



Olds Minor Hockey Association: Affiliation Policy and Procedure

Organization: Olds Minor Hockey Association (OMHA)

Policy Name: Affiliation Policy and Procedure

Date of Policy Adoption: November 13, 2024

Date of Policy Amendments: November 12, 2025

Policy Purpose: The purpose of the Association's Affiliation Policy and Procedure is to abide by Hockey Canada and Hockey Alberta's affiliation regulations and to establish transparent and consistent guidelines for affiliation within Olds Minor Hockey Association.

Applicable Hockey Canada Regulation(s):	No	☒ Yes
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Applicable Hockey Alberta Regulation(s):	No	☒ Yes
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Applicable Olds Minor Hockey Association Bylaw(s):	No	☒ Yes
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This policy is authorized under Article 3.7.a (i) and 11.2.d of the Olds Minor Hockey Association bylaws.

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Purpose of Affiliation:

- The goal of affiliation is to allow players the opportunity to compete and develop at a higher level, while providing the higher-level team with a player to fill their roster for practices and games.
- The Association is committed to maximizing affiliation opportunities for players and teams, as permitted, under Hockey Alberta's bylaws and regulations.



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General Affiliation Considerations and Requirements:

- Players may be affiliated with other teams according to Hockey Canada, Hockey Alberta, and applicable league regulations. When considering affiliation placements, the general interests of Olds Minor Hockey Association must also be considered.
- All affiliations are for the season only, and terminate at the end of the season.
- A player may be affiliated up to two teams, provided they are in separate age divisions.
- In the event of a misalignment of a specific league and Olds Minor Hockey's affiliation policies, regulations, and/or procedures, the league's requirements will take precedence.
- In the event of a misalignment of Hockey Alberta's and Olds Minor Hockey's affiliation policies, regulations, and/or procedures, Hockey Alberta requirements will take precedence.

Key Dates for Affiliation:

- Head coaches (applicable to AA head coaches only) are required to submit all affiliation requests to the Executive Administrator by January 10.
- The Executive Administrator will finalize all affiliations to Hockey Alberta by January 15 to meet the Hockey Canada deadline.

Circumstances for Affiliation:

- Affiliates may be used for practices, exhibition, league, playoff, provincial championship, and tournament games.

Coach Responsibilities to Affiliate Players:

- Each team may only use affiliated players up to the number of players that each league allows. It is the head coach's responsibility to know the affiliation rules and regulations for the league they are playing in, as well as Hockey Alberta regulations.



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- Coaches of the affiliating team must obtain permission from the head coach of the player's regular team before directly extending an invitation to the player or the player's parents to attend a practice or game. If the head coach cannot be contacted, an effort must be made to contact another team official (i.e. assistant coach, manager) to obtain permission.
- Coaches on the player's regular team may only decline participation if the player is under suspension or if the player has a regular season, playoff, or tournament game commitment. Coaches must allow the player to compete with the higher-level team if a practice or exhibition game conflict exists.
- Challenges or disagreements in the affiliation process must be escalated to the Division Coordinator for decision.

Priorities for Affiliate Call-Ups:

- The team with the game should always take priority over practice.
- If the requested player's team has a game on the same day or time as the affiliate team, preference should be given to the primary team. Exceptions to this standard include:
 - The affiliating team requires a goaltending position filled;
 - The affiliating team requires the player to enable a minimum of 12 skaters.
- The decision regarding a specific call up should ultimately be left up to the player and the player's parent/guardian, without negative repercussions for the player's decision.

Player Requirements to Affiliate:

- The requested player must be in good standing with his or her team and must not be serving a suspension.
- A player may be denied affiliation by their head coach if the player has displayed a pattern of negative, undisciplined, or bad behaviour on their team.



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Affiliating Goalkeepers:

- If a goalkeeper is called up but does not play, the on-ice official must sign the game sheet stating that the goalkeeper did not play the particular game. By doing this, the goalkeeper does not have to count the game as one of the ten permitted affiliated games.

Tiering Grid and Affiliations:

- Hockey Alberta's "Affiliation Eligibility Tool" should be referenced to determine the eligibility of affiliation. Under Hockey Alberta's Supplementation/ Affiliation bylaws and regulations, the "Affiliation Eligibility Tool" will be the determinant in finalizing affiliations.
- Olds Minor Hockey Association reserves the right to adjust affiliations as necessary, depending on where teams tier.

Affiliating Within Intro to Hockey:

- As specified by Hockey Alberta Intro to Hockey Regulation 6.1:

"The filing of Affiliation is not required within Intro to Hockey Divisions (U7 and U9). When needed by the Team [sic], or in the best interest of a player, MHA's will be permitted to use age-appropriate players that are registered within their U7 and/or U9 program for any sanctioned games."

Affiliating by CAHL Teams:

- All affiliations will be done by the Executive Administrator after team formation.

Affiliating by AA Teams:

- Affiliates for AA teams must be chosen from within the draw zone.
- AA affiliate forms must be filled out and emailed to registrar@oldsminorhockey.com in a PDF format.



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Affiliating Female Players:

- All affiliations will be done by the Executive Administrator after team formation.
- According to Hockey Alberta Minor Female Hockey Regulation 7.11:

“Female players playing on Minor Hockey teams are permitted to affiliate to Minor Female Teams, and Female players playing on Minor Female teams are permitted to affiliate to Minor Hockey teams.”

Roster Size Requirements and Number of Affiliates:

- Teams may utilize Affiliate Player's up to the maximum roster size of eighteen (18) skaters and two (2) goaltenders.
- According to Hockey Alberta Minor Hockey Regulation 7.3:

“A Hockey Team may affiliate up to a maximum of nineteen (19) Players from a lower Division or Category within the MHA.”

Documentation Requirements for Affiliation:

- Prior to a team using an affiliated player, the affiliated player must be added to the team in the Hockey Canada Registry and identified as "Affiliate Player".
- Teams must be able to present a copy of their official Hockey Canada Registry roster approved affiliates listed upon request.
- The team using the affiliate player must identify the player on the game sheet as an “AP” (Affiliate Player).
- Any player participating in any game as an affiliated player without proper approval or registration in the Hockey Canada Registry as an “Affiliate Player” shall be considered an Ineligible Player and team officials are subject to discipline in accordance with Hockey Alberta Minor Regulations.

Number of Affiliated Games:

- As specified in Hockey Alberta Minor Hockey Regulation 7.12:



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“Providing affiliation has been properly filed, an Affiliated Player may play with the Hockey Team to which the Player is affiliated up to a maximum of ten (10) games, excluding exhibition and tournament games. Should an affiliated Hockey Player play more than ten (10) games with the Hockey Team to which the player is affiliated, they shall be considered an “Ineligible Player” for the affiliated team. However, if the player’s registered team completes its regular season and playoffs before the player’s affiliated team, the player may thereafter affiliate an unlimited number of times.

Exception: Any player registered in the U9 division, affiliated to the U11 division, must have completed their hockey season in full (including exhibition games and festivals) to affiliate beyond a 10th game.”

Official Participation in the Game:

As specified in Hockey Alberta Minor Hockey Regulation 7.13:

“... Appearance of an Affiliate Player’s name on the official game report shall be considered participation in a game.

Exception: For an alternate goalkeeper, actual participation in the game shall be the only consideration for taking part in the game. Such participation shall be specially noted on the official game report.”

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

Policy Oversight:

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