a professional manner. There will be communication between the player and team as required to ensure both parties are aware of the status of

## Saskatchewan Player Development Model

the relationship.

Players should expect that the relationship represents a sincere belief on the part of the team that the player is a legitimate candidate to play for the team. Players should expect a safe environment for hockey and for living situation.

7. How does your team maintain contact with Scouts at various levels?

At the U18 AAA Level team managers and/or coaches will be responsible for initiating and maintaining communication with players. At the Junior Level, depending upon the staff structure of the team, communication may be initiated by a Head Scout/Director of Player Personnel with a General Manager/Head Coach also joining in the process. All of these individuals maintain communication with their peers at every level of the game.

8. Does your League support any special events to draw attention to the League and its players?

Sask First U15 and U18 Programs; All-Star Games; Community events in and around franchise centers.

9. How do I register with a team?

Within Hockey Saskatchewan, all players at the U18 AAA, Junior B and Junior A level are registered with the Association via an electronic carding system on a national database. When teams wish to register a player with Hockey Saskatchewan through the system, the players will be asked to sign a letter of commitment to the team which acts in the same capacity of signing a player registration card.



# Saskatchewan Player Development Model

## Questions Parents Might Ask

1. How are parents involved in fundraising?

Depending on the level of hockey, parents may be asked to assist in, and contribute to fundraising initiatives.

2. What is the rate of coach turnover?

Depending upon the level of hockey, coaches may simply be volunteers appointed by Minor Hockey Associations/Junior teams or they may be part or full-time salaried coaches who are working on contracts in varying lengths.

3. If a player is unhappy where he has signed, and has been denied a release, what can a parent do?

Discuss the situation with the General Manager/Manager. Generally an unhappy player is not a positive asset to the team and action can be taken to rectify the situation. At the Junior level there is a listing/draft process and players are asked to respect that process.

4. What are the expectations of Parents to Team?

Respect, fairness, opportunity, safe living situation and a safe environment for hockey.

5. What are the expectations of Teams to Parents?

Support the player and respect the hockey personnel that the player is being treated in a fair and reasonable manner.

6. What is the position of the team in providing educational assistance programs, e.g. tutors?

Teams will provide an educational advisor to assist player's educational needs and those in school are expected to be committed to attending school and completing the necessary work.

7. What are the curfews set by a team, guardians, host family?

Curfews are reasonable for the age involved and each team will have rules which may be superseded by billet rules.

8. How much practice time per week does the team provide?

Depending upon the team, one or two hours per day in addition to dry land training and meetings.

# Saskatchewan Player Development Model

9. Does the team assist in finding/screening billets?

Teams are responsible for finding and screening billets.

10. What is the team's position on Initiation Rituals/Hazing and how do they communicate this position to the team?

Leagues have "no tolerance" rules to this and either league employees or team personnel will speak to each team annually on the topic.

11. At what age can we expect our son to play in the SMU18AAAHL, SJHL or WHL?

## **SMU18AAAHL**

The age qualifications for U18 AAA hockey is 15 to 17 years of age. As each team in the SMU18AAAHL can register and dress 20 players, there are 240 plus players per year registered in the year. During a four season span from 2020-21 to 2022-23 approximately 25% (or a total of 60) of the total number of players registered were players in their first year of U18 hockey.

## **SJHL**

The age qualification for Junior Hockey is 16 years old to 20 years old; this year in the SJHL teams may only have a maximum of 8-20 year olds per team. Although a large number of players enter into the SJHL at the age of 18, teams strive to recruit elite 17-year-old players that need the challenge of Junior A hockey for their development. Annually, the average age in the SJHL is approximately 18.8.

## **WHL**

In the hockey season immediately following the WHL Prospects Draft, players (who would be considered to be 15 years old) are eligible to play up to five games as "Specially Affiliated Players" and can join their WHL team following the completion of their own team's season. As 16 year olds, players become eligible to play in the WHL on a full-time basis. WHL regulations specify that 16 year olds should play the equivalent of 40 games in that season to ensure the player continues his development. The majority of first-year players in any WHL season are 17 years old.

12. What happens if my son makes the team in September but is released during the season?

The circumstances related to the player's release may determine his future status regardless of which league he plays in.

## Saskatchewan Player Development Model

a) If he is released based on his own request, he will be eligible to play at a lower level of hockey.

ie: U18 AAA → U18 AA or A  
Junior A → Junior B, or if eligible U18 AAA  
Major Junior → Junior A, B, or if eligible, U18 AAA

b) If the player seeks a release to play for another team in the same league, there are specific league rules regarding the movement of players, player lists, tampering penalties, etc.

c) In the event that the player is displaced due to player movements, an injury, or similar circumstances, he may be granted an outright release. In these circumstances the player would be counseled as to his options and assistance would be provided by the teams in reassigning him to the appropriate situation.

13. What happens to my son's education if my son has to leave the province to play hockey and then wants to return after the season is over?

Whether a player moves within the province, or outside of it, to play hockey while still attending school, each of the junior leagues and their member teams have Educational Consultants/Advisors who will work with the player. Most players choose to return home to finish their school year and the Educational Consultants/Advisors will work with the player's home school to ensure a smooth transition occurs. U18 aged players (17 years of age and younger) can only play outside the province within the Western Hockey League.



# Saskatchewan Male U18 AAA Hockey League

## Mandate

The mandate of the SMU18AAAHL is to provide an opportunity for each and every player to be successful on and off the ice. The programs are designed to guide and develop each player's physical, academic and social experiences so they will have immediate as well as future success. Knowledge of the game is provided by managers, coaches and qualified leaders of the community.



The SMU18AAAHL is comprised of 12 teams from 11 communities across the province. Each team is a member of the local Minor Hockey Association which serves as the governing body for the AAA team(s) in their community.

## Player Eligibility

For a player to be eligible to play in the SMU18AAAHL (Eligible 15-17 years old), the player's parent(s) must reside in the province of Saskatchewan as their principle residence. (NOTE: the exception would be those players in residence at Notre Dame College in Wilcox). Each player will be a committed member of a SMU18AAAHL organization by signing a Hockey Saskatchewan "Player Commitment Form" which will immediately be registered with the Hockey Saskatchewan central office.

## Letters of Commitment

All permanent team players must sign a "Letter of Commitment" to the AAA Hockey Club before they are eligible to play in any league games. With the signing of this letter of commitment, the team is committing to sign the player to a AAA Registration Certificate and keep the player as a member of the team for the entire season. This form also signifies the player's commitment to the team for the upcoming season.

If a player is released from his commitment due to discipline issues, he will be ineligible to play for another SMU18AAAHL team in that present hockey season. If a player withdraws from a commitment agreement, he will be ineligible to join another SMU18AAAHL team in that present hockey season.

## Rights of Refusal

In the event a team signs 20 players and a player who was registered the previous season with the team is released from their WHL or SJHL team during the season, one of the 20 players who have signed a commitment form may be released from the team to accommodate the player returning from Junior Hockey.

# Saskatchewan Male U18 AAA Hockey League

## Affiliation of Players to SMU18AAAHL Teams

Each SMU18AAAHL team has an affiliation list consisting of a maximum nineteen (19) players, (seventeen (17) skaters plus two (2) goaltenders). U18 AAA teams may affiliate a maximum of four (4) 2nd-year U15 players registered in the sponsoring center, or whose parents reside within a 160 km radius of the sponsoring center except for any from the sponsoring center of another U18 AAA team. All 2nd-year U15 players affiliated to a U18 AAA team are restricted to playing five (5) games as an affiliate all season. Once the team they have been registered with has completed its season, the U15 player may play with their affiliated team for the remainder of that team's season.

Each affiliated player will be asked to sign a letter of consent with the team that wishes to name him as an affiliate. This letter of consent will apply only if it has been registered with the Hockey Saskatchewan central office.

SMU18AAAHL teams in Regina, Saskatoon and Notre Dame may only affiliate players from teams registered in their respective Minor Hockey Associations. All other teams may affiliate players from within their own MHAs plus six (6) players from within a 160 km radius of their center. They cannot affiliate players from centers within the 160 km radius that have another SMU18AAAHL team. (ie: Moose Jaw could not affiliate players from Regina). There can be no "permanent" affiliation of players. Affiliate players can play no more than ten (10) games all season as an affiliate player. Once the team they have been registered with has completed its season, the player may play with their affiliated team for the remainder of that team's season.

## Financial Obligations

Each SMU18AAAHL team will determine their registration fee annually. Presently fees vary between \$6,000 and \$10,000 per player. Tournament fees as well as playoff expenses may or may not be included in the registration fee.

## Billets

It is the parent's responsibility to provide a billet for their son to play hockey. However, all teams will assist in finding accommodations for each player. The expense for billets will range between \$300.00 and \$500.00 per month. Every billet associated with the SMU18AAAHL must have a criminal record check/vulnerable sector check registered with the SMU18AAAHL team.



# Saskatchewan Male U18 AAA Hockey League

## Equipment

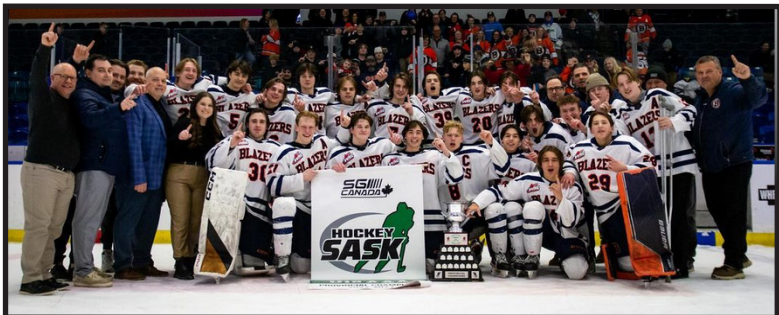
Each SMU18AAAHL team provides each registered player with a minimum of helmets, gloves, shells, jerseys and socks for each player.

## Travel To and From Home

All travel to and from home is the responsibility of the parents other than travel associated with Team Functions.

## Member Clubs

- Battlefords Stars
- Estevan Bears
- Moose Jaw Warriors
- Warman Wildcats
- Notre Dame Hounds
- Prince Albert Mintos
- Regina Pat Canadians
- Saskatoon Blazers
- Saskatoon Contacts
- Swift Current Legionnaires
- Tisdale Trojans
- Yorkton Maulers



**SASKATOON BLAZERS • 2022-23  
SMU18AAAHL Provincial Champions**

# Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League

## Mandate:

The SJHL is Western Canada's premier junior "A" hockey league known for its exceptional player development and its commitment to its players, its people, and the communities we serve.



## Player Development Strategy

The Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League remains one of the most successful junior A hockey leagues in Canada. The list of players who have successfully transitioned to future hockey or educational opportunities remains impressive. Success on the local and national stage is the result of many factors including coaching, skill development, training facilities, frequency on the ice, scheduling, our list system competitive parity, recruiting and our player centered philosophy. Hockey Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Player Development Model, the league's economic policies and stability of our teams are also contributing factors for success. Our goal is to offer the best development possible for our athletes.



PHOTO CREDIT: Eric Anderson

The league features a strong commitment of volunteers throughout our twelve communities. Our players, fans, and volunteers are passionate about their players and franchises. The SJHL

has successfully hosted National and International events with immense success, with special thanks to the many volunteers from each community for their commitment to their teams. The Centennial Cup was successfully hosted in Estevan in 2022, and the RBC Cup was hosted in Humboldt in 2012.

Player Development Success can be attributed to the commitment of our coaches, managers and the team's dedication to have successful teams in the SJHL. SJHL communities have hosted successful National events due to the commitment and the strength of their volunteers.

## Player and Team Responsibilities

All Member SJHL Clubs and Players enter into agreements to ensure that both parties understand their responsibilities in order to achieve a positive productive relationship. All teams commit to providing the player with excellent developmental opportunities as students, athletes, and a socially responsible individuals through community outreach and volunteerism. In return, the SJHL and the member Club anticipate that the players will respond in a positive productive manner to all operating policies and procedures. Players will also represent themselves, the SJHL, their teams and their hockey communities in a mature, constructive manner in all public activities.

# Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League

## **SJHL Commitment to Player Development**

The SJHL has made a commitment to ensure that Saskatchewan players are provided every opportunity to play, develop, and move forward in their hockey ambitions, right here, in Saskatchewan, close to home. The SJHL and the Saskatchewan Development Model has the goal of ensuring that our system will be the development system of choice for our players. The SJHL takes great satisfaction that the registration numbers show this as fact and strive to ensure all players have the choice to stay in Saskatchewan. The SJHL is committed to putting Saskatchewan back into the SJHL.

The SJHL is proud to be a leader in developing the Junior A game in Canada. Collaborating with Hockey Canada and eight other Junior Hockey Leagues to form the CJHL. These leagues use consistent application or rules and policies through the junior A supplement. The Junior A Supplement is a progressive adaptation of the playing rules and subsequent measures of discipline that emphasize skill development.

A supplement protects the integrity of the game by allowing for the emotion and intensity that players and fans desire while eliminating aspects of the game that do not emphasize skill and speed. The Junior A Supplement strives to create an environment where skill, speed, and courage are the standard of excellence. An environment where players can develop these skills where player safety, skill development, and advancement are core values to the league's player development strategy.

## **SJHL Development Cycle**

The SJHL has a commitment to develop elite U18 aged and graduating players. League-wide, 17-18-year-olds in the SJHL make up a large percentage of the overall SJHL rosters. As these young players adapt to the SJHL system of play, team parity, a grueling schedule, and constant competition within one's own team, the players' development curve is accelerated. Presently the average age in the SJHL is 18.8.

## **SJHL and Education**

SJHL teams have a commitment to prepare and advance players to the level they aspire to. As a leader in developing player for collegiate hockey (U Sports, ACAC and NCAA), the SJHL has an Education Program in which all players may participate in. The SJHL is dedicated to the development of the player's academic performance and future. The SJHL is pleased to offer its student-athletes a comprehensive resource program to enhance their education opportunities. Please see the following information on our web site [www.sjhl.ca](http://www.sjhl.ca) under "Parent-Player Services".

- 001 - SJHL Education - An All Options Approach

# Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League

- 002 - SJHL Education - Getting Organized
- 003 - SJHL Education - Planning a Future
- 004 - SJHL Education - The WHL Opportunity
- 005 - SJHL Education - The NCAA Opportunity
- 006 - SJHL Education - U Sports Opportunity

## Player Eligibility

Player Listing Process: No player shall be permitted to participate in a League game unless he appears on that team's protected list. A team may list up to a maximum of fifty (50) players on their protected list as per the following: 1. All "carded" players 2. Affiliated Players

The SJHL has implemented a Draft for players that have completed their U15 eligibility. Prior to the SJHL's Annual General Meeting the draft is held. The draft is eligible for Saskatchewan born players only. Players that live within the boundaries of an SJHL team are automatically protected.

Players Listed on his Fifteenth Birthday (If not drafted): If two or more teams list a player on his birth date, the SJHL League office will contact the family and player in question. Asking him to choose which team he wishes to be registered with, such choice to be made within thirty (30) days. If the player does not choose a team, his playing rights will be awarded to the team that claimed him first.

Players who are automatically protected by SJHL teams are;

- All players under the age of 17 in each team center. A team must register a 17 year old on their protected list within 72 hours of his 17-year birthday.
- U18 players from each team center who are playing AAA.
- Players who were formerly carded by a team but now play Major Junior and who have eligibility remaining.



PHOTO CREDIT: Tracy Cherny

## Trades

The SJHL Commissioner must approve all trades of players and players playing rights. The respective Junior A League Offices must approve all Inter-Branch player transactions (e.g. trades between SJHL teams and teams from outside Leagues) prior to the players becoming eligible to play for their new team(s). No trades can be made from January 10 to the final Game of the Royal Bank Cup.

## Player Registration - Important Dates in Junior "A" Hockey

- Each team has the ability to register forty-five (45) players through

# Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League

the electronic registration process.

- Start of Season to December 1st - A team cannot have more than 25 player registrations at any one time up to December 1st of the playing season.
- There is a SJHL and CJHL trade freeze from December 10th until January 1st and the 25 man roster is finalized by January 10th .
- January 10th - As of January 10th, each team must further cut down to 23 registrations in total active and blank. The final date for a player to be released and still be eligible to be registered with another team is January 10th.
- February 10th - The final date for registration is February 10th.

## Imports and Definitions of an Import

- A Junior A team may have no more than six (6) "imports" signed to active player registrations at any one time.
- An Import is defined as a player with a USA birth certificate and residency. A Canadian player from another province is NOT considered as an import.
- Exception to the Regulation is Saskatchewan players registered in Major Junior Hockey. Any time they return to the SJHL from Major Junior Hockey, they are not deemed an import.

## Number of 20 year olds

- A Junior A team may have no more than 8 - 20 year olds dressed per game. They are allowed to have more than 8 "carded" within their allotment of active player cards.

## Released Players Returning from WHL

- Any Saskatchewan player who has been registered in the WHL, for any team in any province/state, and released back to the SJHL is not considered an import.
- That player must report to the team which has him listed on their protected list.
- If a player began his Junior Career with an SJHL team prior to moving to the WHL, the SJHL team who he was registered with still has his protected "rights."

## Affiliation of SJHL Players

- Each SJHL team has an affiliation list consisting of a maximum of 19 (players 17 skaters plus 2 goaltenders).

## Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League

- The players can be registered on any Junior B, C, or U18 team with Hockey Saskatchewan.
- Affiliated players must be on the SJHL team protected “A” list to be eligible to play or protected “B” list for local players.
- Affiliate Players lists must be filled with Hockey Saskatchewan by December 15th.
- The Final Affiliated Player Lists must be submitted by midnight January 15th.
- There can be no “permanent” affiliation of players. Affiliate players can play no more than ten (10) games all season as an affiliate player. Once the team they have been registered with, have completed their season, they may play with their Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League affiliated team for the remainder of that team’s season.
- Each affiliated player will be asked to sign a letter of consent with the team that wishes to name him as an affiliate.

### Financial Responsibilities/Equipment

When a player makes a SJHL team, all training and living expenses are covered by the team. This includes billeting costs and travel costs on road trips (Notre Dame rules apply to players registered to play in Notre Dame). The SJHL is proud to be one of the few CJHL leagues that has NOT implemented a pay-to-play program.

### Member Clubs

- Battlefords North Stars
- Estevan Bruins
- Flin Flon Bombers
- Humboldt Broncos
- Kindersley Klippers
- La Ronge Ice Wolves
- Melfort Mustangs
- Melville Millionaires
- Nipawin Hawks
- Notre Dame Hounds
- Weyburn Red Wings
- Yorkton Terriers



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SJHL Canterra Cup Champions**

# 10 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

18 National Championship Finals

30 ANAVET Cups



With a history spanning more than five decades - and a track record of championship hockey - the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League has a proud past and the promise of a bright future!

SASKATCHEWAN JUNIOR HOCKEY LEAGUE

**STAY HERE . PLAY HERE .**

[www.sjhl.ca](http://www.sjhl.ca)

# Western Hockey League

## Mission Statement

To remain the World's premier Major Junior Hockey League by continuing to provide the best player development and educational opportunities while enhancing the entertainment value of the game for our fan base.



The WHL is committed to ensuring players receive every opportunity to achieve both their academic and hockey goals.

Players who reside in Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories, Yukon, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming are protected for the WHL and are eligible to be listed by WHL Clubs through regular WHL listing procedures.

All Canadian and U.S. players from the WHL protected Territory shall be eligible for the WHL Prospects Draft in the calendar year that they turn 15.

## WHL Prospects Draft

The WHL Prospects Draft is normally held in the early part of May. When a player is drafted, he is notified by the Club and is invited to either a spring/summer camp or to the team's rookie camp in the fall. Players who are not drafted can be invited to a team's rookie camp in the fall, or can be listed by a WHL Club at any time after the Prospects Draft.

## WHL Player Protected List

The Player Protected List is used by the Western Hockey League to ensure there is a method of organization in the League for the rights to players.

Each WHL Club is permitted to place a maximum of 50 players between the ages of 15 and 20 on their List. A player may not be added to a WHL List until the date of the first WHL Prospects Draft for which he is eligible.



Brayden Yager  
Dundurn, SK

Moose Jaw Warriors  
NHL Draft: PIT (2023)



## Western Hockey League

All players on a WHL Club's roster are required to be on the Player Protected List, so if a WHL team is carrying 23 players, this leaves only 27 spots available for future prospects. Teams are permitted to make changes to their 50 Player lists throughout the entire year.

With only 50 available spots, this means that decisions must be made carefully so as to ensure the team's future viability. Depending on circumstances, a player may be added or removed from a team's list at any time.

Although many players are added to WHL Club Lists during the WHL Prospects Draft, there are also numerous situations where players develop later and are listed at that time. The following current and former NHLers were not selected in the WHL Prospects Draft but were added to a WHL team's list at a later date: Jamie Benn, Shea Weber, Dan Hamhuis, Tyler Ennis, Jarome Iginla, Shane Doan, Jake Bean and Dryden Hunt.

A player who is on a WHL Club's List may not play for another WHL team, or attend another WHL Club's training camp or rookie camp. However, being a member of a WHL Club's 50 Player Protected List does not restrict a player from playing for, or attending a camp of a non-WHL team. The 50 Player Protected List is used strictly to determine which WHL team holds the player's rights.

The WHL, along with the Ontario Hockey League and the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League, comprise the Canadian Hockey League. Territorial Regulations are in place to govern player movement. Players must play in the territory they reside within.

### Players

A WHL team is permitted to have a maximum of 25 players on their roster on January 10. Most Clubs carry 23 players throughout the season.

### Definition of an Import

An import in the WHL is any Non-North American player registered on a member Club roster.



**Berkly Catton**  
Saskatoon, SK  
Spokane Chiefs  
Top Prospect '24 NHL Draft

## **Trades**

WHL Clubs are permitted to trade players. A signed 15 or 16 year old player cannot be traded under any circumstances until the date of the WHL Prospects Draft following his 16 year old season. There is a trade moratorium over the Christmas break each season. The final trade deadline is January 10 of each year. All trades must be approved by the WHL Office before being completed.

## **20-Year-Old List**

WHL Clubs may play a maximum of three 20 year olds in pre-season, regular season and playoff games. Special regulations may apply. Clubs must transfer 20 year olds to the 50 Player List prior to them playing a regular-season game.

## **Affiliated Players**

A WHL Club is permitted to name a maximum of 19 Specially Affiliated Players, who can play WHL games with the permission of their Club.

These 19 Specially Affiliated Players must appear on the Club's 50 Player List.

## **Commitments and Expectations**

WHL Clubs enter into formal standard player agreements with all players to ensure that both parties understand their responsibilities and to specify the education benefits the player is eligible to receive through the WHL Scholarship Program. The Club commits to providing the player with excellent developmental opportunities as a student, an athlete and a socially responsible individual. In return the WHL and the member Club anticipate that the players will respond in a positive productive manner to all operating policies and procedures. Players will also represent themselves, the WHL and their Club in a mature, constructive manner in all public activities.

## **Financial Responsibilities/Equipment**

When a player makes a WHL Club, all training and living costs are covered by the team. This includes billeting costs, and a monthly reimbursement of expenses for the player. All equipment, including hockey sticks and skates, are also provided for the player.

## **Travel**

The costs for a roster player to travel to the Club for training camp, travel to and from home at Christmas, and home after the season are covered by the WHL Club.

## **WHL Personal Conduct Policy**

The standard of conduct for persons associated with the WHL is considerably higher than simply complying with criminal law. Everyone associated with the WHL or its member Clubs is expected to conduct themselves lawfully, ethically and responsibly, in a manner that promotes the values upon which the WHL was founded and based. Individuals who fail to live up to this standard of conduct are considered to be in violation of the WHL Personal Conduct Policy and guilty of conduct detrimental to the integrity of the WHL. They are subject to discipline regardless of whether or not the conduct results in a criminal or quasi-criminal conviction.

## **WHL Scholarship Program**

All players who sign a WHL Standard Player Agreement are entitled to all education costs that occur while the player is with the WHL Club, including secondary and post secondary schools. Each Club employs an Education Advisor who is in daily contact with the school(s) and the players. The Education Advisor works with the players and the school to help the players schedule their scholastic responsibilities around their hockey schedule. The Education Advisors in each community report to the Manager, Education Services at the WHL Office who oversees the league's education program.

Schooling for all players is governed by strict WHL league-wide education policies and standards. All players are expected to graduate in a timely fashion and achieve their academic goals. Grades and attendance are monitored throughout the school year by the WHL Club Education Advisor and the WHL Manager, Education Services.

Coaches and managers are empowered and encouraged by the WHL to use whatever disciplinary tools are available to ensure the students take their schooling seriously.

All players who have graduated from the WHL and who have not signed an NHL contract, earn WHL Scholarship benefits that include tuition, compulsory student fees and textbooks. Tuition fees are indexed and based on the cost of an Arts or Science undergraduate program at a designated publicly funded university in the player's home province. The Scholarship, once earned, is fully guaranteed through the WHL Standard Player Agreement, and can be accessed to fund any post secondary, career enhancing program anywhere in the world. Most U Sports University hockey teams in Western Canada have a large complement of WHL graduates on their teams.

# Western Hockey League

## Member Clubs

- Brandon Wheat Kings
- Calgary Hitmen
- Edmonton Oil Kings
- Everett Silvertips
- Kamloops Blazers
- Kelowna Rockets
- Lethbridge Hurricanes
- Medicine Hat Tigers
- Moose Jaw Warriors
- Portland Winterhawks
- Prince Albert Raiders
- Prince George Cougars
- Red Deer Rebels
- Regina Pats
- Saskatoon Blades
- Seattle Thunderbirds
- Spokane Chiefs
- Swift Current Broncos
- Tri-City Americans
- Vancouver Giants
- Victoria Royals
- Wenatchee Wild



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Western Hockey League Champions**

# U Sports

Beginning in 2017, U Sports is now the official title for the governing body for Canadian university athletics.

U Sports is an experience of a lifetime! Not only will student-athletes earn a degree, they will develop skills in addition to gaining an experience that will last forever!



No other sport organization in the country can match the breadth and scope of such a program. From Victoria to St. John's, student-athletes competing for national honors represent an exciting vibrant dimension of Canadian Society.

U Sports has several national telecasts broadcast live on TSN. These Telecasts showcase the majority of U Sports National Championship Finals and Semi-Finals. In addition to TSN, national media exposure is demonstrated weekly through the articles and highlights in major mediums such as the Globe & Mail, CBC Newsworld, CBC Radio, other major dailies, TV, radio stations and websites across the country.

Canadian universities employ more coaches than any other sport organization in the country. The standard of coaching has increased dramatically over the years. Most U-Sport Coaches are NCCP Certified at the highest level and are considered the best in the country. Many are involved in national team programs. All are concerned with the development of the individual as a student and as an athlete, and therefore recognize the student-athlete's commitment to both academics and athletics. There are 3 regional associations in U Sports Hockey comprised of a total of 35 University Hockey Programs:

## 1. Canada West Universities Athletic Association

- Trinity Western University
- University of Regina
- University of Alberta
- Mount Royal University
- MacEwan University
- University of Saskatchewan
- University of B.C.
- University of Manitoba
- University of Calgary



## 2. Atlantic University Sport

- University of New Brunswick
- St. Mary's University
- Acadia University
- Université de Moncton
- St. Francis Xavier University
- Dalhousie University
- University of P.E.I.



## 3. Ontario University Athletics

- Royal Military College
- University of Waterloo
- Toronto Metropolitan University
- University of Ottawa
- Wilfrid Laurier University
- McGill University
- Concordia University
- York University
- Brock University
- University of Western Ontario
- University of Toronto
- Queen's University
- Carleton University
- Ontario Tech University
- Lakehead University
- University of Guelph
- Nipissing University
- University of Windsor
- Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières



### What do I need to do to compete in the U Sports?

In order to compete in the U Sports, you must graduate from high school, meet the selected university's academic standards, remain academically and athletically eligible to compete and be admitted to a U Sports institution.

### U-Sport Eligibility Rules

U Sports is the national association governing university sports across Canada. Qualifications for academic entrance differ for each Canadian University. A common question is what high school average is required to be academically eligible for U Sports? A prospective student-athlete must obtain a minimum 60% average on those courses used to determine university admission. It must be noted that this only makes the student eligible to compete in U-Sport athletics and does not guarantee entrance into a specific university or program. Good grades are required and many schools require more than the minimum to gain acceptance into the university.

In order to be eligible to continue competing in U-Sport athletics you must have successfully completed 3 full courses in the previous semester and be enrolled in 3 full courses during the current semester.

## Athletic Eligibility

Every student-athlete has 5 years to compete in U-Sport athletics. If your name appears on a playing roster for one or more regular season games in one season then you are considered to have participated or “competed” for one season. For each year of competition in either the ACAC or NCAA, you are charged with a year of eligibility according to that jurisdiction’s rules. Within the ACAC or NCAA an athlete shall be charged with a year of eligibility in accordance with the ACAC or NCAA definition of “competition,” “participation” and “eligibility”. Also, athletes who have used all of their ACAC or NCAA athletic eligibility are ineligible to compete in U Sports.

## Amateurism

Do I lose U-Sport eligibility if I compete for a professional team, play in a professional league or get paid to play hockey?

*For each year that you played professional hockey you will lose one of your 5 years of U-Sport eligibility.*

Do exhibition games count as professional competition?

*No. Hockey players are not considered to have competed professionally regardless of the number of exhibition games played.*

How soon after competing professionally can I take part in U-Sport athletics?

*One year must pass between your last professional competition and your first game in U Sports.*

Do I lose U-Sport athletic eligibility if I try out for a professional team?

*No. You can participate in a pro league’s exhibition schedule and not affect your eligibility. However, if you play in one league game, the year waiting period takes place starting at the point of your last game played.*

## Major Junior (WHL, OHL, QMJHL)

Can I try out for teams in major junior and still be eligible to compete in U Sports?

Yes. Unlike the NCAA, participation in major junior hockey tryouts will not jeopardize any U-Sport eligibility.

Can I play games in major junior and still be eligible to compete in U Sports?

Yes. Unlike the NCAA, U Sports does not consider major junior leagues to be professional hockey leagues and therefore competition in these leagues will not jeopardize U-Sport athletic eligibility.

### **Financial Assistance to Student-Athletes**

Canadian universities offer student-athletes financial assistance. University awards or scholarships are submitted to U Sports for recognition and acceptance prior to the receipt by student-athletes. Each year awards are offered to varsity athletes by universities across the country to assist in covering the cost of tuition and compulsory fees. The amount of money varies from university to university; however, the award may not exceed a maximum amount of tuition and compulsory fees.

### **Athletic Financial Awards**

Is there a limit to what I can receive?

Tuition and compulsory fees is the maximum amount you can receive for athletic-related awards in an academic year, including athletic-related bursaries.

The value and quantity of athletic-related awards and bursaries available varies from institution to institution. Specific awards and bursaries may have additional conditions, such as academic success and citizenship, beyond what is stated here.

Many awards, such as academic awards or awards provided by Sport Governing Bodies or the Federal and Provincial Governments, are not included within the tuition and compulsory fees maximum; please consult your Athletic Department.

Who provides athletic-related awards?

All athletic-related awards provided to U Sports student-athletes must be administered through the providing university.

To receive an award that is not administered by your university, the award must not be conditional on attendance at any particular university, that is, you must be free to attend the university of your choice.

When can I receive athletic-related awards?

You are eligible to receive an award or bursary at the beginning of your first year at a university (September), if you have a minimum entering average of 80% or equivalent. Alternatively, you are eligible to receive an award at the end of your first year at a university (spring or summer) if you satisfy U Sports academic requirements with at least a 65% average or equivalent. Thereafter, you are eligible to receive an award at the beginning of any year if you satisfy U-Sport academic requirements with at least a 65% average or equivalent in the preceding year.



## U Sports

What is a “Letter of Intent Program and Registry”?

The Letter of Intent (LOI) is a new national initiative that is designed to reduce and limit the recruiting pressures on prospective student-athletes, to educate prospective student-athletes on the most applicable U-Sport regulations and to assist coaches in their recruiting efforts.

The Letter of Intent should not be confused with a letter of admission from a university, as a Letter of Intent is related only to a prospect’s expressed intention to participate at a specific university in Canadian Interuniversity Sport. It should also be noted that a prospect does not need to sign a Letter of Intent if they wish to play a U-Sport sport. The Letter of Intent is a voluntary system that a prospect can choose to enter into and that is respected by all U-Sport member schools.

### Recruiting Guidelines

Do U-Sport universities provide recruiting trips?

Yes. Universities can bring prospective student-athletes to campus for recruiting trips.

Can U-Sport universities cover prospect travel expenses for recruiting trips?

University funding of recruiting trips for prospective athletes is acceptable providing these trips are consistent with the general university policy.

How many official visits can I make?

Although there is no limit on the number of universities you can visit on financed recruiting trips, each university can provide only one financed recruiting trip per prospective athlete.

For more information on U Sports, you can visit <http://www.usports.ca>



**UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK REDS • 2022/23  
University Cup Champions**

# Saskatchewan Officiating Development Model

## Introduction

The Saskatchewan Officiating Development Model (SODM) is a collaboration between the Western Hockey League, Canada West, ACAC, the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League, the Prairie Junior Hockey League, the Saskatchewan Male U18 AAA Hockey League, the Saskatchewan Female U18 AAA Hockey League, the Saskatchewan AA Hockey League, and Hockey Saskatchewan. This document is designed to provide reliable information to young officials in Saskatchewan and their parents. It is hoped this manual will help to answer questions that anyone may have about officiating opportunities and the path to achieve one's officiating goals.

The SODM includes all aspects of officiating from recruitment and retention to instruction and development and finally tracking officials' development for the benefit of the officials and ultimately the benefit of the SODM partners.

## Questions Parents or Officials May Have

1) At what age is my son eligible for inclusion in the Saskatchewan Officiating Development Model?

Officials can be part of the model at any age. With the addition of officiating coaches, the plan is to have officials identified and supported in each region, at the age of 15 officials are encouraged to register for the U15 Sask First Regional Camps.

2) Is there a prescribed time period for my son or daughter's development?

No, the development of any official is up to them, their talent level, rate of progression, work ethic and dedication.

3) Will working high-performance hockey as an official affect other things as far as time commitment?

No, every high-performance league allows the officials to work games on their own schedule, and the league assignors do everything in their power to accommodate the schedules of the official, as all games are assigned through a province-wide assigning program.

## Questions an Official may have of the SODM

1) Do I have to limit myself to one of the leagues in the SODM at a time?

No, many of the best officials in our Branch move freely from one league to another. This helps to provide them with the training opportunity of

## **Saskatchewan Officiating Development Model**

subjecting themselves to various brands of hockey from night to night. Also, the leagues work very closely with each other when scheduling to provide officials with the maximum availability.

2) How is it possible for me to get noticed?

With the help of grassroots official coaches, your local Referee-in-Chiefs, assignors and Officiating Development Program members all work together to provide names of officials who should be considered for new opportunities in higher leagues.

3) If I want to get into officiating after I'm done playing hockey, do I have to start at the bottom and work my way up?

When a mature player wants to start officiating, the possibility exists to fast track the person if he has a knowledge of the game, desire to improve and already has some physical abilities such as being a good skater.

There has been an added focus given to these officials to provide coaching opportunities to help them reach their potential and goals as an official.

### **OFFICIATING DEVELOPMENT MODEL**

The Officiating Development Program is very proud of the cooperation it has seen with the partners involved, which makes this one of the strongest programs in the country and the SODM is a continuation of these programs.

Our Branch has developed a number of NHL, International, and Nationally ranked officials. We have also developed some of the top administrative programs in the officiating world in our Branch and continue to work very hard at that aspect of the game. None of this could be possible without the constant support of the Branch and the dedication to communication and teamwork between the partners of the SODM.

We hope this document will help any officials and/or parents in understanding what it takes to become an elite official and more importantly what help and programs are available to help you achieve your goals.

### **OFFICIATING - HOCKEY SASKATCHEWAN Sask First Program**

The Sask First Program was introduced by Hockey Saskatchewan

in 1988 and since that time the program has brought great pride and accomplishment within our province for all participants. The Sask First Program was designed to provide a better understanding of the game as well as to promote the development of quality players, coaches, officials, and administrators. The participants are enriched as individuals and can

## Saskatchewan Officiating Development Model

achieve self-satisfaction and employment as part of the hockey community.

The Sask First Program promotes the pursuit of common goals. The historical successes of the program and its graduates are front and centre as incentives for participants and proof of the program's effectiveness. The Sask First Program's success has assisted numerous officials in achieving their goals at the local, provincial, national, international, and professional levels.

Further to this, and maybe even more important, the Sask First Program has had a hand in the development of good citizens. The program is just as proud of the graduates who have gone on to become teachers, police officers, parents etc., and have contributed back to the programs with the success they have achieved as officials. We also expect these officials to help in the future to work with young people to write the next chapter in the Sask First history book and be leaders within the Officiating Development Program.

### Under 15 Program

Male officials aged 15 and older who are looking to receive high-performance coaching and continue their development, and those looking to be introduced to the high-performance stream of officiating are encouraged to register for the U15 Sask First Regional Camps. There will be two camps (North and South) where officials will be assigned a camp based on location and the number of registered officials. These camps will take place from December 2 to December 3, 2023.

Officials will receive coaching from Saskatchewan Officiating Development Model (SODM) committee members and official coaches, and they will be ranked among their peers. These camps will feature on-ice, game, and classroom instruction.

Officials are required to be at the entire camp. Hotel rooms will be provided for those officials from outside the radius of the host camps in either Saskatoon or Regina. Officials will be on their own for meals based on their schedule.

The Development Camp portion of the Sask First Program is perhaps the most intense and beneficial training camp that any of these officials may ever attend. The camp is three days of on-ice and off-ice work with each official working parts of 4 games, as well as classroom presentations. They are coached and rated on every aspect of their game. At this camp the officials are introduced to fitness testing for the first time in their careers, and future expectations of conditioning. They are also introduced to more intense rules training (State Referee Decision exams), which increases the young official's awareness of the importance of rule knowledge. The

## **Saskatchewan Officiating Development Model**

officials are also subject to skate testing and some skating instruction, most for the first time in their young careers.

These officials are instructed on the psychological aspect of being a top-notch official and are also introduced to the importance of nutrition and diet and how important these aspects are for them to reach their goals.

At the Sask First Tournament, the officials are also introduced for the first time to the competitive aspect of the officiating world. The officials are evaluated, coached, and ranked throughout the weekend with the highest-ranked officials working the top game on Sunday. Through this ranking process, the top officials are also in line to be rewarded with further opportunities in the future in SODM partner leagues.

### **Under 18 Program**

The U18 portion of the Sask First plan is a bit of a different angle on the development model. The Regional Camps are used as a second chance for U-18 aged players to showcase themselves for Junior and AAA teams; we follow this same line of thinking with our officials to some respect. At the U-18 Camps, we will open up invitations to officials who put it upon themselves to receive further coaching or get on the radar of the SODM leagues and official coaches. Once again, these officials are given the chance to officiate in a controlled environment under scrutiny from some of our Branch's top Official Coaches.

Also, we have used the U18 camp from time to time, to experiment or train officials and coaches in a seminar like atmosphere in new systems within the officiating framework, such as the modified 3-offical system or an introduction to the 4-official system. This season we are opening the camp to those who are not an official but are interested in trying it out as part of our Try-Officiating event. This is open to players and coaches who want to get on the ice and try their hand at officiating with supervisors and support in place to make it a positive learning experience.

### **OFFICIATING - SASKATCHEWAN AA HOCKEY LEAGUE**

The SAAHL joined the SODM for the 2011-12 season and has been a great partner moving forward. This league is used to provide young, but capable, officials a chance to be introduced to the expectations and experiences of officiating high-performance hockey. The U15AA league provides an opportunity for young officials to work with veteran officials and experienced hockey coaches on the other side of the game to gain experience and confidence while receiving coaching throughout the season from SODM official coaches. The SU15AAHL has transitioned to the 4-official system to also help prepare the officials for advancement to higher leagues associated within the SODM and provide the best officiating

## **Saskatchewan Officiating Development Model**

experience for the league.

The SU15AAHL has its own Director of Officiating, who is responsible for the assigning and rating of referees in the league while many centres still assign the linespersons through their local assigning system. The director also works in conjunction with local assigners and grassroots committee members in identifying new candidates to work the league and to provide them with opportunities to officiate in the league.

### **OFFICIATING - Saskatchewan Female U18AAA Hockey League**

The Female AAA League recently joined the SODM prior to the 2020-21 season to help focus on the development of female officials. This league allows for younger prospects and experienced officials to work games together. This league has locally focused official coaches and expects to see an increase in the number of games supervised since joining the SODM. The goal is to create more consistency and support for officials and evaluate officials who are ready to move up to the Female U Sports and the Male U18 AAA level. The SFU18AAAHL uses the 4-official system to provide the league with the best officiating experience.

The league's Director of Officials works closely with local assigners and coaches to evaluate and support officials in this league.

### **OFFICIATING - Saskatchewan Male U18AAA HOCKEY**

The SU18AAAHL has always been one of the top minor hockey leagues in Canada, yet their mission has always been to focus on the importance of development first and foremost, and this dedication to development covers all aspects of the game including officiating. The SU18AAAHL has always been tremendously supportive of the Officiating Development Program as a partner in this area.

The SU18AAAHL has historically allowed the Officiating Development Program the freedom to use younger officials considered in the prospects pool and give them every opportunity to train and develop while being introduced to a very high level of hockey.

The SU18AAAHL has its own independent Director of Officiating, who along with the north and south linesman assigners, are responsible for the assigning and coaching of the officials within the league. This constant communication allows for the flow of officials as they continue to be identified within the system. This league has transitioned to the 4-official system for all games and often provides experienced and confident officials. At this level, the expectation of the officials is to be in as good or better physical fitness than the players they are working. Officials at this are mandated to complete off-ice fitness testing each season. The Director of Officials for the SU18AAAHL is in the business of scouting officials for higher leagues

## **Saskatchewan Officiating Development Model**

such as the PJHL, SJHL, and WHL while focusing on the development aspect and providing the league with the best officials possible.

The SU18AAAHL is also mindful of the need to develop officials who will be valuable to the smaller communities within Saskatchewan and therefore continue to have a strong local flavor within the officiating staff.

### **OFFICIATING - PRAIRIE JUNIOR HOCKEY LEAGUE**

The PJHL provides officials looking to build on their development and experience and is often used as a transitional league between the SU18AAAHL and the SJHL. This league provides challenges to all officials throughout the season, but also provides extensive support for the SODM official coaches. The PJHL has committed to going with the 4-officials system, which provides more official development opportunities and a great way for veteran officials to work with prospects moving up the ranks.

Like the SU18AAAHL, the PJHL requires officials to complete off-ice fitness testing each season, which displays the official's level of dedication to the craft and commitment to being in as good of physical condition as the players within the league.

The PJHL has a Director of Officials, who along with the north and south assignors, discuss and assign officials working within the league with the goal to provide the best officials possible while providing development opportunities.

### **OFFICIATING - SASKATCHEWAN JUNIOR HOCKEY LEAGUE**

The SJHL officiating program is designed to allow officials to continue to develop at the highest level of hockey of any non-minor hockey league solely contained within the province of Saskatchewan.

The SJHL is a self-contained unit as far as officiating is concerned. The SJHL has its own officiating staff, led by its own Director of Officials, who works with support staff, north and south assignors, and official coaches throughout the league. The goal of this staff is not only to train the officials of the league but also to provide the highest, and most consistent level of officiating possible for the league's member partners.

The SJHL officiating management staff is constantly on the lookout for new officials and is also constantly in touch with other leagues such as the SU18AAAHL to identify possible prospects as this is the smallest roster of officials within the SODM.

The SJHL spends considerable resources on the training of its officials and uses its coaches to educate the teams on the subjects of new rules procedures and communication.

The SJHL has a presence at all Sask First camps and is constantly

## **Saskatchewan Officiating Development Model**

educating both potential officials and their parents on the advantages presented by their league.

The SJHL also is the next stepping-stone to the WHL and the U Sports levels, many of the officials now working in the WHL, and hoping to in the future, are getting their most extensive training in the SJHL. The WHL will also send supervisors out to SJHL games from time to time to watch officials or scout them through online streamed games. Young officials who have been to WHL camps may be enlisted in the SJHL to work on certain aspects of their game, if this happens they usually do this in the SJHL and therefore the scouting of these officials is of utmost importance.

The SJHL limits the number of officials it has on staff to provide them with the most games to develop consistency, and to provide the best product to the teams.

One of the most important policies of the SJHL is to supervise the highest percentage of games within its schedule as possible.

The SJHL uses the 4-official system and like all leagues creates a level of competition among officials to earn playoff assignments and championship opportunities.

### **OFFICIATING - WESTERN HOCKEY LEAGUE**

The Western Hockey League is a developmental league for players, coaches and officials. As a result, the Western Hockey League has a very high degree of focus on the recruitment, development and coaching of officials. The objectives of the WHL Officiating program are:

- Encourage and support development programs for officials
- Identify and recruit prospect officials
- Monitor and assist with the development of prospect officials
- Select and develop the best possible officials for the WHL
- Assist officials in the pursuit of opportunities in the National Hockey League and Elite Amateur levels, including IIHF World Hockey Championships and National Championships

Officials working in the WHL make a significant commitment both on and off the

ice to be involved at such a highly competitive level of hockey. This commitment

can lead not only to success in the WHL, but in many cases it also leads to other officiating opportunities at professional and amateur levels. Approximately one-third of officials in the NHL got their start in the WHL before advancing to a professional career, and every season, WHL officials are assigned to national and international assignments.



## **Saskatchewan Officiating Development Model**

The WHL works in partnership with many organizations such as Hockey Saskatchewan, Hockey Canada and the National Hockey League to assist with delivery of officiating programs and officiating opportunities. Every season, WHL officials are invited to attend events such as the Officiating Program of Excellence and NHL exposure camps.

Prospect officials for the WHL are identified through various development camps and at other officiating seminars. Prospects are monitored in game situations and their progress is regularly evaluated to update depth charts for future opportunities in the WHL.

Officials in the WHL receive a considerable amount of supervision and coaching.

WHL officiating coaches act in a coaching role at the games they attend to assist with the individual development of each referee and linesperson. A officiating coach is assigned to approximately 50% of all games played in the WHL. In addition to on-site coaches, the WHL also has video training for officials. Video clips are used to assist officials in understanding the expected penalty standards and on-ice technical skills required to be successful.

The WHL is committed to working with the partners involved in the Officiating Development Model to support programs designed to assist in the recruitment and development of officials.

### **OFFICIATING - U SPORTS**

U Sports and the ACAC are unofficially partnered with the SODM, as the official rosters for these teams in Saskatchewan often reflect the officials' roster of the PJHL, SJHL and WHL. These leagues provide a unique opportunity for officials to work a very high level of hockey with the added aspect of dealing with older players. Most of the officials at the collegiate level are graduates or current officials in junior hockey and other SODM leagues.

The major benefit of officiating at this level is its league policy to have as many games as possible supervised, this provides an enormous opportunity for its officials to learn on a constant game-to-game basis at arguable the highest level of hockey in the province.

Male U Sports and the WHL have negotiated an agreement to provide more movement between the leagues for officials who work both leagues as one more aspect of the training necessary to help them move towards a professional career in officiating and to provide the best possible officials for the best hockey played within Western Canada.

Both U Sports, Male and Female, and the ACAC use the 4-official system and gives the officials and officials coaches an opportunity to communicate with resources outside of the province.

# Scholarship Program

**Each Educational Scholarship Applicant will be required to fill out and return an application form on or before April 30th of the hockey season for Junior A players and July 30th for U18 AAA players.**

The Educational Scholarship will be paid upon proof of enrolment and completion of the current year of schooling. The proof of enrolment will be in the form of receipts from the Educational Institution the recipient is attending. The proof of completion will be in the form of a submission of the final marks obtained during the current school year.

## **CALCULATIONS OF STUDENTS AVERAGE BASED ON SEVEN (7) 30-LEVEL SUBJECTS**

The student's average must be calculated in accordance with the "Transcript of Secondary Level Achievement" issued by Saskatchewan Education and using the following criteria to determine which courses are eligible for consideration.

Each Applicant's standings shall be determined by averaging the following marks:

1. English A 30 (Francois A 30) \_\_\_\_\_

2. English B 30 (Francois B 30) \_\_\_\_\_

3. One of:           Social Studies 30 \_\_\_\_\_  
                          History 30  
                          Economics 30  
                          Native Studies 30

4. One natural science 30 Level: \_\_\_\_\_  
   Example:        Bio 30  
                          Chemistry 30  
                          Physics 30

5. One mathematics 30 level: \_\_\_\_\_  
   Example:        Math A 30  
                          Math B 30  
                          Math C 30

6. One elective 30 level subject that is the next highest mark including subjects that were not used from categories # 3, #4 or # 5 \_\_\_\_\_

7. One elective 30 level any subject that is the next highest mark including subjects that were not used from categories # 3, #4 or # 5 \_\_\_\_\_

SJHL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2022-23



**Battlefords**  
Zane Florence  
*North Battleford, SK*

**Estevan**  
Cameron Hrdlicka  
*Alberta*

**Flin Flon**  
Cole Dupperreault  
*Martensville, SK*

**Humboldt**  
Spencer Bell  
*Warman, SK*

**Kindersley**  
Tylin Hilbig  
*Kindersley, SK*

**La Ronge**  
Parker Layton  
*La Ronge, SK*

**Melfort**  
Ben Tkachuk  
*Alberta*

**Melville**  
Payton Kostyshyn  
*Melville, SK*

**Nipawin**  
Carson Dobson  
*Plenty, SK*

**Notre Dame**  
Andrew Altwasser  
*Yellow Grass, SK*

**Weyburn**  
N/A

**Yorkton**  
Cade Kennedy  
*Regina, SK*

SMU18AAAHL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2022-23



**Battlefords**

Ayden Belanger  
North Battleford, SK

**Estevan**

Jase Konecsni  
Southey, SK

**Moose Jaw**

Ryan Hicks  
Weyburn, SK

**Notre Dame**

Antoine Lavigne  
Quebec

**Prince Albert**

Caden Dunn  
Prince Albert, SK

**Regina**

Noah Asmundson  
White City, SK

**Saskatoon Blazers**

Gavin Granger  
Saskatoon, SK

**Saskatoon Contacts**

Braxton Kabrud  
Saskatoon, SK

**Swift Current**

Keelan Mansuy  
Regina, SK

**Tidale**

Brady Kashuba  
Preeceville, SK

**Warman**

Kaden Johns  
Saskatoon, SK

**Yorkton**

Edward Knittig  
Anaheim, SK

