



Olds Minor Hockey Association:
Player Release Policy

Organization: Olds Minor Hockey Association (OMHA)

Policy Name: Player Release Policy

Date of Policy Adoption: July 24, 2013

Date of Policy Amendments: August 19, 2024

Policy Purpose: The purpose of the Association's Player Release Policy is to comply with Hockey Canada and Hockey Alberta regulations which require all local minor hockey associations to approve the movement of resident players away from their home association. This policy is intended to give criteria and limitations to the Association when considering player movement requests.

Applicable Hockey Canada Regulation(s):	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
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Applicable Hockey Alberta Regulation(s):	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
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Applicable Olds Minor Hockey Association Bylaw(s):	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
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This policy is authorized under Article 3.7(a)(i) of the Olds Minor Hockey Association bylaws.

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Processing of Requests for Player Release:

- All requests must be made on the appropriate, fully completed, Hockey Alberta issued "Minor Hockey Player Movement Form" or, if applicable, the otherwise designated online Hockey Alberta form and/or portal.
- The player requesting release must be considered a resident or other approved player with Olds Minor Hockey Association.
- The Association will keep copies of all completed "Minor Hockey Player Movement Forms" on file.



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- Former Olds Minor Hockey players that have received a one-year release and want to return to the Association mid-season must secure a release from their new minor hockey organization to return to Olds Minor Hockey.
- Former Olds Minor Hockey players that have received a permanent release and want to return to the Association at any time must secure a release from their new minor hockey organization to return to Olds Minor Hockey.

Scenarios Where Release Approval is Not Required:

- Movement by players registered with the Canadian Sport School Hockey League.
- Movement by any resident player seeking to play for any Junior team.
- Movement by any resident player seeking to play on an elite (AAA) team of that player's age category as defined in Hockey Alberta's Male Alberta Development Model or seeking to play on an elite (AAA or AA) team of that player's age category as defined in Hockey Alberta's Female Alberta Development Model for tryouts within recruitment areas or draw zones. Movement requests for players seeking to tryout outside the recruitment area or draw zone go directly to Hockey Alberta.

Approval Criteria for Automatic Sign-Off on a Request for Player Release:

- The President will automatically sign-off on player movement requests in the following circumstances:
 - If a request for underage player acceleration tryout request is declined under the Association's "Underage Player Acceleration Policy and Procedure".

Other Release Requests:

- For release requests that are not an automatic sign off under specified circumstances, the Board of Directors will consider player release requests on a case-by-case basis. The Board of Directors will, in considering the request, reasonably factor:
 - Personal or family circumstances of the player;



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- If the release may benefit the player's development opportunities; and/or
 - Any impacts the release may have on the Association in general.
- The player and/or family unit requesting release may provide the Board a written submission in addition to the standard "Minor Hockey Player Movement Form" outlining their rationale for the request for release.
- If warranted and upon the request of the Board only, the player and/or parent/legal guardian may appear before the Board to provide a verbal submission outlining their rationale for the request for the release.

Time Limitation:

- If Board consideration is required and the Board cannot convene or facilitate a vote on the matter within seven days of receipt of the request for player release, the Team Formation Committee will reasonably engage the decision-making factors outlined under "Other Release Requests" in this policy and make a determination on behalf of the Association.

Review of Declined Player Releases:

- Players whose player movement requests are declined by the Association have the right to route their request to Hockey Alberta for review.

Policy Review: This policy will be reviewed annually by the Olds Minor Hockey Association Board of Directors.

Policy Oversight:

The President is primarily responsible for the implementation of this policy, although there are policy accountabilities for all Association affiliates.



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Operational Appendix:

Hockey Alberta: www.hockeyalberta.ca/uploads/source/Forms/Player_Movement_Process