



Dear players and parents at SSAC and SWZ:

The purpose of this open letter is to advise you of recent changes in the boundaries (draw zone) of the SSAC commencing with the 2020-2021 hockey season.

For a number of years, the four athletic clubs as well as Hockey Edmonton (HE) have been struggling to agree on draw zones that produce two results at the Elite Level:

Provide KC with a specific territorial zone or draw area at the elite level, and; Allow approximate parity in the number of players for each of the four athletic clubs.

On March 19, the Board of Hockey Edmonton approved new draw areas for all elite clubs. The areas were drawn up using neighbourhoods as the descriptor and a description of the draw zones and a map outlining the zones are located at:

<https://ssac.hockey/hockey-edmonton-boundary-change/>

Effect on SSAC

SSAC has seen its draw zone reduced significantly in both the east and west of the SWZ. This became necessary because of the large number of minor hockey players registered in the SW of Edmonton and in the SWZ specifically. Our draw will be reduced from approximately 2500 players to approx 1900, in line with the number of players available to the other three clubs.

Application of Changes

The change in the Elite draw areas affect only Elite hockey players. The Federation boundaries of the SWZ, SWAT and Confederation will not change in any regard. Of course it applies only to the age categories of Elite hockey, that is

PWAA | U13 AA
BAAA /BAA | U15 AAA/AA
M15AAA/M15AA | U16 AAA/AA
MAA/MAAA | U18 AAA/AA



Transition & Grandfathering

The grandfathering or transition provisions may be viewed here:

<https://ssac.hockey/hockey-edmonton-boundary-change/>

All SSAC players that were rostered in 2019-2020 will have the opportunity to play for SSAC again. There is one important distinction: those living outside of the new (2020-2021) draw zone and who played for SSAC last year, will have the option of remaining with SSAC or trying out for and playing for the Club in whose territory they now reside. That "election" must be exercised by the player in order to remain with SSAC. SSAC will provide information as to how that can be done and any deadlines, shortly.

Siblings will not be automatically grandfathered. Siblings of current SSAC players, who live outside the new draw zone will have to apply to HE under the player movement rules and HE may take the relationship into account when deciding to allow the transfer.

The draw zones will be reviewed by HE every two years and any grandfathering available as a result of future changes will be determined by HE at the time.

Peewee AA | U13 AA

For the 2020-2021 season, the four athletic clubs will take over operations of the teams at this level. Grandfathering provisions will not apply to this level of play as SSAC did not operate PWAA in 2019-2020. Players wishing to try out and play PWAA at the SSAC, must reside in the new 2020-2021 draw zone. Similarly, first year Bantam players wishing to play Bantam AA or AAA (U15 AAA/AA) at SSAC must also reside in the new draw zone.

We fully appreciate that this amounts to a significant change for some players particularly SWZ players that currently live outside the new draw zone of SSAC. However, we feel that it is a necessary step to increase the competitiveness of all Edmonton teams at all levels.

We hope to have several open houses in which we can address player concerns in the near future. Of course those may be limited due to the current pandemic so we have created a FAQ page located here:

<https://ssac.hockey/hockey-edmonton-boundary-change/>

In addition, specific questions regarding the draw zone and transition may be addressed to:

info@ssac.hockey

Please watch the SSAC website for updates and registration information.
We thank you all for your cooperation.