



Valley Thunder Cooperative Agreement
(2022-23 Season through 2026-27 Season)



Jr. Avalanche Amateur Hockey Association



Mat-Su Amateur Hockey Association



Pioneer Amateur Hockey Association

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1. Parties

- A. This Cooperative Agreement (“Agreement”) is made on April 15, 2022 by and between the Jr. Avalanche Amateur Hockey Association, Mat-Su Amateur Hockey Association, and Pioneer Amateur Hockey Association (each a “Party” or “Association” and collectively the “Parties”).
- B. The Parties hereby bind themselves to undertake this Agreement under the following terms and conditions.

2. Term

- A. The term of this Agreement shall be in effect for five (5) years commencing on April 15, 2022 and terminating on July 31, 2027 unless terminated sooner in accordance with the terms of this Agreement (“the Term”).

3. Purpose and Scope

- A. It is the belief of all Parties that this agreement is fundamental to putting forward the strongest developmental model for youth hockey players in the Mat-Su Valley.
- B. The Parties agree that all 10U to 19U competitive youth hockey programs shall operate under the Valley Thunder.

4. Goals and Objectives

- A. The Parties to this Agreement shall abide by the terms of this Agreement to achieve the following goals and objectives:
 - i. Provide an opportunity for all Mat-Su Valley youth hockey athletes to play competitive hockey in a safe, positive, and organized program while developing as hockey players.
 - ii. Provide the best coaching resources to develop skills, competitiveness, knowledge of the game, sportsmanship, grit, and community spirit.
 - iii. Retain the participation of the most talented, skilled, and competitive players from the Mat-Su Valley.
 - iv. Compete consistently for championships each season in the Alaska State Hockey Association (“ASHA”), USA Hockey Pacific District, and USA Hockey Nationals.

5. Obligations of the Parties

- A. The Board of Directors from each Association shall provide two (2) members to serve on a Valley Thunder steering committee. The steering committee shall solicit one (1) additional member from the community who has prior experience with youth hockey. The steering committee will have the authority to discuss and share information about their individual organizations in order to develop strategies required to foster a competitive youth hockey program. The primary objectives of the steering committee are to:
 - i. Solicit, evaluate, and select age division head coaches.
 - a. The steering committee should discourage a coach from coaching multiple teams if the resources are there to fill each team without duplicity.
 - b. The steering committee shall: conduct interviews on all coaching candidates, conduct coaching exit interviews, solicit parent feedback through surveys, and conduct interviews for the selection and retention of Valley Thunder coaches.
 - ii. Organize and run tryouts for each age division under the administration of a host Association.
 - iii. Assign teams to host Associations in a fair and equitable manner.
 - iv. Administer the sourcing and design of Valley Thunder jerseys and other uniform related items. All Valley Thunder teams, regardless of host Association, shall only wear approved Valley Thunder uniforms. No team shall create/wear a uniform without the prior approval of the steering committee.
- B. One member of the steering committee shall take notes at meetings and ensure those notes are shared with the committee members who will in turn share them with their host Associations.
- C. The player season registration fee shall be established by the steering committee, in coordination with the host Associations, and shall be the same for all host Associations. After the registration fee, an Association may only charge the team/player for actual charges the team/player incurs.
- D. The sole source of revenue the steering committee administers shall be limited to excess revenue from tryouts and shall not exceed \$5,000. Funds in excess of that amount shall be distributed equally for the benefit of Valley Thunder teams in a manner determined by the steering committee by the end of each season.
- E. Once assigned to a host Association, the host Association has full authority over and responsibility for that team for the balance of the season.

- F. Valley Thunder teams shall strive to utilize ice from each host Association's home ice arena throughout the season.
- G. Valley Thunder players shall tryout and play in the age division of their respective birth year. Players will need approval of the host Association coaching director and team head coaches for approval to play up to a higher age level. Tryout grievances will be handled by the host Association and steering committee representatives facilitating the tryout.
- H. Valley Thunder teams will consist of one (1) approved head coach and up to three (3) approved assistant coaches. The head coach will receive a stipend and determine the portion of the stipend to be allocated to assistant coaches and/or other team staff. The stipend amount shall be established in coordination with the host Associations.
- I. The host Associations shall:
 - i. Host and administer non-competitive youth hockey programs, i.e. house/recreational teams.
 - ii. Host and administer the competitive Valley Thunder teams assigned to them.
 - iii. Setup and coordinate monthly goalie clinics throughout the season to include Valley Thunder goalies.
 - iv. Ensure all resources of the host Association are available to Valley Thunder teams being hosted. This includes, but is not limited to: fundraising opportunities, gaming permits, equipment, training opportunities, etc. Resources which already exist at host Associations shall not be duplicated by the steering committee.
 - v. All host Associations will ensure championship banners from any Valley Thunder team are displayed at their respective home ice arena.

6. Noncompetition

- A. During the Term of this Agreement the Parties shall not engage, directly or indirectly, in any capacity in any other competitive youth hockey program.
- B. The Valley Thunder shall not seek or solicit interest in becoming a standalone competitive youth hockey association.
- C. Should a host Association elect to withdraw from this Agreement, the withdrawing Association shall be prohibited from hosting a competitive youth hockey program for a period of three (3)

years effective April 30th of the current season or the end of the Term in Section 2, whichever is earlier. A withdrawal notice shall be provided in writing to the remaining Parties in the Agreement prior to April 30th of the current season.

- D. Should all Parties elect to dissolve the Agreement then each may resume competitive youth hockey programs the following season.

7. Modification

- A. No modification of this Agreement shall be valid unless in writing and agreed upon by all Parties.

8. Effective Date and Signature

- A. This Agreement shall be effective upon the date of the last Party to sign this Agreement below. The Parties indicate agreement with this Agreement by their signatures below.

Jr. Avalanche Amateur Hockey Association

Nathan Norton 4-15-2022
Nathan Norton, President Date

Mat-Su Amateur Hockey Association

Tim Conrad 4-15-2022
Tim Conrad, President Date

Pioneer Amateur Hockey Association

C. O'Bryant 4/16/22
Colleen O'Bryant, President Date