



# ALLIANCE HOCKEY

U18 (Midget) AAA Programming Committee

League Structure Policy

## Structure of the ALLIANCE HOCKEY U18 AAA League

The ALLIANCE Hockey U18 AAA Hockey Programming Committee has determined that eight is the designated number of teams for league competition. This number is based on competition at Junior and High School that exists for the 16 and 17 year old participant. Other mitigating circumstances also enter into the decision such as the 15 year old Minor Midget draft year, a focus on academics and participation in lower levels of competition. ALLIANCE Hockey has evolved to the eight teams through the amalgamation of Windsor/Sun County and through other associations having a difficult time either soliciting players or committing to Junior hockey. Through the encouragement and leadership of the ALLIANCE Hockey U18 AAA Programming Committee and the commitment of ALLIANCE Hockey Member Associations, the U18 AAA League has implemented a game and team structure that is the best minor hockey development opportunity for participants in the OHF. The ALLIANCE Hockey U18 AAA League is well known across the Province for developing players for the next levels of competition.

## Ontario Hockey Federation – Freedom of Movement

The OHF has instituted a policy outlining Freedom of Movement within Midget AAA centres whereby ALLIANCE players from non-participating Midget AAA Associations have the ability to play with any of the eight ALLIANCE Hockey U18 AAA teams via the guidelines. A try-out and release from any one of the 8 teams constitutes a release to play anywhere in the Ontario Hockey Federation.

## Policy for Adding New Teams within ALLIANCE Hockey U18 (Midget) AAA League

- There will be no expansion of the League to greater than eight teams. The addition of a new team would result from the new team taking the place of an existing team.
- Any applications for new teams to the League must be made by December 31<sup>st</sup> for entry the following season. Should there be any applications, the League Chair will inform the current eight teams within 5 business days following December 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Upon conclusion of the current regular season and upon the request of the U18 (Midget) AAA Chair, the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> place teams must provide a proposal of reinstatement for the following season.
- A three-person Committee, including the U18 (Midget) AAA Chair and two independent members, will determine the following:
  - Whether the applications for new teams qualify for further review against existing teams, and
  - Whether any of the existing teams should be replaced by a new applicant.

## Rationale

- Maintenance of parity and quality of competition in the League
- Compliance of Member Associations to ensure they provide a quality U18 AAA program or they will not have a team
- Allow Associations without a current team the opportunity the opportunity of application

## Rules that pertain to Midget AAA Structure, Page 115 1.0 Membership

### 1.1 Registration of Teams

All centres/zones must register their teams they intend to ice for the following season with the ALLIANCE. The CLOSING DATE for the registration of all teams shall be May 31<sup>st</sup>, of each year. If after registering, special circumstances exist, the ALLIANCE will rule (i.e., a team is registered by, for whatever reasons as team cannot be iced). Centres registering a Midget AAA team by the May 31<sup>st</sup> deadline and who withdraw after July 31<sup>st</sup> are subject to a \$3,000.00 fine, payable from the Centre/Zone.

