

## Changes to Sherwood Park, Leduc, Spruce Grove Elite Draw Zones

March 22, 2023

Minor Hockey Associations of the Sherwood Park, Leduc, and Spruce Grove Elite Draw Zones,

The Elite Male Committee has determined the following changes will be implemented to the Sherwood Park, Leduc and Spruce Grove Elite Draw Zones for the 2023-2024 hockey season. The committee believes that these changes will have a positive impact on the elite male program in the province moving forward.

### CHANGES TO SHERWOOD PARK ELITE DRAW ZONE:

- Camrose Minor Hockey Association will be removed from the Sherwood Park Elite Draw Zone for U15 AAA, U17 AAA and U18 AAA.

### CHANGES TO LEDUC ELITE DRAW ZONE:

- Camrose Minor Hockey Association will be added to the Leduc Elite Draw Zone for U15 AAA, U17 AAA and U18 AAA.
- Edson, Hinton and Jasper Minor Hockey Associations will be removed from the Leduc Elite Draw Zone for U15 AAA, U17 AAA and U18 AAA.

### CHANGES TO SPRUCE GROVE ELITE DRAW ZONE:

- Edson, Hinton and Jasper Minor Hockey Associations will be added to the Spruce Grove Elite Draw Zone for U15 AAA, U17 AAA and to the St. Albert Draw Zone for U18 AAA.

### RATIONALE FOR CHANGES:

**CAMROSE:** The decision to move Camrose from Sherwood Park to Leduc was requested by Camrose Minor Hockey for the Elite Committee's consideration. In review of the data, the committee is in favor of the request. Reasons for the approval being granted include that only 10% of eligible Camrose Minor Hockey Association players participated in Sherwood Park AAA tryouts in 2022-23, compared to over 40% of eligible Sherwood Park Minor Hockey Association players. Further, the Elite Male Committee believes that by slightly reducing the travel distance required for Camrose players to pursue AAA hockey by moving Camrose to Leduc, a higher portion of players will participate in the AAA selection process and that currently, Sherwood Park was obtaining minimal benefit from having access to Camrose Minor Hockey Association, affiliating zero players from the Camrose AA program this season across all AAA teams.

**EDSON, HINTON, JASPER:** The decision to move Edson, Hinton and Jasper from Leduc to Spruce Grove was based on the travel distance from Edson, Hinton and Jasper to Spruce Grove being approximately sixty (60) kilometers less than the distance from Edson, Hinton and Jasper to Leduc. Further, in reviewing tryout numbers, only two players from Edson, Hinton and Jasper tried out for Leduc AAA teams across the three categories of AAA hockey in 2022-23. The Elite Committee believes that by reducing the travel distance required for Edson, Hinton and Jasper players to pursue AAA hockey, a higher portion of players from the area will participate in the AAA selection process. Finally, the change in total players from adding Camrose and removing Edson, Hinton and Jasper is negligible, and over 60 players in both U15 and U18 will be added to the Spruce Grove Elite Draw Zone, historically smaller in terms of total players than majority of other Elite Draw Zones.

Any current AAA players who played for Leduc or Sherwood Park in the 2022-23 impacted by this change have permission to begin their tryout process with their current Draw Zone team for the remainder of their AAA eligibility should they so wish.

Should you have any questions about the above changes, do not hesitate to contact Hudson Kelly ([hkelly@hockeyalberta.ca](mailto:hkelly@hockeyalberta.ca)) or Mike Kraichy ([mkraichy@hockeyalberta.ca](mailto:mkraichy@hockeyalberta.ca)).

Neil Robertson



Chair, Hockey Alberta Elite Male Committee  
On behalf of Hockey Alberta's Elite Male Committee