



INFORMATION BULLETIN

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TO: Minor Hockey Associations
Minor Hockey Leagues

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SUBJECT: **Alberta One Standardized Tiering Model**

Over the past year, Hockey Alberta's Minor Leagues Committee has worked extensively on a Standardized Tiering Model. This tiering model is a key component of the Alberta One initiative, where Hockey Alberta and our Minor Leagues are working together to build a unified structure and strategic model that enables Leagues to adopt the same tiering, seasonal structure and other operational processes.

Having identified standardized tiering as the first step in this initiative, the following leagues/ organizations will implement the Alberta One Standardized Tiering Model for the 2018-19 hockey season:

- Hockey Calgary
- Hockey Edmonton
- Central Alberta Hockey League
- Northern Alberta Interlock
- All Peace Hockey League
- North Eastern Alberta Hockey League

Under the Alberta One Standardized Tiering Model, leagues/ organizations have agreed to operate six tiers within the divisions of Atom, Peewee, Bantam and Midget. Larger leagues/ organizations can split tiers into more manageable groups based on number of teams and travel. Smaller leagues/ organizations may not operate all six tiers within a division but will follow a grid that determines the number of tiers based on the total number of teams at a division.

All leagues/ organizations will utilize the Alberta One Standardized Tiering Grid as a starting point in their tiering placement. The grid provides all Minor Hockey Associations a starting point for the placement of their teams within a specific division. Teams then proceed through tiering rounds for final placement determined by policies of the individual league.

Further information on the Alberta One Standardized Tiering Model, including the Tiering Grid, is enclosed.

If you have any questions regarding the Alberta One Standardized Tiering Model, please contact either your League President or myself.



Alberta One Standardized Tiering Model & Grid Information

1.0 Application

- 1.1 The Alberta One Tiering Model applies to the following minor hockey leagues operating at the Atom, Peewee, Bantam and Midget divisions:
- Hockey Calgary
 - Hockey Edmonton
 - Central Alberta Hockey League
 - Northern Alberta Interlock
 - All Peace Hockey League
 - North Eastern Alberta Hockey League
- 1.2 Any regulation covered in the Alberta One Tiering Model supersedes any regulation made by an individual league, when dealing with any issues that are covered by this document.

2.0 Season Timeline

- 2.1 Each league shall determine its season timeline for pre-season, regular season, and playoffs, as long as the timeline is in accordance with *Hockey Canada's Seasonal Structure Guidelines*.

3.0 Tiering

- 3.1 Each League shall not operate more than six tiers at a division.
- 3.1.1 Each League shall operate the following number of tiers per division based on the total number of teams at that division.

| Teams per Division | Tiers per Division | * Tiers Operated |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 40 + Teams | 6 | Tiers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 |
| 32 – 50 Teams | 5 | Tiers 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 |
| 24 – 40 Teams | 4 | Tiers 1, 2, 4 and 5 |
| 16 – 30 Teams | 3 | Tier 2, 3 and 4 |
| 8 – 20 Teams | 2 | Tier 2 and 4 |
| 0 – 10 Teams | 1 | Tier 3 or 4 |

* Should a League look to operate different tiers than those listed above, approval from Hockey Alberta's Minor Leagues Committee must be given prior to the start of regular season play.

- 3.2 Each league shall determine its own process for tiering rounds (pre-season play).
- 3.3 Each league shall tier teams in accordance with the Alberta One Tiering Grid (Appendix A), which includes:
- 3.3.1 The tiering grid is to be the starting point for all teams;
- 3.3.2 The number of teams within an association at a division must include all teams registered in the association at that division, excluding teams in Elite, AA or Female hockey streams;
- 3.3.3 When an association is required, or requests, to have more than one team at a particular tier, these teams shall be equally blended and balanced;
- 3.3.4 An individual team may move, or be moved, upwards or downwards during the tiering process, with the final placement of all teams to be determined by the individual league and in accordance with the minimums established by the grid;
- 3.3.5 When an association chooses to have two or more equal teams at the same tier instead of utilizing top down tiering and having teams ranked strongest to weakest,

these teams will be placed on the tiering grid at the median tier that any of these teams would have been placed had they not chosen to be divided equally.

3.3.5.1 Example: An association has 6 teams to be placed according to the Alberta One Tiering Grid. The association chooses to have three ranked teams and three equally divided teams. According to the Tiering Grid, the 3 equally divided teams should have been placed at Tier 4, 5, and 6 if they had been ranked. Consequently, those three equal teams will be classified as Tier 5 teams, which is the median tier that any of these three teams would have been placed at, had they been ranked.

3.2.6 The leagues will have the ability to move the equally divided teams to different tiers should it become apparent that they are either too strong or too weak for the tier that they have been placed in. This may include splitting the teams into different tiers.

3.4 In the event of an error in placement that results in a team being far too strong for a particular tier, the league has the ability to move the team upward, disqualify the team from eligibility for the Provincial Championships, or disqualify the team from further league play including playoffs.

4.0 Disputes

- 4.1 Any clarification or dispute from an individual team related to this Model shall be dealt with by that team's home league.
- 4.2 Any clarification or dispute from a league relating to this Model shall be dealt with by the Hockey Alberta Minor Leagues Committee and/or the Hockey Alberta Minor Regulations Committee.

Alberta One Standardized Tiering Model & Grid Information



Appendix A

| | Tier 1 | Tier 2 | Tier 3 | Tier 4 | Tier 5 | Tier 6 | Total |
|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| One Team | | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Two Teams | | 1 | | 1 | | | 2 |
| Three Teams | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | 3 |
| Four Teams | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | 4 |
| Five Teams | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| Six Teams | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| Seven Teams | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 7 |
| | | | 1 | | | | |
| Eight Teams | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 8 |
| | | 1 | | 1 | | | |
| Nine Teams | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 9 |
| | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | |
| Ten Teams | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 10 |
| | | 1 | | 1 | | | |
| Eleven Teams | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 11 |
| | | | 1 | | | | |
| Twelve Teams | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 12 |
| Thirteen Teams | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 13 |
| | | | 1 | | | | |
| Fourteen Teams | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 14 |
| | | 1 | | 1 | | | |
| Fifteen Teams | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 15 |
| | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | |
| Sixteen Teams | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 16 |
| | | 1 | | 1 | | | |
| Seventeen Teams | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 17 |
| | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | |
| Eighteen Teams | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 18 |
| Nineteen Teams | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 19 |
| | | | 1 | | | | |
| Twenty Teams | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 20 |
| | | 1 | | 1 | | | |
| Twenty-One Teams | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 21 |
| | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | |
| Twenty-Two Teams | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 22 |
| | | 1 | | 1 | | | |
| Twenty-Three Teams | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 23 |
| | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | |
| Twenty-Four Teams | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 24 |
| Twenty-Five Teams | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 25 |
| | | | 1 | | | | |