



Bashaw Minor Hockey Association Policy for Player Affiliation

Our association supports the opportunity for players to affiliate to higher-level teams when appropriate. However, not all players will automatically be given the opportunity to affiliate.

Affiliates will be selected by the coaching staff of the higher-level team in consultation with the player's current coach. Selection will be based on:

- **Skill Level** – The player must demonstrate the ability to safely and competitively participate at the higher level.
- **Emotional Readiness** – The player must show maturity and the ability to handle the increased expectations and pressures of affiliating.
- **Team Balance and Fairness** – Affiliation decisions will consider the impact on both the player's home team and the higher-level team to ensure balance based on the team's needs.

Coaches may periodically reassess players in the lower division during the season. If a player demonstrates improvement in skill, maturity, or readiness, they may be considered for affiliation at that time.

Affiliates must be submitted to the Registrar. The affiliate must be approved by Hockey Alberta in the registry prior to play. Affiliates can be added to the team's HCR up to January 15th.

Hockey Alberta Policy:

- **Game Limit:** An affiliated player may play up to ten (10) games with the team to which they are affiliated—this excludes exhibition and tournament games.
- **Ineligibility:** If the player appears in more than ten such games, they become an “Ineligible Player” for the affiliated team.
- **Exception:** If the player's registered (“home”) team completes its regular season and playoffs before the affiliated team, the player may then affiliate and play an unlimited number of additional games with the other team.
- **Special 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.

- **Game Participation Definition:** Simply having the player's name on the official game report counts as participation—except for alternate goaltenders, where actual on-ice participation must occur to count, and this must be specifically noted on the official game report.

Affiliation is not a guarantee. It is intended to provide development opportunities for players who are ready, while also ensuring safety, team needs and a positive team environment for all.

Affiliation Usage Policy

To ensure fairness and protect the development of all players, affiliate players may only be used when a team's roster falls below the following minimum numbers:

- U9 – Affiliates may only be called to play a game if the roster has 8 or less.
- U11+ – Affiliates may only be called upon to bring the roster size up to 12 players maximum for a game. (Hockey Alberta)
- Rules apply for league, playoff, exhibition or tournament games.

This policy ensures that affiliates are used for team support in situations of low numbers, not to replace rostered players or alter the balance of the team.

- U9 Practices: Affiliates are only called upon to practice with the U9 if less than 6 players will be in attendance.
- U11+ Practices: Affiliates will be permitted to attend at the request of the head coach.

This ensures that practice time remains focused on developing the players rostered to that team, rather than bringing in affiliates unnecessarily.

Communication Protocol

- The team manager will be provided with the contact information for affiliate players.
- If a coach requires an affiliate for a game or practice, the coach will request the team manager to contact the head coach of the player's team. If they consent then the manager will contact the parents of the affiliate player or players. The affiliate players team should be first priority and should not be permitted to play if there is a schedule conflict.
- Parents are asked to confirm availability with the team manager promptly so coaches can plan accordingly.
- This ensures clear communication, consistent messaging, and respect for families' time.

If concerns arise, any member could contact the Discipline Director.

Affiliation Information for Parents

Not all players will have the opportunity to affiliate with the next level team. Affiliates are chosen by the coaches based on skill, maturity, and readiness to safely play at the higher level. Throughout the season, coaches may reassess players in the lower division, and if a child shows progress and is ready, they may then be considered for affiliation. Affiliation is not guaranteed and is meant to provide development opportunities if the team is short on players while keeping the experience fair, safe, and positive for all players.