

Cranbrook Minor Hockey Association



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Team Structure 2023-2024 Season

Each year prior to the start of the new season, the CMHA Board meets to discuss our overall registration numbers in order to make decisions on how best to structure our teams. We take into account current registration numbers and projected numbers based off of the previous year.

Our primary goal when considering the options is to make sure the kids are playing at the appropriate level of hockey. We also want to encourage a strong recreational system and make sure that our teams have other teams in the area to compete against that are also at a similar caliber of play.

The following decisions were made for each division for the 2023-2024 season:

U18

*U18 EK Avalanche - Regional Team, operated by the EKMHA (East Kootenay Minor Hockey Association), not by CMHA. They will play in the SCAHL (South Central Alberta Hockey League).

U18 Bucks – open to all players from the East Kootenay but operated by CMHA – will play in the West Kootenay League and will travel for tournaments.

U18 Recreation – will be operated like last year – emphasis on fun and keeping the kids playing as long as they want to play!

U15

*U15 EK Avalanche - Regional Team, operated by the EKMHA (East Kootenay Minor Hockey Association), not by CMHA. They will play in the SCAHL (South Central Alberta Hockey League).

U15 Bucks - open to all players from the East Kootenay but operated by CMHA – will play in the West Kootenay League and will travel for tournaments.

U15 Tier 4 Rep - Since our projected registration numbers allow for it, we decided to ice a tier 4 rep team at this level. Since there is body contact in this age group, we feel that it is necessary to give this level of development to the players that want/need it. It will likely be a smaller “main”

roster of approximately 10 players + 2 goalies, and the coach will utilize the AP process, allowing some recreational players to get experience at this level too. They will play in the EK League.

U15 Recreation - Current projections indicate that we should have enough players to make two recreational teams, with some of these players being called up to the Tier 4 team from time to time through the AP process. There is no body contact in U15 recreational play, though those players that get called up to the Tier 4 team over the course of the season will get some exposure to body contact. These teams will also play in the EK league.

U13

U13 Avalanche - open to all players from the East Kootenay but operated by CMHA – will play in the SCAHL (South Central Alberta Hockey League).

U13 Bucks - Open to players from Kimberley and Cranbrook, but not to other associations in the EK – will play in the West Kootenay League and will travel for tournaments.

U13 Recreation- Current numbers are looking like we have enough for four teams thus far. They will play in the EK League.

We decided not to create a tier 4 team at the U13 level this year for multiple reasons:

- The first and most important reason is that we want to support our recreation programs, and make them as strong as possible to promote development of all players that are not playing on the U13 Avalanche or the U13 Bucks.
- Since there is no body contact in this level of hockey, creating the Tier 4 team isn't as essential as it is at U15. All players will be able to develop within the recreational program since body contact is not an issue.
- CMHA stresses the use of our AP process, so players within the recreational stream that are capable of playing at a higher level should get opportunities to play up with the U13 Bucks at various times throughout the year.

U11

U11 'A' Bucks – Cranbrook only – will play in the West Kootenay League and will travel for tournaments.

U11 'B' Bucks – Cranbrook only – will play in the East Kootenay League and will travel for tournaments.

U11 Recreation- Current projections suggest that we have enough for 3 recreation teams. This could expand to 4 teams, if numbers justify the additional team. They will play in the EK League.

*** NOTE: The U18 & U15 Avalanche are not operated or under the control of CMHA, though CMHA recognizes them as the top Hockey Canada teams in the East Kootenay within. These teams are operated by the EKMHA.**