

**To:** Hockey Edmonton Members  
**From:** Pat Elliott, Director Elite Hockey  
**CC:** Hockey Alberta  
**Date:** 16-Apr-20

**RE:** U18 AAA Updates

Concurrent with work on new boundaries for male elite hockey the Elite Hockey Management Committee has also been reviewing the 2019-20 season and planning for the upcoming U18 AAA hockey season. You'll find a number of updates outlined below.

### ***Coaching Staff***

As Chair of the Elite Hockey Management Committee, I am pleased to announce the Male U18 AAA Head Coaches for the upcoming season. The candidates went through a rigorous application and interview process and bring a qualified staff with them.

#### **Derek Hemsley – MLAC U18 AAA**

Derek led the KC Midget AAA team last season. With KC and MLAC changing U18 AAA roles this season, Derek will lead the MLAC team. Named the 2017-18 AMBHL Coach of the Year he has coached in CJHL, AMMHL, AMBHA and CSSHL Prep leagues and brings 14 plus years of elite coaching and playing experience.

#### **Nathan Papirny – SSAC U18 AAA**

No stranger to the club, Nathan will return to the SSAC U18 AAA team for the upcoming season. Having coached in the AMHL, AMMHL and NAHL MAA, Nathan Papirny will be entering his 13th season as Head Coach & 5th behind the bench of the U18 AAA Athletics. Highlights from his coaching history include a Hockey Alberta AMMHL Provincial Championship in 2014-15 and consecutive Sutter Cup North Championships in 2013-14 and 2014-15. Nathan is excited to bring back John McMillan, Jason Papirny, Kieran Millan & Ken Lowe as part of this experienced staff!

#### **Tony Orsini – CAC U18 AAA**

Tony returns to the CAC U18 AAA bench for a third season. He has accumulated 19 plus years of coaching experience with stints in AMHL and NAHL MAA and serves as a scout for the Camrose Kodiaks Junior A team. He led the 2016-17 SEERA Midget A team to a Hockey Alberta Provincial Championship and was Hockey Edmonton's Midget Coach of the Year.

We thank all the applicants, congratulate Derek, Nathan and Tony as well as their respective staff and extend best wishes for successful seasons.

## ***U18 AAA Team Formation and Tryouts***

Following a review of the 2019-20 program, team formation and tryouts for Hockey Edmonton's three male U18 AAA teams have been adapted. Outlined below are the changes approved to date.

### **Club Based**

- Try outs for our three male U18 AAA teams will be club based – at CAC, MLAC and SSAC who are the three clubs who will be operating the Hockey Edmonton U18 AAA teams in 2020-21.
- All 2020-21 eligible KC U18 AAA players will tryout with the MLAC U18 AAA team.

### **Returning Players**

- All players that played Midget AAA in the 2019-20 season will stay with their team for the 2020-21 tryouts.
  - Players who played with the 2019-20 KC Midget AAA team will tryout for the 2020-21 MLAC U18 AAA team.
- 2019-20 Midget AAA players who do not want to stay with their 2019-20 team must submit a Player Movement form to Hockey Edmonton for consideration. The Player Movement Committee receives applications from May 1 to 31 annually.
- With the new boundaries for the 2020-21 season, a 2019-20 Midget AAA player, affected by the boundary changes, must submit a declaration form by May 1, 2020 declaring which club they will go to for U18 AA if released during 2020-21 U18 AAA tryouts.

### **New Players**

- All new U18 AAA players, including those returning from Accredited Schools to Hockey Edmonton will try out for the club within whose boundaries they reside. If they reside within the new KC boundaries, they will report to MLAC U18 AAA for the upcoming season.

### **Import Players**

- If a 2019-20 import player decides to come back to Hockey Edmonton, they will report to the team they played for in 2019-20.
- All new imports will go into a draft.

### **Players Attending Junior Tryouts**

- 2019-20 Midget AAA players who try out at Junior and are returned to Hockey Edmonton for U18 AAA hockey will report to their 2019-20 team.
- Players that did not play Midget AAA in 2019-20 who try out at Junior and are returned to Hockey Edmonton for U18 AAA hockey will report to their resident or declared grandfathered club and team.



***Arenas***

With teams being club-based and formed, primarily, with players residing within their respective boundaries; arenas used for U18 AAA practices will be within the club boundaries whenever possible.

Bill Hunter Arena will once again be the primary arena for U18 AAA games.