

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Date: January 5, 2024 #2303

To: Hockey Calgary Members

From: Kevin Kobelka – Executive Director

CC: HC Board, HC Governors, Association Presidents

SUBJECT: HA Awards Hockey Calgary a 2nd Female U18AAA Team

Female hockey in the province of Alberta continues to expand and is the fastest growing demographic in the Calgary area. Today, Hockey Alberta announced the addition of 3 new U18 Elite Female Teams in Alberta for the 2024-25 season. One of those teams will be hosted by OHA Edmonton and play in the CSSHL, and the other 2 teams will be part of the Alberta Female Hockey League (AFHL) and will be located in Sherwood Park and Calgary.

Read the Hockey Alberta Bulletin here

With the continuing goal of making female hockey more accessible here in Calgary we are extremely excited to have been chosen to host one of the two expansion teams. We know there is a lot of work ahead, but we are confident that both GHC and HC are up for the challenge.

In the last 10 years we have seen GHC double in size, going from just over 500 players to over 1200 players registered for the 2023-24 season. This does not include approximately 700 girls, who continue to participate in other co-ed community and elite programs within Calgary. Today's announcement is further proof that we are on the right path in developing the female game.

The communication of expansion was shared with us late in 2023. HC and GHC are working as quickly as we can to develop a game plan moving forward. We know that there are numerous questions that the membership has, and our plan is to **release a detailed FAQ document by Monday January 22, 2024** to address those questions. If you have specific questions, please <u>submit them here</u> and we will build them into the FAQ document.



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From a GHC perspective this addition will require increased resources and a restructuring of how the current board is set up. Hockey Calgary will work closely with GHC in the development of this plan to ensure we can produce a quality on and off ice product.

One of the first tasks will be to get a coach in place for the new team as soon as possible. An 'expression of interest' link can be found below, if you are interested, please fill out <u>this form</u>.

We look forward to seeing the female game continue to grow and believe that this progression will strengthen an already strong female program here in Calgary. For more information, please visit www.girlshockeycalgary.com.

Regards,

Kevin Kobelka Executive Director Amber Carney President - GHC