



PELHAM MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION



AFFILIATED PLAYER POLICY

Introduction:

It is the position of the Pelham Minor Hockey Association (PMHA) that the use of Affiliated Players (APs) is essential to ensure that players on rostered teams are not denied participation in scheduled competitive hockey games due to forfeiture because their team is unable to ice a minimum number of players or otherwise be competitive as a result of rostered player absences on a team, for whatever reason. It is also PMHA's position that making APs available to affiliate teams should not be disruptive to the AP's rostered team. As such the primary purpose for player affiliation (AP) is to ensure that teams have sufficient available players for fair and safe play in cases of illness, injury, suspension or other unavailability. In addition, player development is part of the overall AP experience, all players that affiliate with a team should have an opportunity to be developed in order to allow that player to be successful if they are called up for a game situation.

This policy as outlined in this section is intended to supplement the rules set out from time to time established by the Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA), the Niagara District Hockey League (NDHL) and the Niagara District Local League (NDLL) pertaining to APs, as they may be modified from time to time. Where there is disagreement between this AP Policy and OMHA/NDHL/NDLL AP rules, the more restrictive policy/rule shall apply.

Procedure:

- I. An Offer of Affiliation may not be submitted to the PMHA for final approval for a player that is not already registered on an OMHA approved roster. Representative teams shall not affiliate any players that did not take part in try-outs. In certain circumstances the Board of Directors may approve the affiliation of a player that did not attend try-outs, however, this decision will be at the sole discretion of the Board. Once approved any matters related to the affiliation shall be in effect for the current season only.
- II. Player affiliations must be proposed to the appropriate division convenor(s) by the head coach of the team offering affiliation. Where a player affiliation proposed by a head coach involves a player from a lower age division, convenors for both divisions will be advised by the head coach proposing the player affiliation. Division convenors so advised shall consult with each other to confirm availability of the proposed AP to affiliate with another team and to identify conflicting requests for the proposed AP to affiliate with other teams. Where a proposed AP is already rostered as an AP to another team, a proposed Offer of Affiliation to that player will be prohibited by the division convenor(s). Where two or more head coaches propose an affiliation of their team to the same player, the convenor(s) shall seek resolution from the PMHA Vice President Local League (VPLL) and/or PMHA Vice President Rep (VPrep), as applicable. When resolving conflicting player affiliation requests, due consideration shall be given to the equitable distribution of APs, both in number and skill, to those teams for which more than one coach are proposing affiliation of the same player.

- III. Upon receipt of written (e-mail) approval from appropriate division convenor(s)/VPLL/VPRep, as applicable, an OMHA Offer of Affiliation may be completed and signed by the coach of the team offering affiliation and presented to the proposed AP and AP's rostered team head coach for their consideration.
- IV. Acceptance of the Offer of Affiliation shall be evidenced by the AP's rostered team head coach's signature, the AP's signature and AP's parent/guardian signature. The proposed AP and AP parent/guardian are not obligated to accept an Offer of Affiliation from a head coach. A player shall not suffer any sanctions from PMHA or that player's rostered team should that player and/or player's parent/guardian decline a coach's Offer of Affiliation. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a player that declines one coach's Offer of Affiliation with a Local League team may be prohibited from accepting another coach's Offer of Affiliation with another Local League team if it results in unbalanced AP allocations for the Local League teams.
- V. Should a player and player's parent/guardian accept an Offer of Affiliation, that player's rostered team head coach shall be obligated to accept and sign the Offer of Affiliation.
- VI. A completed and fully executed Offer of Affiliation shall be submitted to the PMHA Registrar by the head coach of the team offering affiliation together with written (email) convenor approval(s).
- VII. The PMHA Registrar shall create the team affiliation and submit the offer of affiliation to the OMHA Regional Executive for approval. Approval of the proposed AP is subject to availability of OMHA Regional Executives.
- VIII. Only affiliated players that are listed on an approved OMHA roster will be allowed to participate in any games. Approval of affiliated players shall be by confirmation by the PMHA Registrar that the proposed AP has been approved by the OMHA Regional Executive through an approved electronic OMHA roster. Any affiliated players shall be indicated on game sheets with the following abbreviation "AP" beside the player's name. Affiliated players appearing on a game sheet shall be confirmation of that player's participation in the game, except in the case of a substitute goalie in which actual participation in the game shall be noted on the game sheet.
- IX. Failure to adhere to this policy may result in the offending coach being assessed a suspension by the association
- X. Any dispute among coaches, parents and/or players regarding the application of the AP Policy will be referred to the respective PMHA Convener and VP, REP or Local League for review. PMHA representatives may involve the appropriate OMHA representatives for assistance where required.

AP Regulations:

- I. A team may sign up to 19 players on their AP list. Rep players may affiliate with one Rep team at their next higher level/division. AE Players may affiliate with one Rep team at their same division/level or with one AE team at their next higher division/level. Local League players may affiliate with one Local League team in their next higher division/level, or for one Rep or AE team of their same division.
- II. A coach requiring the use of an affiliate player must first seek the approval of the players primary head coach, followed by the approval of the player's parents and then the player.
- III. An AP may decline a request from the affiliate team head coach to participate in an affiliate team game for whatever reason without sacrificing future opportunities to participate as an AP on the affiliate team.
- IV. Coaches shall not use APs for any games such that the number of skaters for those games is greater than the number of skaters on the approved roster of the affiliating team. The head coach of the affiliating team shall ensure affiliated team compliance with minimum roster size requirements imposed by OMHA, NDHL and NDLL for use of an AP by an affiliated team. In cases where a team's approved roster is less than 13 skaters, the coaching staff may decide to affiliate players to add to the roster and bring it up to at

least 13. In such case the above paragraph will not apply. This philosophy shall be discussed with the team and parents at the beginning of the season. All other AP rules still apply.

- V. In the case of teams with only one rostered goalie, an AP goalie may be used by an affiliated team without regard to roster size.
- VI. In the case where a team has two rostered goalies, an AP goalie may only be used by an affiliated team when one or both of the affiliated team's rostered goalies is unable to play. This is subject to provisions regarding AP goaltender commitment to the AP goaltender's rostered team. In cases where a team only has one rostered goalie or one of the team's rostered goalies is unavailable for a tournament, such team may AP an additional goalie for tournament purposes.
- VII. An AP's primary commitment shall be to the AP's rostered team and this commitment shall supersede any affiliated team requirements. The head coach of an affiliated team that enables the circumvention of an AP's commitment to the AP's rostered team will be subject to suspension in accordance with OMHA requirements. The privilege of an AP to affiliate with any team may be rescinded by PMHA at its sole discretion if that AP fails to demonstrate primary commitment to his/hers rostered team. An affiliated player may miss a practice with their primary team if the affiliated team has a game and the primary teams head coach and division convener have approved the player to be absent from practice.
- VIII. When an affiliate team has more than one approved AP, they must provide equal opportunities for all APs to participate in games with the affiliate team.

AP Policy Additional Notes (Replacing PMHA Policy 7.3 Affiliated Players).

- I. There is no limit on the number of games an AP player may participate in with an affiliated Rep or AE team.
- II. APs are to be used by an affiliated team only in the following situations:
 - a. When a rostered player of the affiliated team is ill;
 - b. When a rostered player of the affiliated team is injured;
 - c. When a rostered player of the affiliated team is serving an OMHA imposed suspension (an AP may not be used by an affiliate team in place of a rostered player of the affiliate team that is serving a suspension imposed by the affiliate team coaching staff);
 - d. When a rostered player of the affiliated team is missing a game for personal reasons; or
 - e. Under other circumstances with prior approval from the PMHA Executive.
- III. The number of on-ice practices that an AP may participate in with an affiliate team is limited to fifteen. Further AP participation in affiliate team on-ice practices shall be upon written PMHA Executive approval obtained by the affiliate team head coach.
- IV. A player may participate in on-ice practices and functions of a team prior that is intending to affiliate that player to their team without that player first having been assigned to an approved team roster. Notwithstanding, the foregoing, such a player may not participate in exhibition, tournament or league games or appear on a game sheet for same. This provision is intended to allow for AP inclusion in affiliated team activities after spring tryouts but before final rostering of AE and/or Local League teams would occur in the fall. This applies to both goaltenders and players when and where applicable (such as one goalie teams).

AP Policy notes specific for Local League Teams:

An affiliate team must comply with usage requirements specified in the NDLL constitution. A team may only use an AP to bring their team total for that game up to a game sheet roster size of:

- I. eleven skaters and two goalies for Novice and Atom divisions
- II. thirteen skaters and two goalies in all divisions above Atom.
- III. A Local League AP may only participate in a maximum of 5 games per season. After the fifth game, approval from PMHA executive will be considered under special circumstances. This is also the opportunity to share games played amongst the list of APs for a specific team.
- IV. ALL Local League teams wishing to AP a player must have an equal opportunity to sign all available and qualified candidates. APs cannot be signed by affiliate team on a first-come, first- served basis. The pool of identified players will be made available to all coaches of potential affiliating teams in advance of any approvals to facilitate the equitable distribution/assignment of potential APs.
- V. An attempt must be made by the affiliate team to provide equal opportunities for game play to each approved AP for that team. If an affiliated team does not offer equal game playing opportunities to an approved AP, the team will rescind their AP use privileges. Under no circumstances will the PMHA allow a team to affiliate players where the intention of the affiliated team is to prevent another team from offering affiliation to a specific player. All teams must have an equal opportunity to offer affiliation to available and qualified players.
- VI. It is PMHA's position that, outside of playdowns, there is limited benefit to the affiliated team in having APs participate in affiliated team practices as those APs will already be participating in their rostered team's practices. Participation of Local League APs in affiliated team practices will be subject to review and written (email) approval by the applicable division convener and VPLL of written (email) requests from the affiliated team head coach. For clarity, PMHA will not approve participation of APs in affiliated team practices for the general purpose of providing extra ice time for APs. Consideration will be given for AP goalie participation in affiliated team practices where the affiliated team has only one roster goalie or where the affiliated team's rostered goalies are unavailable to participate in practice.
- VII. Players in Atom and lower division may be identified and signed as APs in accordance with the procedures outlined above, however these APs will not be permitted to participate in affiliated team practices or games without the affiliated team head coach first obtaining written (email) approval from the age level convener and VPLL prior to each practice and/or game in which the affiliated team head coach proposes to have the AP participate.
- VIII. No Rostered Select team shall be permitted to affiliate a player.
- IX. A player that is rostered to a Local League team and a Rostered Select team remains eligible to AP for a higher age division local league team, the division AE team, or the same division Rep team.