



AFFILIATE PLAYER POLICY

JULY 29, 2026

1) Introduction:

- 1.1 In accordance with our mission and mandate, it is the intent of this policy to provide direction in terms of the use of Affiliate Players (AP) within our Association.
- 1.2 The definition of an **Affiliate Player** is a skater or goalie that is irregularly called upon to maintain a minimum number of rostered players of a higher based team. A higher based team is defined as a team either skill based (rep and the qualitative levels within) or by division (age). The AP is NOT a member of the higher quality-based team. They are a “rental player”. If a team is down a forward/defence skater, or goalie, they will affiliate a like position player -forward/defence/goalie - to give them a pre-required number of line pairings, or back-up goalie as per PCAHA rules and regulations.
- 1.3 Being designated an affiliate player is a privilege, not a right. Player attitude and performance are important factors in the selection of affiliate players.
- 1.4 All affiliate playing rules of HC, BC Hockey and PCAHA are to be recognized as part of this policy unless specifically recorded as amended by SMHA.

2) General:

- 2.1 All Affiliate Players MUST play with their own originally rostered team as their **first priority** should a conflict occur in game scheduling. At no time should the use of an AP conflict with the original lower teams practice except under exceptional cases that will be reviewed by both teams Head Coaches (and the Division Manager if necessary).
- 2.2 All affiliate players will be approved by the division manager of their respective divisions prior to initial contact being made by the higher team coach to the player/parents (guardians) and current coach of the prospectus AP.
- 2.3 It is the duty of the coach of the higher based team to explain in full, the rules and ramifications for this Affiliation to the parents (guardians) of the proposed AP.
- 2.4 All Affiliate Players, and their parents (guardians), with full knowledge, will agree to their affiliation to the higher based team via email to the division manager prior to being officially rostered, or called up, as an AP to that higher based team.
- 2.5 All Affiliate Players will be eligible to play at the highest possible level in relation to their skills and capabilities.
- 2.6 Affiliation requests must be approved by the lower based team head coach before speaking with the parents or player and will not be unreasonably denied.
- 2.7 The affiliated player will be designated on the official game sheet with an “AP” behind their name.

- 2.8 Multiple Affiliations (players), from various lower-level teams (if possible) for the same position should be made to:
- a) avoid team game conflicts, see point 2.1.
 - b) ensure enough players are available to comply with the PCAHA affiliate player rules and regulations.
 - c) Team Managers (of both teams involved), need to keep track of AP games played and fully understand the PCAHA AP rules and permitted number of games.
- 2.9 Affiliation is not a perfect practice and often happens on very short notice. It is important for all coaches, parents and players to be respectful and make it a positive experience for all parties involved. ***The team and parents the AP players are affiliating with, also need to be respectful and welcome the AP onto the teams as if they are a regular member of the roster.***

3) RECREATIONAL “C” U11 – U18 Affiliation

- 3.1 Affiliate Players are done on a game-by-game basis. AP’s must be drawn from recreational “C” teams in a lower division.
- 3.2 The PCAHA affiliate player rule (Section 30), shall only be applied in situations in which a team has fewer than 12 skaters or no goaltender available for a particular game, in order to be eligible. No player may play as an AP unless permission has been obtained from the PCAHA League Manager for each division.
- 3.3 When the AP rule is utilized, the team can only apply for permission to draw AP’s to bring the playing roster for the game in question to the original roster size or a maximum of 13 skaters and 1 goalie.
- 3.4 A player of a team of a lower division or category may play as an Affiliate Player (as defined in Section C(25) of the PCAHA Rules and Regulations) for a team or teams of higher divisions and categories at any time, to a maximum of ten (10) league and/or playoff games. An Affiliate Player who participates in more than ten (10) games will be deemed to be an ineligible player. Exhibition and/or tournament/jamboree games are excluded from the number of games referred to in Section C(29) of the PCAHA Rules and Regulations.
- 3.5 **Affiliate Player - Goalies.** No replacement can be made for any ill or injured player in competition within the PCAHA, except the goaltender. See Section 22 of the PCAHA Rules and Regulations and Section C(24). All Affiliate goaltenders must be approved by the League Manager and in the event that registered goalies in a particular division are at a level where multiple teams are carrying one or no goalies, they may apply for a multi-game replacement exemption. The above procedures must be followed however the request may cover a series of games rather than game by game.

4) RECREATIONAL “C” INITIATION U7-U9

4.1 Please refer to the PCAHA Rules & Regulations on Affiliate players section 30.

1.1 **U9 players** may only be drawn as AP’s in U11 C for a maximum of 3 league, playoff, tournament/jamboree or exhibition games or if they have not played any league, tournament/jamboree, or exhibition games the AP may play one (1) complete sanctioned tournament per PCAHA regulations section 30 (c).

4.2 For **U7-U9**, the AP rule shall be as follows:

- (i) U9 major teams shall draw Affiliate Players from U9 minor teams within the Association.
- (ii) U9 minor shall draw Affiliate Players from U7 major teams within the Association.
- (iii) U7 major teams shall draw Affiliate Players from U7 minor teams within the Association.

Any player playing as an Affiliate Player in U7 and U9 shall be permitted to play a maximum of 3 league, playoff, tournament/jamboree or exhibition games or if they have not played any league, tournament/jamboree, or exhibition games the AP may play one (1) complete sanctioned tournament per PCAHA regulations section 30 (c).

5) REP “A”

A Rep team may designate more than five (5) Affiliate Players, up to the maximum permitted by Hockey Canada / BC Hockey regulations. The number of Affiliate Players designated shall reflect the developmental objectives of the program and shall not be used to circumvent roster limits.

5.1 Consideration for affiliation to a higher-level rep team will be given to the following players, based on approvals by the Division Manager:

- a. Released players who exemplify the values of SMHA and have proven to be good teammates with their own team.
- b. Released players who demonstrate strong play, recognized by their own coach, the coach of the higher level team or both (includes self-releases).
- c. Players from the age division below.

5.2 Rep teams will select Affiliate Players in the following order of priority, subject to Division Manager approval:

- a. From the lower category team(s) within the same division (e.g., A1 from A2; A2 from C);
- b. From appropriate lower division Rep or Recreational teams, where developmentally appropriate

and permitted under PCAHA and BC Hockey regulations.

Nothing in this section restricts a Rep team from affiliating a player from the “A1” team of the lower division where deemed appropriate for player development and team needs.

- 5.3 Coaches wishing to AP a player per PCAHA rules, must first receive permission from the players’ coach, then the players parents and player and then notify the division manager (who will approve all AP's), prior to adding the player to the roster as AP. **The player must give priority to the team the player is rostered with.** When a coach requests a player to AP for a game from a lower division, the player’s coach must be notified and give his/her approval prior to any game.
- 5.4 Where possible, players called up to AP for an upcoming game should be invited to at least one or two of the higher-level teams’ practices prior to being called up, but the AP’s are not permitted to attend practices on a regular basis. AP’s are not to be treated as regular rostered players and shall not replace the development opportunities of rostered players; however, participation frequency may vary depending on team needs and development objectives.
- 5.5 The maximum number of games an Affiliate Player shall be permitted to play with U11 “A” teams shall be restricted to five (5) league and/or playoff games. Exhibition and/or tournament/jamboree games are excluded from the number of games.

6) DESIGNATION OF AFFILIATE PLAYERS

For Rep teams, the designation of Affiliate Players shall be done in accordance with the following:

- a) The higher based team will validate that the AP has completed a valid body checking clinic for affiliating players in the U15 and above divisions.
- b) Divisional Rep teams will prioritize Affiliate Players from the lower category within the same division; however, where appropriate and in alignment with PCAHA and BC Hockey rules, teams may designate Affiliate Players from lower divisions, including Rep or Recreational teams, subject to Division Manager approval.
- c) First year players of the recreational “C” league are not eligible to affiliate to a Rep team of a higher division unless at the discretion of the Board. For example, a first year U13 - aged “C” player cannot affiliate to a U15 - Rep lowest tier team (A2).
- d) To avoid game conflict times, the teams head Coaches need to have meaningful dialogue amongst themselves before submitting their AP lists for approval.
- e) Generally, the older aged player of the division should be affiliated before a younger aged player if skill levels are equal. This is to benefit the player called up for the continuation of the competitive development.
- f) The Association mandates that all Rep teams designate a minimum of five (5) Affiliate Players. As

a form of development and succession planning, each Rep team shall ensure a minimum of twenty-five (25) total Affiliate Player participation sessions (combined practices and/or games) over the course of the season. These sessions may be distributed among designated Affiliate Players at the discretion of the Head Coach, taking into account development, team needs, and scheduling constraints. There is no guarantee of a minimum number of sessions per individual Affiliate Player.

Designation as an Affiliate Player does not imply advancement, guaranteed game participation, or future placement on a Rep roster.

All parental (guardian) approvals for affiliation of their children, is to be recorded, using an email confirmation of the same, by the higher based team. This confirmation is to remain with the team and copied to the division manager and be available for viewing at any time throughout the current season by the SMHA Board.

Division Managers shall maintain a current season AP designation list for oversight and compliance purposes.

7) EFFECTIVE DATE

This policy was approved by the Board on July 29, 2026.