



INFORMATION BULLETIN 19-05

December 4, 2019

Minor Hockey division names to change for 2020-21 season

At Hockey Canada's Winter Congress recently in Montreal, a national regulation change was approved to revise the naming of the age divisions used in minor hockey across Canada. Please note that these changes only apply to Minor Hockey. Junior hockey (WHL, AJHL, Junior B and C leagues) and Senior hockey are not impacted.

This Bulletin is to confirm that the changes outlined by Hockey Canada will be in effect in Alberta effective for the 2020-21 season:

Current Division Name	Age Division Name for 2020-21
Initiation	Under-7 (U7)
Novice	Under-9 (U9)
Atom	Under-11 (U11)
Peewee	Under-13 (U13)
Bantam	Under-15 (U15)
Minor Midget	Under-16 (U16)
Midget	Under-18 (U18)

NOTE: Ages are as of December 31 of the current year.

Specific to minor hockey in Alberta, please note the following:

1. In the Intro to Hockey model, if Major and Minor Novice divisions are used by a Minor Hockey Association, the division names would become U8 for Minor Novice and U9 for Major Novice.
2. Levels of play in each Age Division, including category and tiering systems, are not impacted by these changes.

The change to Age Divisions from Division Names aligns with current practices within the IIHF and other national and provincial sports organizations. Longer term, we believe that using Age divisions rather than Names will be easier to understand for all involved in our sport and newcomers looking to join our sport for the first time.

The process is underway to identify changes and updates that need to occur at various levels, including for Hockey Alberta's Bylaws and Regulations, for leagues, and for our member organizations across the province. We will be working on updates for our website, as well as forms and documents, awards and plaques, and other items, with a goal of having updates in place prior to the start of the season. Historical references to Division Names will not be changed; the focus is looking forward on existing documents and resources.

Minor Hockey Associations and Sanctioned Leagues are encouraged to examine their resources and identify changes that need to be made, as well as connect with Hockey Alberta staff members or Volunteer Committee Coordinators about changes in documents or processes that may need to be implemented.

Our goal is to work with our member organizations to make this process as smooth as possible. If you have questions on the process, please submit them to a special email address for this project:

agedivisions@hockeyalberta.ca