



POLICY ADVISORY

Advisory #: 2012-2013-1

Date: October 30, 2012

Subject: U12 and below player pick up policies

Policy Manual Section: D. Registration and Team Formation (sub-section 2.3)

+ U9-U12 Handbook

Member Associations and Leagues:

BCRA has received numerous questions and concerns related to player pick up policies in the non-tiered, U12 and younger age categories. Specifically the restrictions limiting the number of times a player may be used for temporary participation in a season. The current policy (highlighted below) places several limitations on player pick up including regular roster size, a maximum of two league games or one sanctioned tournament in a season and a percentage maximum for pick up players.

BCRA POLICY MANUAL (Section D. Registration and Team Formation, sub-section 2.3)

Lateral Pick-up (non-tiered divisions only): In non-tiered divisions, teams from the same association are permitted pickup players from other equal caliber teams within their own division and association providing the following criteria are met:

- *A team may only pick up to their regular roster size, unless the team has less than 11 players on their roster in which case they may pick up to a roster of 11 players.*
- *The roster of the team picking up players must be 75% original roster players (i.e. no more than 25% pick-ups).*
- The "borrowing" team must work through the entire roster of the "supplying" team before being able to pick-up the same player again. By "work through" it is understood that not every player on the supplying team may take the opportunity to play for the borrowing team, but that every player on the supplying team must be given this opportunity.
- *All players are eligible to be picked-up for a maximum of two league games or one sanctioned tournament in a season.*

If a player plays with the same or another higher age division/level of play team in an additional tournament or third or more league games, the team will forfeit the games. The player will not have the right to become a member of that team and must return to their original team.

This policy applies to league and tournament play. All eligible players from the borrowing roster who are not participating must have a documented reason for not attending the tournament.

Note: The intent of this is to allow only for the replacement of players who are unable to attend the event, and to support the formation of smaller roster teams. It is not intended to create combination teams.

After a preliminary review, there is sufficient information to indicate that given the non-tiered nature of U12 and younger divisions where the emphasis is on general participation rather than competition, these player pick up limitations are inconsistent with LTAD standards indicated for these age groups. In particular the limitations are found to contradict LTAD recommendations that smaller teams are encouraged to increase participation opportunities in that they make formation of smaller teams extremely difficult. As a result, these limitations have now been identified for review and revision by BCRA's Sport & Athlete Development Committee.

The BCRA office has received requests for exemptions to this current policy but is not able to consider individual policy exemption requests. However, in light of delays in establishing the new Sport & Athlete Development Committee, which hinders BCRA's ability to more formally respond to this policy problem in a timely manner we are taking interim steps to temporarily address this critical participation issue on an equitable, province-wide basis for the remainder of this season.

2012-2013 Season Procedure

Due to the non-tiered, recreational nature of U12 and younger divisions, BCRA will only require associations and leagues to apply the following policy standard for player pick up in U12 and younger divisions for the remainder of the 2012-2013 season:

- The "borrowing" team must work through the entire roster of the "supplying" team before being able to pick-up the same player again. By "work through" it is understood that not every player on the supplying team may take the opportunity to play for the borrowing team, but that every player on the supplying team must be given this opportunity.

Policy Advisory Distribution:

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League Presidents
BCRA Sport & Athlete Development Committee (Chair)
Sanctioned Event Hosts