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HOCKEY SASKATCHEWAN

MINOR FEMALE HOCKEY DEVELOPMENT MODEL



TABLE OF CONTENTS

VISION.....2

MISSION STATEMENT2

AGE DIVISION VALUE STATEMENT2

INTRODUCTION4

PRINCIPLES.....4

STRUCTURE.....4

CRITICAL DATES5

RECRUITMENT AREAS.....6

 U18 AAA.....6

 U18 AA/U15 AA/U13 AA.....6

EXPANSION / REDUCTION OF TEAMS.....6

PLAYER ACCELERATION6

COACH AND PLAYER SELECTION.....7

AFFILIATION POLICY.....7

U18 AAA camp attendance policy9

LETTERS OF COMMITMENT U18 AAA.....9

TEAM MANAGEMENT.....9





VISION

Shaping Character for Life... More Than a Game.

MISSION STATEMENT

To Lead, Develop and Promote Positive Hockey Experience for All.

AGE DIVISION VALUE STATEMENT

Based upon feedback from the membership, Hockey Saskatchewan Board of Directors have adopted the following Age Division “Value Statements.”

We encourage all Minor Hockey Associations to review these statements and promote them to their members to serve as guidance in the development of programs and services to each age division within their structure.

The value statements and accompanying definitions are as follows:

Under-7

Fun and fair for everyone, U7 players will focus on introductory individual skills in a group setting with little to no focus on competitive games.

- AGES 6 AND UNDER

Under-9

Through a learn through fun environment, U9 players will focus on the development of fundamental skills with the introduction of individual tactics and team play at all positions.

- AGES 7 AND 8

Under-11

Improved skill by improving self-confidence, U11 players will focus on the development and refinement of fundamental skills while introducing team concepts.

- AGES 9 AND 10
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Under-13

Progressive and inclusive, U13 players will focus on continued skill development while increasing the emphasis on team play and tactics. Programs are designed for recreational and competitive league play.

- AGES 11 AND 12
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Under-15

Through consistency and commitment, U15 players will focus on skill development & reinforcement as well as team tactics and how the role as an individual plays a part in team success. Programs are designed for recreational and competitive league play.

- AGES 13 AND 14
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Under-18

All encompassing, U18 players will focus on skill reinforcement and utilizing individual strength for the success of the team. A culture of teamwork, work ethic, and competition is paramount while balancing the need for recreational, competitive and elite league play to ensure a sustainable program.

- AGES 15, 16 AND 17
-

TERMS FOR CONTEXT

- **RECREATIONAL** - Priority is placed on participation and enjoying all playing & social aspects the game/team offers.
 - **COMPETITIVE** - Priority is directed toward player/team development and advancing to the next level.
 - **ELITE** - Priority is focused on a full hockey program experience including billets and education considerations. Intended for players with both the skills and desire to continue to advance within hockey.
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INTRODUCTION

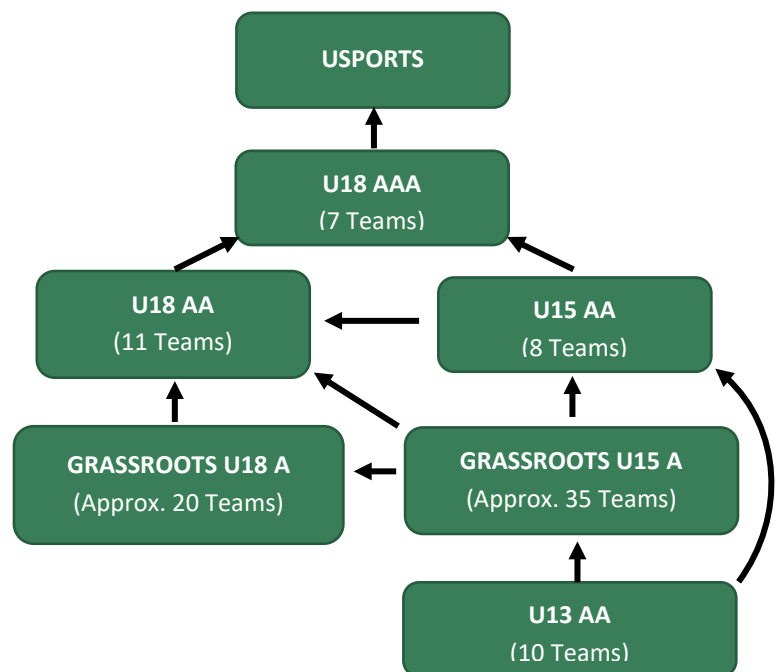
Hockey Saskatchewan has undertaken a review of Female Hockey within the province. Hockey Saskatchewan implemented a Female Development Model for the 2019-2020 season. The model focuses on player development and provides players a system of hockey to develop their skills within. Over the course of the review, the feedback that was gathered stated very clearly that the players and stakeholders within the female game were not satisfied with the female hockey system in Saskatchewan and it needed to change. Two items that were highlighted from that review were that players must play at their age-appropriate levels and that a developmental system had to be built to help players develop skills and progress to the next level of hockey.

PRINCIPLES

1. A standardized Province wide system of hockey that provides the opportunity for all female players to develop and progress from Grassroots hockey through to Elite hockey.
2. Defined criteria determining the appropriate number of Teams within each Category as well as the terms and conditions under which the teams operate. The Model establishes an environment that provides players with the opportunity to access the level of hockey they are capable of playing at; from grassroots programs progressing up to elite opportunities for elite players.
3. To foster development by providing elite opportunities regionally through U13 AA, U15 AA, and U18 AA programs and through open boundary U18 AAA programs located throughout the province.

STRUCTURE

This document provides specific rules and regulations that apply to the MHAs and Teams operating within the Hockey Saskatchewan Female Development Model. All Minor Hockey Regulations apply, unless regulations within this model alter the meaning of said Regulations for the purpose of “AAA” and “AA” Hockey. Presently, the numbers listed are the maximum number of teams at the AAA, AA level.





CRITICAL DATES

June 1 st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U18 AAA Spring Camps Completed • U18 AAA Teams must have committed to twelve (12) players by June 1
June 1 st – July 31 st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No camps of any kind for U18-AAA, U18-AA, and U15-AA
August 1 st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U18 AAA Fall Try-outs can start
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U18 AAA team rosters finalized by 5:00 pm on the Tuesday following the Labor Day Monday • U15 AA – Tryouts start on September 10th with a September 20th registration Deadline • U18 AA – Tryouts start on September 10th with a September 20th registration Deadline • U13 AA – Tryouts start on September 17th with a September 27th registration deadline
January 10 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadline for MHAs to file Affiliation Lists • Deadline for Exceptional Player Status Application • Final date to Release a Player from a team and the player be eligible to register elsewhere by February 10th.
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hockey Saskatchewan’s Sask First U16/U18 Regional Camps
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provincial Championships (U13 AA, U15 AA, U18 AA) • U18 AAA teams may start signing AFFILIATE players to a Letter of Commitment within 48hrs of the last scheduled REGULAR SEASON game of the Female AAA league
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Esso Cup Regional Championship (U18 AAA) • Esso Cup (U18 AAA) • Hockey Saskatchewan’s Sask First U16/U18 Tournaments
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U18 AAA spring camps can be held the Tuesday following Hockey Saskatchewan’s Sask First Female Weekend • U18 AAA teams may start signing ANY players to a Letter of Commitment the Tuesday following Hockey Saskatchewan’s Sask First Female Weekend
May 1 st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadline for notifying applicants for Exceptional Player Status • Deadline for U18 AAA teams to notify returning “veteran” players of their status with the team for the following season



RECRUITMENT AREAS

U18 AAA

There are no established or Recruitment Areas for teams categorized as “AAA” U18. All players are eligible to try out for any of the teams within this category throughout the province.

U18 AA/U15 AA/U13 AA

Regina and Saskatoon are considered geographical subdivisions and teams may only be composed of players who reside with their parent within the geographical sub-division borders of Regina and Saskatoon.

Players outside Regina and Saskatoon must try out for the nearest U18 AA or U15 AA or U13 AA to their parent’s residence. If they are not successful in making the nearest AA team they must obtain a release from the Association of that AA team and they may then proceed to try out for the next nearest AA team and so on.

EXPANSION / REDUCTION OF TEAMS

The Hockey Saskatchewan Minor Female Hockey Development Model has defined the maximum number of teams that are permitted at the U18 AAA, U18AA, U15 AA and U13 AA divisions. Teams have been allotted based on registration statistics and historical data. A bi-annual review policy has been created that provides an opportunity to identify any need to expand or contract the number of teams within this model.

The U18 AAA League or the Sask Female League at the U18 AA, U15 AA, and U13 AA cannot expand to any new centers or change the sponsoring center of any team without first receiving permission from the Hockey Saskatchewan Board of Directors.

The Hockey Saskatchewan Board of Directors will determine when it is feasible to expand a AAA/AA age division.

PLAYER ACCELERATION

One objective of this model is to develop players within their specific age group, and not to displace the players from their age Division by facilitating the movement of underage players. Underage players will only be considered as an exception if they are deemed to be an “Exceptional Player.”

Only second-year U15-aged players will be considered for acceleration to U18 “AAA” under the Hockey Saskatchewan Female Development Model.

In order to be considered for “Exceptional Player” status, applications must be submitted to the Hockey Saskatchewan General Manager on or before **January 10th**. The Female Player Acceleration Application is available on Hockey Saskatchewan’s website.



COACH AND PLAYER SELECTION

Coach and Player selection is the responsibility of the Host MHA. One principle of the Hockey Saskatchewan Female Development Model for each team to consider is; regardless of where a coach or player resides, provided they are eligible to try out and/or be selected, they should all be treated equally during the evaluation and selection process.

Hockey Saskatchewan Regulations require at least one Female to be registered on each Female Team as Coach or Assistant Coach.

In reference to player selection, there are no “quotas” permitted to be exercised within the Female Development Model and there shall be no restrictions, based on place of residence, placed on the coaches or players. It is the expectation that Teams are built with the best possible players and coaches available to them.

AFFILIATION POLICY

The Affiliation Policy within the Hockey Saskatchewan Male Development Model is used to accommodate athlete development and provide an opportunity for players to experience the higher level of hockey.

a) **U18 AAA**

i) Teams based in Saskatoon, Regina and Notre Dame may only affiliate players from within their Minor Association.

ii) For other U18 AAA teams, they may affiliate players registered on U18 AA and U18 A teams from the sponsoring center along with six (6) U18 AA and U18 A players whose parents reside within a 160 km radius of the sponsoring center except for any from a sponsoring center of another U18 AAA team.

iii) U18 AAA teams may also 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.

iv) Players registered on, or affiliated to, U18 AAA teams are restricted to playing ten (10) games as an affiliate all season until the team they are registered with has completed their season, upon which time they may play the remainder of the season with their affiliate team. The ten (10) game limit does not include tournament or exhibition games.

v) Goaltenders are only charged with a game when they actually participate in the game.

b) **U18 AA**

i) Teams based in Saskatoon, Regina and Notre Dame may only affiliate players from within their Minor Association.

ii) For other U18 AA teams, they may affiliate players registered on U18 A teams from the sponsoring center along with six (6) U18 A players whose parents reside nearest to the sponsoring center and within a 160 km radius

of the sponsoring center. If a player wishes to be affiliated to an AA team that is not their nearest AA center, they must obtain a release from all of the AA centers that are closer to their residence than the center they wish to AP to.

iii) U18 AA teams may also 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 AA team. All 2nd-year U15 players affiliated to a U18 AA team are restricted to playing five (5) games as an affiliate all season.

iv) Goaltenders are only charged with a game when they actually participate in the game.

c) U15 AA

i) Teams based in Saskatoon and Regina may only affiliate players from within their Minor Association.

ii) For other U15 AA teams, they may affiliate players registered on U15 A teams from the sponsoring center along with six (6) U15 A players whose parents reside nearest to the sponsoring center and also within a 120 km radius of the sponsoring center. If a player wishes to be affiliated to an AA team that is not their nearest AA center, they must obtain a release from all of the AA centers that are closer to their residence than the center they wish to AP to.

iii) U15 AA teams may also affiliate a maximum of four (4) players to their team who are registered on a U13 team in the sponsoring center of the U15 AA team. All U13 players affiliated to a U15 AA team are restricted to playing five (5) games as an affiliate all season.

iv) Goaltenders are only charged with a game when they actually participate in the game.

d) U13 AA

i) Teams may affiliate players who reside in the sponsoring center of the team to be affiliated with or are registered in the sponsoring center of the team to be affiliated with.

All players to be registered for affiliation within the Hockey Saskatchewan Male Development Model must meet and qualify in accordance with Hockey Saskatchewan and Hockey Canada regulations.

- U18 Affiliate Players to U18 AAA and U18 AA teams are restricted to playing only ten (10) games as an affiliate all season until the team they are registered with has completed their season upon which time they may play the remainder of the season with their affiliate team. The ten (10) game limit does not include tournament or exhibition games.
- Goaltenders are only charged with a game when they actually participate in the game.
- A team may affiliate a maximum of nineteen (19) players from within the team's designated geographic region. If nineteen (19) players are affiliated, two (2) must be goaltenders.
- Prior to participation as an affiliated player, the player's name must appear on the team's affiliation list filed within Hockey Saskatchewan.
- An affiliated player must have the approval of his/her registered team in order to play.
- All affiliations shall terminate at the end of the current playing season.

U18 AAA CAMP ATTENDANCE POLICY

- U15-aged players from the previous season may attend U18 “AAA” spring camps up to June 1st annually. U15-aged players are not eligible to attend U18 “AAA” fall camps after August 1st, with the exception of any U15-aged player(s) granted exceptional player status.

LETTERS OF COMMITMENT U18 AAA

- Every player who is registered on a U18 AAA team must have signed a Letter of Commitment. This commitment form outlines the expectations of the player/parent as well as the team. The team, the parent, and the player must all sign the Letter of Commitment prior to it being submitted to the league.
- Each team must file a minimum of twelve (12) letters of commitment by June 1 annually with the SFAAAHL.
- All remaining letters of commitment must be submitted to the league by 5:00 pm on the Tuesday following the Labor Day Monday.
- Letters of Commitment for an **AFFILIATE** player of a AAA team can be signed within forty-eight (48) hours of the last scheduled **REGULAR SEASON** game of the Female AAA league and submitted to the league.
- Letters of Commitment for all returning or new players are available on the Tuesday following the April Sask First Event.
- If a team does not wish to offer a letter of commitment to a returning player, this must be determined by May 1 annually and the player is then free to register elsewhere at the AAA level.

TEAM MANAGEMENT

Each Host MHA is responsible for identifying a representative that will attend regular League Meetings of the SFU18AAAHL or SFHL throughout the season in order to ensure proper communication between the Hockey Saskatchewan Minor Female Leagues and their Host MHA / Team(s).

Bi-seasonal reviews have been established in order to highlight how the model is operating within the Province as well as within each area. Utilizing the feedback from these reviews will provide the opportunity to make amendments as necessary and ensure parity within the Sask Female Development Model.

