



Affiliation Usage Policy

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Purpose

This policy establishes the procedures and rules governing the use of affiliate players within Hockey Calgary. It is intended to support player development opportunities at higher levels of play while protecting the integrity and operational needs of a player's regular team.

Definitions

- **Affiliate Player (AP):** A player who is eligible to participate with a higher Division/Category team through the affiliation process described in this policy, while remaining registered with their own team.
- **Affiliation:** A game-related process only; players do not need to be affiliated to practice with a higher Division or Category team.
- **Regular Team:** The team on which a player is officially rostered and registered in the Hockey Canada Registry (HCR).
- **Higher-Level Team:** The team requesting the use of an affiliate player, operating in a higher Division or Category than the affiliate player's regular team.
- **HCR:** Hockey Canada Registry, the official system of record for player registration and rostering.
- **EMHW:** Esso Minor Hockey Week, a Hockey Calgary-sanctioned tournament event.
- **Official Team Roster:** The maximum roster of players and goaltenders registered to a team in the Hockey Canada Registry for the current season.
- **Game Sheet Designation:** Affiliate players must be identified on the official game report using the designation 'AP' beside their name.

General Procedures (All Categories)

- No approved affiliated player may be used until they have been registered to their affiliate team's Official Roster in the HCR.
- The Head Coach of the higher-level team must contact the Head Coach of the affiliate player's regular team, in accordance with their internal Member Club policies, to obtain permission before using that player as an affiliate for any practice or game.
- The affiliate player must not be contacted directly until permission has been granted by their Head Coach.
- If the Head Coach or Team Manager of the affiliate player's regular team cannot be reached and the request is time-sensitive, the requesting team must contact the affiliate player's Association directly.
- Head Coaches of the affiliate player's regular team are expected to grant permission in most circumstances, except where a direct scheduling conflict exists with that team's own activities. Even where a conflict exists, Hockey Calgary



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- encourages coaches to support affiliation opportunities by identifying an alternate affiliate to replace their own player, allowing both players the opportunity to play at a higher level.
- Hockey Calgary reserves the right to suspend a team's affiliation privileges for non-compliance with this procedure.

Community/Female-Specific Affiliation Rules

- On the initial affiliation submission, each team may register a maximum of 10 affiliated players. Following the initial submission, teams may add additional affiliated players, provided the total number of affiliated players does not exceed 19 at any time.
- Teams may use affiliated players in any Hockey Calgary-sanctioned Seeding, League, EMHW, or Playoff game solely to restore the team to its original roster size. Example: A team rostered with 14 skaters and 2 goaltenders (16 total) that has two skaters unavailable due to illness or injury may use two affiliates to return to its original roster of 14 skaters and 2 goaltenders.
- Teams affiliating more than five (5) players for any Seeding, League, EMHW, or Playoff game must obtain prior approval from the applicable Age Category Governor.
- U11–U21 teams may use affiliated players in Exhibition or Tournament games to reach the maximum permitted roster size of 18 skaters and 2 goaltenders, regardless of the team's original roster size.
- U13, U15, and U18 teams with only one rostered goaltender may add one affiliated backup goaltender to the official game report, provided that player is registered as a goaltender in the Hockey Canada Registry. This addition does not count toward the ten-game maximum unless the affiliate goaltender is called into play.
- Affiliated players may be used to replace a suspended player.

Elite (Co-ed and Female)-Specific Affiliation Rules

- Affiliated players may be used to replace a suspended player.

Affiliation Maximums

- A player from a lower division or category may affiliate for a maximum of ten (10) games with a higher-level team. If the player's own team completes its regular season and playoffs (including post-season tournaments) before the affiliated team, the player may affiliate for an unlimited number of additional games.
- A U9 affiliate player may participate in a maximum of five (5) games with their affiliated team per season.
- Exhibition and Tournament games are excluded from all affiliation game-count maximums.

Appeal and Escalation Process

- If a Head Coach or Team Manager of an affiliate player's regular team denies a request for affiliation outside of a genuine scheduling conflict as outlined in Section 2 (General Procedures), the requesting team may escalate the matter to their Member Club for review.
- The Member Club will review the circumstances of the denial, including whether a legitimate conflict existed, and may render a decision within a reasonable timeframe appropriate to the urgency of the request.
- If the matter remains unresolved at the Member Club level, either party may escalate the dispute to the applicable Age Category Governor and Hockey Calgary for a final determination within Hockey Calgary's jurisdiction.



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- Decisions rendered by the Age Category Governor and/or Hockey Calgary are final, except where the matter involves an alleged violation of Hockey Alberta or Hockey Canada regulations, in which case the dispute may be escalated per Hockey Canada's formal appeal procedures.
- All appeals must be submitted in writing and should include relevant details such as the date of the request, the nature of the conflict cited (if any), and any supporting communication between the parties.
- Hockey Calgary will intervene in affiliation matters only when a Member Club is not adhering to the Member Club Affiliation Policy and/or the Hockey Calgary Affiliation Policy. This policy serves as a guiding framework for Member Clubs. Ultimately, Member Clubs are responsible for ensuring that coaches comply with their respective Affiliation Policies and Guidelines in alignment with Hockey Calgary's policies and procedures, and that affiliation practices support the overall development and opportunities for all players.