

## **Affiliate player guidelines**

August 2025

*These guidelines are designed to ensure that teams can field full rosters and have sufficient players to participate effectively in games. The goal is to provide fair opportunities for all players through equitable rotation, while maintaining the competitiveness of teams in Banner and Playdown situations. The role of the AP Committee is to oversee the process with fairness and consistency, ensuring that all players are considered objectively.*

*Additionally, these guidelines support the broader objective of player development. They aim to help individuals grow their skills, foster teamwork, and encourage positive relationships between players, teams, and the association as a whole.*

Affiliate player (AP) - a skater or goalie that is irregularly called upon to maintain a minimum number of rostered players of a higher based team. The goal of an AP player is to create a full team and the intention is not to give the team a competitive advantage.

At U11 and younger it is defined as temporary relief player but this policy is intended to refer to any player that is playing with a team where they are not primarily rostered.

Moving players between teams is an optional process and teams are not required to take AP players.

### **BC Hockey Rules**

- A player of a lower Division or Category may affiliate to one (1) team of higher division or category at any given time to a maximum of ten games per season.
- All affiliate players must be designated by 'AP' on the game sheet.
- Players rostered to carded teams may not affiliate to recreational teams.
- Exhibition and/or tournament games, which are not part of the regular league or play-off games, are not included in the 10-game affiliation limit.
- The appearance of an affiliate player on a game sheet will be considered participation in the game, except in the case of an alternate goaltender. In the case of an alternate goaltender, only actual participation shall be considered as taking part in the game. Participation must be noted on the game sheet.

### **Affiliate Player Lists**

- At the beginning of the season there will be an association wide communication about how players may request to be on an AP list including a copy of the "Consent to AP" form
- Any eligible players wishing to AP to another team will submit a signed copy of the "Consent to AP" form to their team manager who will submit the form to the AP committee
- The AP committee will consist of at least 3 members including the Coach Coordinator, Registrar, and the Female Development Lead.
- Once the AP forms have been submitted, an AP committee will create a list of players to be discussed with coaches and approved by the board.
- If there is a concern about any players' safety or ability to play with the chosen team an independent review of skill and maturity can be requested. If the evaluation demonstrates that the players' skill or maturity does not fit with the team this will be clearly communicated with the parents. If circumstances change throughout the season they may be reevaluated.

- The approved list will be communicated to coaches, team managers, and players, and the board at the beginning of the season. If there are any changes as the season progresses the coach coordinator will update all above named parties.
- The AP committee will aim to have list finalized 2 weeks after teams are confirmed and the season begins. Note this will be delayed for teams that go through team selection.
- Any concerns with the AP process or the AP list will be brought to the AP committee and the board will be made aware.

### **Requesting an affiliate player**

When a team requires an affiliate player the AP committee will be contacted and the team will be told which player is to be asked. If a player is not able to make a game the next player on the list will be asked. The players will rotate through a fair order determined by the AP committee.

### **Rotation of players on the Affiliate Player List**

1. At U11 there will be equal rotation of players at all times. Recreational players can AP to competitive teams and competitive team players can AP to recreational teams. The goal is to maintain full rosters for participation and not to gain a competitive edge. Skill level will be considered and if there is an exceptional player in the competitive team the AP committee may recommend that the player AP to a higher age category rather than a recreational team.
2. For all age groups there will be equal rotation of the AP list for all regular season games and tournaments.
3. At U15 and above position will be considered when a player is needed.
4. Goalies are considered separate to skaters.
5. Coaches may choose which players can participate in Banner tournaments at the U13 level and above based on player attitude and fit for the team.
6. Coaches on carded teams may choose which players can participate in playdowns and provincials based on player attitude and fit for the team.

### **Additional considerations**

- Overage players can be considered to play with younger age categories when permitted by the game/tournament, safety is not a concern, and skill level is similar to the lower aged category. Carded teams cannot have overage players.
- Players in a nearby association can be considered if there are no players available in GDMHA.
- Underage players wishing to AP at the U11 level will only be considered in exceptional circumstances with a letter to the board and must be approved by GDMHA and EKMHA. If approval is made games may only played after January 1st as per EK guidelines.
- Underage players moving up to U15 with contact will only occur in exceptional circumstances and more than one practice may be required prior to gameplay.
- An example of an exceptional circumstance is if a team is unable to participate due to numbers or is forced to forfeit a league game and will be subjected to a fine.
- Every player at the U15 level and older will be assessed for player safety. It is recommended that there is a separate practice at the beginning of the season to assess safety.

### **Expectations of Affiliate Players**

- If the affiliation is anticipated, an affiliate player is expected to participate in a minimum of one practice and a maximum of two practices prior to the game they will play in.
- If an affiliate player is subjected to any disciplinary action, the board is to be informed and future participation with the team will be evaluated.

- Affiliate Players MUST play with their own rostered team as their first priority if a conflict occurs. In exceptional cases a request will be reviewed by the AP committee.
- AP players will not be given more opportunity than a player who is rostered to the team.

Requests that are not in keeping with this document and felt to be beneficial to a player/team/organization can be written to the AP committee to discuss and bring to the board for approval.