



Whistler Minor Hockey Association Affiliate Player Program Guide

The Whistler Minor Hockey Association (WMHA) has put together this affiliate program guide to outline the expectations, process, and rules on the use of affiliated players. An affiliated player (AP) is a player who is eligible to play on their own registered team, plus other teams of a higher age division or category. The WMHA operates on the viewpoint that a robust affiliation program is an important part of a progressive and effective development program. As a small association a robust affiliation program will help keep aspiring rep players engaged and will provide them with an opportunity to access higher level coaching and faster pace practices and games. In addition, this program will help aspiring rep players to continue to develop and acquire skills to move into the competitive program; helping to keep the gap between house and competitive players from growing too large. Coaches in the WMHA are to encourage, promote and seek out affiliation opportunities for players on and to their team. The WMHA Coach Coordinator will help coordinate the affiliation of players to ensure that affiliates are evenly distributed among teams and so that one person has a high level view of the program. The WMHA believes strongly in the affiliate program and desires to see AP's used as often as possible.

Selection of Affiliated Players

To ensure a coordinated approach to the AP program and transparency and fairness the decision of who will be an AP for the team will be in consultation with the rostered Coach of the AP and the Coach of the affiliated team. The Coach Coordinator will also be looped in and provided an opportunity to provide input. The following things should be considered when an AP is selected:

- Player attitude, effort, and practice attendance on their rostered team
- Player position - what position is needed for the team requesting an AP?
- Does the player have rep intent? Did they try out for rep?
- As much as is practicable, AP's should be rotated into the higher team's roster equally (i.e. the same AP should not be called up by the higher category team every time an AP is needed)
- Are they already an affiliate with another team? If so, is there another player that can be given the opportunity to AP?
- Is it safe for the player to play at a higher level? (see Safety Considerations for more information)

Safety Considerations

Safety of players is a key part of the affiliation program. Player safety should be considered when rostering them as an AP. Safety considerations include:

- As a prerequisite, AP's practicing or playing with a U15 to U18 rep team must have a Intro to Hitting and a Checking Clinic
- The number of ice times/games a player is playing should be considered by both Coaches; if there are too many games and practices in a week the player could be at a higher risk for injury
- If a player is injured in a practice or game or was involved in an incident in which the mechanism was high, the AP's Rostered Coach and the Coach Coordinator must be notified as soon as possible

Process for Affiliation

1. The AP Coach will connect with the Coach of the team they wish to AP a player from. Using the selection criteria listed above, they will review the criteria for AP selection and together select a player that is the best fit
2. The AP Coach will advise the Coach Coordinator via email that an AP has been selected. The Coach Coordinator may provide feedback if desired
3. The Affiliate Team Manager will reach out to the AP's Team Manager and ask them to seek approval from the AP and their parents
4. If the player and parents accept the AP spot, the AP Coach should connect with the AP and their parents to outline the AP role.
 1. Is this for a certain position?
 2. Is this for practices or games or tournaments?
 3. Is this strictly for player injuries and suspensions?
 4. How many games can the AP expect?
 5. How much ice time can the AP expect?
5. For specific game dates, the Affiliate Team Manager will reach out to the AP's Team Manager for each game to ensure there are no conflicts and seek approval from the AP's rostered Coach

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is an AP player?

An affiliated player (AP) is a player who is eligible to play on their own registered team, plus another team of a higher age division or category.

2. How many games can an AP play?

AP's are limited to ten games maximum over the course of the regular season. AP's may not play an eleventh game until their registered team has completed their season. The AP game count is cumulative and includes any games played as an affiliate; it is not 10 games for one team and 10 games for another. However, if the player's registered team completes its regular season and playoffs before the player's affiliated team or teams, the player may thereafter affiliate an unlimited number of times.

Exception: Goalies are not limited to ten games.

Exception: U11 are limited to 5 games.

Exception: Any U9 player playing as an Affiliate Player in U11 "C" shall be restricted to either: (i) a maximum total of 3 league, playoff, tournament/jamboree, or exhibition games, or (ii) if a player has not played any league, playoff, tournament/jamboree, or exhibition games as an Affiliate Player, one (1) complete sanctioned tournament/jamboree.

Exception: U6/U7 are limited to 3 games

3. Can players affiliate with more than one team?

Yes, a player can affiliate with more than one team however they can only affiliate for one rep or competitive team. However, in order to give other players an opportunity to AP it is preferred that if other players are available that do not have an AP spot that they are considered

4. Do Exhibition/Tournament games count within the ten games?

No, exhibition or tournament games, which are not part of regular League games or play-off games, are excluded from the number of games.

Exception: Any U9 player playing as an Affiliate Player in U11 “C” shall be restricted to either: (i) a maximum total of 3 league, playoff, tournament/jamboree, or exhibition games, or (ii) if a player has not played any league, playoff, tournament/jamboree, or exhibition games as an Affiliate Player, one (1) complete sanctioned tournament/jamboree.

5. Where can the AP’s be drawn from?

Affiliated players can come from either the same age division, lower category or the same category, lower age division. Teams from different divisions and/or categories competing within the same League are not permitted to affiliate between themselves.

Exception: Where a “C” team has no goaltender for a particular game and an affiliate is not available, application in writing may be made to the responsible “C” Managing Director for permission to utilize a Minor “C” goaltender from the same division within the Association. Such application shall be on Association letterhead signed by the Association President or his/her designate. The emergency replacement goaltender may not commence play until written permission has been obtained from the “C” Managing Director, and may participate only in the designated game(s).

6. How many affiliate players can a team draw per game? (C teams only)

A team can only draw affiliate players to bring its playing roster for the game up to the lesser of:

- i. its original roster size as registered with PCAHA, or
- ii. a maximum of 13 skaters in the case of skaters or a maximum of 1 goaltender in the case of goaltenders

Exceptions:

- i. a rep team rostering only one goalie is affiliating a backup goalie*
- ii. for tournaments, where a team may wish to augment their bench in case of an injury or suspension*

7. What if the affiliate player does not play in a game?

AP will be designated on the official game sheet with an “AP” behind their name. Appearance of an affiliated player’s name on the official game report of a game shall be considered participation in the game. Goalies will only count games in which they participate and not as backup.

8. Do AP’s contribute to Rep fees (as applicable)?

Players will not pay rep fees for games and practices.

9. Can you bring an AP up for practice and not AP them in a game?

Yes, the WMHA encourages coaches to bring players up for practice even if there is not an AP game spot available.

9. What is the final date to register affiliated players?

January 15, 2022 is the final date for filing list of AP’s..

10. Is there a maximum number of players a team can affiliate?

Yes, there is a maximum of nineteen affiliated players. If a team has selected the maximum number of affiliated players, at least two affiliated players must be goaltenders. [Reference: [Hockey Canada Bylaw - Regulation F Affiliation](#) – page 82]

11. Can U9 players affiliate to U11?

Yes, but with some restrictions. U9 players may only be drawn as Affiliate Players in U11 "C". However, any U9 player playing as an Affiliate Player in U11 "C" shall be restricted to either: (i) a maximum total of 3 league, playoff, tournament/jamboree, or exhibition games, or (ii) if a player has not played any league, playoff, tournament/jamboree, or exhibition games as an Affiliate Player, one (1) complete sanctioned tournament/jamboree.

12. Does the AP's Coach need to approve it?

Yes, A Player must have the approval of his/her registered Team. The lower-level coach may only deny the request if there is a game conflict or if it is reasonable to believe that it will have significant impact on the player's ability to perform in a game for their regular team. Similarly, coaches using affiliated players must notify the affiliates regular coaching staff following a game should injuries or suspensions occur. Team officials must respect this policy and make no effort to discourage affiliated players from participating with affiliated teams

13. What happens if a player is suspended?

Suspensions are always served with the registered team (it does not matter which team the player got the suspension with) unless the affiliate is away at a tournament with his/her affiliated team.