



AAA Format for the Upcoming 2022-23 Season

U13 AAA

This division will continue with the tournament format with players playing both at the association and AAA level. The teams will continue to have the option to travel off-island for one event during the season. The aim is to have the tournament weekend dates set prior to the start of the season to allow the associations flexibility to schedule their own programming and avoid conflicts with the AAA program.

The major change to this division is the introduction of a third team from the Eastern zone. The introduction of the third team means that these three teams will be selected using a draft as opposed to the teams being tied to specific associations. The expansion to three teams allows more players an opportunity to play at the AAA level and creates a pyramid structure that hopefully creates a more competitive structure in the U15/18 divisions down the road.

The process to select the provincial representative for the Atlantic's will continue to be a provincial tournament. This allows the Northern zone the opportunity to compete for the right to travel to the Atlantic Championship.

U15 AAA

This division will change to a league format for the upcoming season. The players will register with the AAA league and will not be permitted to play competitive hockey back at the association level. The format for league play is still being worked on but these teams will have the ability to travel off island to the Monctonian and the Ice Jam. The goal is to have these teams play a minimum of 35-40 games on the island including the playoff and provincials.

Another significant change in this division will be the process used to select the two teams in the Eastern zone. The balance of player numbers under the traditional Tricom/St. John's zone structure has changed and will continue to change and the ability to balance those numbers using an association configuration is no longer feasible. To eliminate this imbalance and to ensure the top players in this zone get the opportunity to play AAA, this zone will now have the teams selected through a draft process.

The process to select the provincial representative for the Atlantic's will continue to be a provincial tournament. This allows the Northern zone the opportunity to compete for the right to travel to the Atlantic Championship.

U18 Minor AAA

The playing format for this division will be the same as last season. However, this division will be rebranded as **U18 AA** to align with the U13/15 divisions.