

SHROOMS
SESSION ↻

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DECEMBER 12, 2024



HOCKEY SASKATCHEWAN

MINOR MALE HOCKEY DEVELOPMENT MODEL





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VISION

Shaping Character for Life... More Than a Game

MISSION STATEMENT

To Lead, Develop and Promote Positive Hockey Experience

AGE DIVISION VALUE STATEMENT

Based upon feedback from the membership, the 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



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

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

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

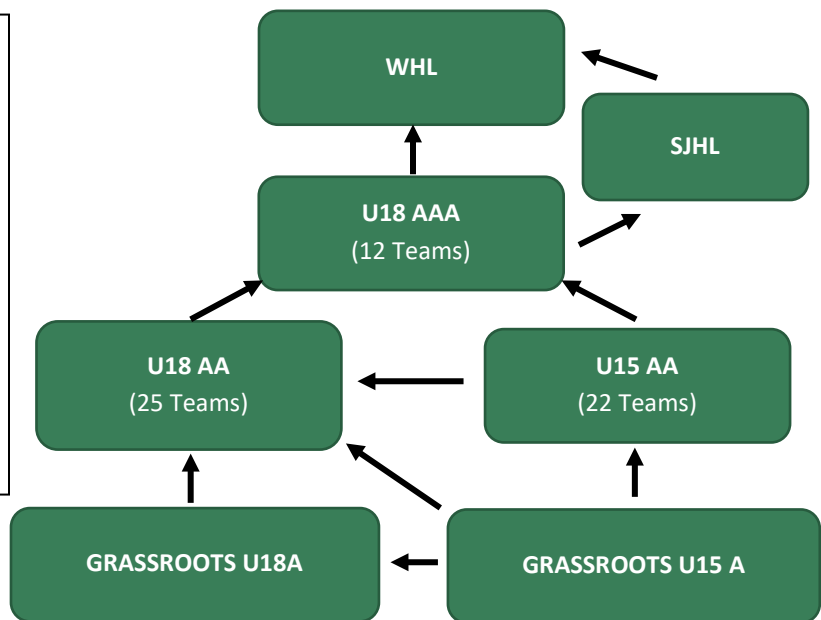
Hockey Saskatchewan undertook a review of Male U18 Hockey within the province and a new Male Development Model was introduced for the 2020-2021 season. The new model focuses on player development and provides players a system of hockey to develop their skills within. The Male Minor Development Model further extends into the Saskatchewan Development Model which is a collaboration of Hockey Saskatchewan, Sask U18 AAA Hockey League, Sask Junior Hockey League and the Western Hockey League. 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 male 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 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 MHA's and Teams operating within the Hockey Saskatchewan Minor Male 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 – July 31 st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No camps of any kind for U18 AAA, U18 AA, and U15 AA
June 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> U18 AAA Spring Camps Completed U18 AAA Teams must have committed to fifteen (15) players by June 1
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
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st weekend – U15 Sask First regional camps U15 Sask First Top 160 Tournament between Christmas and New Years
January 10 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deadline for MHA’s 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 Feb 10th
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hockey Saskatchewan’s Sask First U18 Regional Camps Hockey Saskatchewan’s Sask First U15 Top 80 Tournament U18 AAA teams may start signing AFFILIATE players to a Letter of Commitment within 48hrs of the last scheduled REGULAR SEASON game of the male AAA league
March/April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provincial Championships (U15 AA, U18 AA)
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TELUS Cup Regional Championship (U18 AAA) TELUS Cup (U18 AAA) Hockey Saskatchewan’s Sask First Program Tournaments (U18)
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> U18 AAA spring camps can start the Tuesday following Hockey Saskatchewan’s Sask First U18 Weekend U18 AAA teams may start signing any players to a letter of commitment the Tuesday following Hockey Saskatchewan’s Sask First U18 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

Regina, Saskatoon, Moose Jaw and Prince Albert are considered geographical subdivisions and teams may only be composed of players who reside with their parent within the geographical sub-division borders of those four cities.

Players outside the four cities must try out for the nearest U18 AA or U15 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 Male Hockey Development Model has defined the maximum number of teams that are permitted at the U18 AAA, U18AA, and U15 AA divisions. Teams have been allotted based on registration statistics and historical data. The annual review process 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 AA League at the U18 AA and U15 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 in the AAA/AA age divisions.

PLAYER ACCELERATION

One objective of the Hockey Saskatchewan Male Development 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”; there will be no acceleration for U15 to U18 AA and A under the Hockey Saskatchewan Male Development Model.

In order to be considered for “Exceptional Player” status, applications must be submitted to the Hockey Saskatchewan Minor Male Development Committee on or before **January 10th**. The Male 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 Male 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.

In reference to player selection, there are no “quotas” permitted to be exercised within the Male 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 the 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 fifteen (15) letters of commitment by June 1 annually with the SMAAAHL.
- All remaining letters of commitment must be submitted to the league by 5:00 pm on the Tuesday following the Labour 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 Male AAA league and must be submitted to the league.
- Letters of Commitment for all returning or new players are available on the Tuesday following the April Sask First Tournament.
- If a team does not wish to offer a letter of commitment to a returning player; this must be determined by May 1st 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 SMU18AAAHL or SAAHL throughout the season in order to ensure proper communication between the Hockey Saskatchewan Minor Male Leagues and their Host MHA / Team(s).

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 Saskatchewan Male Development Model.

