



## **Sylvan Lake Minor Hockey Association Transition of U11 AA to West Central Tigers**

To strengthen the continuity of our AA and AAA programs through our west central communities, Sylvan Lake Minor Hockey Association and the West Central Tigers are excited to share the transition of the U11 AA for the 2026-2027 season to the West Central Tigers.

The Sylvan Lake Lakers U11AA team is currently managed by Sylvan Lake Minor Hockey Association consisting of skilled players from across our west central minor hockey communities. The composition of skilled athletes for this team will remain unchanged; however, the team's identity, structure and management will be the U11 AA West Central Tigers starting for the 2026-2027 season.

To align with the experiences, resources and support that all West Central Tigers teams and participants are known to expect, the same offerings and expectations will be extended to the U11 AA West Central Tigers.

The West Central Tigers is a hub organization that is managed by participation from Blindman Valley Minor Hockey Association, Caroline Minor Hockey Association, Rocky Mountain House Minor Hockey Association, Spruce View Minor Hockey Association and Sylvan Lake Minor Hockey Association with the goal of providing appropriate development and competitive play for our member athletes.

Website: <https://sylvanlakeminorhockey.ca/west-central-tigers-elite-program/>



## **West Central Tigers U11 AA FAQ**

### **What league will the team play in?**

The Sylvan Lake Lakers U11 AA team currently plays and is governed in the Alberta Hockey U11 AA League and will continue to do so <https://www.u11aa.ca/>

### **Who will be the host association and manage registration?**

All our West Central Tigers teams are currently and will remain registered under the host association of Sylvan Lake Minor Hockey Association.

### **How is coaching selected?**

West Central Tigers will be opening coach applications in early 2026 for the 2026-2027 season. The successful candidate for the head coach may be named in spring 2026, and the head coach will be provided with applications for those interested in assistant coaching as the team selection process concludes in fall 2026.

### **What do tryouts look like?**

West Central Tigers utilize a committed group of skilled individuals that conduct the on-ice sessions and evaluate the skill of the participants in an unbiased manner. Prior to the final team roster being selected, an extended roster is given opportunities for gameplay with similar team(s) to give all athletes the opportunity to showcase their skills and abilities in creating a competitive team.

The U11 AA final roster will mirror our West Central Tigers U13 AAA and U13 AA teams of 15 skaters and 2 goaltenders.

Information on the introduction of Spring ID skates will be coming in early 2026 for the West Central Tigers U11 AA team.



### **What do practice/game facilities and development look like under the West Central Tigers?**

All West Central Tigers teams have 2 on-ice practices per week, and games scheduled by the league that are spread throughout the west central communities/facilities. Each team has opportunities for development resources that may include goaltending, technical development, strength building, mental coaching, etc. for their team. Our goal is to provide age-appropriate development that will prepare our athletes for the next level with not only hockey, but skills off the ice as they grow and mature.

### **What will registration fees look like for U11 AA?**

The same resources and opportunities offered to our West Central Tigers teams will be extended to the U11 AA team. Registration fees for the season at U11 AA will be similar to all other West Central Tigers teams.

While West Central Tigers registration fees do include team contributions for expenses, there are fundraising commitments necessary with each West Central Tigers team.

### **What are the expectations for U11 AA?**

West Central Tigers communicate and have always maintained the expectation that our teams, players and families are given a high standard for positive mindset, team-first mentality and accountability. These expectations may start within the sport of hockey but create building blocks as we develop young athletes into young adults. Athletes, coaches and families are expected to equally participate in this mentality to ensure a successful experience and season.

All West Central Tigers teams are expected to travel by bus as a team to any location outside the corridor of Edmonton to Calgary (with the exception of Cochrane) for league, exhibition or tournament games.



**Where can we find out more information about West Central Tigers and the newly expanded U11 AA team?**

Official communications can be viewed on the Sylvan Lake Minor Hockey Association website: <https://sylvanlakeminorhockey.ca/>

Attendance at Sylvan Lake or your home association's Annual General Meeting can also be a resource for information on the West Central Tigers or contacting your hub representative from each of our member west central minor hockey associations.

For specific inquiries, please visit <https://sylvanlakeminorhockey.ca/west-central-hub/wct-contacts/>