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**Affiliated Players (AP)**

**Intent**

It is the position of Meadow Lake Minor Hockey Association that the use of Affiliated Players (AP) is essential to ensure that players on rostered teams are not denied participation in scheduled competitive hockey games due to forfeiture because their team is unable to ice a minimum number of players or otherwise be competitive as a result of rostered player absences on a team, for whatever reason. It is also MLMHA’s position that making APs available to affiliate teams should not be disruptive to the APs rostered team. As such, the primary purpose for player affiliation (AP) is to ensure that teams have sufficient available players for fair and safe play in cases of illness, injury, suspension, or other unavailability. In addition, player development is part of the overall AP experience, all players that affiliate with a team should have an opportunity to be developed in order to allow that player to be successful if they are called up for a game situation.

This policy as outlined in this section is intended to supplement the rules set out from time to time established by Hockey Saskatchewan (HS), the Tri-City Hockey League (TCHL), the Saskatchewan Female Hockey League (SFHL), and any other league that MLMHA may be associated with pertaining to APs, as they may be modified from time to time. Where there is disagreement between this AP Policy and HS/TCHL/SFHL/other league AP rules, the more restrictive policy/rule shall apply.

**Procedures**

1. MLMHA shall follow all HS regulations and handbook items relating to affiliate players <https://hockeysask.ca/members/governance/affiliations-mr>
2. Hockey Teams may affiliate players from a team within their Association in a lower tier, Division, or category.
3. These players may participate in League, Exhibition, Tournaments, playoffs, and Provincials.
4. A hockey team may affiliate:
* One entire hockey team from a lower Division or category within MLMHA, OR
* Up to 19 players from a lower Division or category within MLMHA as per HS regulations.
1. A Coach requiring the use of an affiliate player must first seek the approval of the players primary Head Coach, followed by the approval of the player’s parents and then the player.
2. All player affiliations must be approved by the Division Commissioner before filing the form with HS. Any conflict between the Team Manager and Commissioner shall be dealt with by the MLMHA Board.
3. An AP may decline a request from the affiliate team Head Coach to participate in an affiliate team game for whatever reason without sacrificing future opportunities to participate as an AP on the affiliate team.
4. Coaches shall not use APs for any games such that the number of skaters for those games is greater than the number of skaters on the approved roster of the affiliating team. The head coach of the affiliating team shall ensure affiliated team compliance with minimum roster size requirements imposed by HS, TCHL, or any other league for use of an AP by an affiliated team. In cases where a team’s approved roster is less than 13 skaters, the coaching staff may decide to affiliate players to add to the roster and bring it up to at least 13. In such case the above paragraph will not apply. This philosophy shall be discussed with the team and parents at the beginning of the season. All other AP rules still apply.
5. In the case where a team has two rostered goalies, an AP goalie may only be used by an affiliated team when one or both of the affiliated team’s rostered goalies are unable to play. This is subject to provisions regarding AP goaltender commitment to the AP goaltender’s rostered team. In cases where a team only has one rostered goalie or one of the team’s rostered goalies is unavailable for a tournament, such team may AP an additional goalie for tournament purposes.
6. An APs primary commitment shall be to the APs rostered team and this commitment shall supersede any affiliated team requirements. The Head Coach of an affiliated team that enables the circumvention of an APs commitment to the APs rostered team will be subject to review by the MLMHA Board and may face disciplinary action. The privilege of an AP to affiliate with any team may be rescinded by MLMHA at its sole discretion if that AP fails to demonstrate primary commitment to his/her rostered team. An affiliated player may miss a practice with their primary team if the affiliated team has a game and the primary teams Head Coach and Division Commissioner have approved the player to be absent from practice.
7. When an affiliate team has more than one approved AP, they must provide equal opportunities for all APs to participate in games with the affiliate team.
8. There is no limit on the number of games an AP player may participate in.
9. APs are to be used by an affiliated team only in the following situations:
* When a rostered player of the affiliated team is ill;
* When a rostered player of the affiliated team is injured;
* When a rostered player of the affiliated team is serving a HS imposed suspension (an AP may not be used by an affiliate team in place of a rostered player of the affiliate team that is serving a suspension imposed by the affiliate team coaching staff);
* When a rostered player of the affiliated team is missing a game for personal reasons; or
* Under any other circumstances with prior approval from the Division Commissioner or MLMHA Board
1. Affiliate players are not to practice or remain as permanent players with their respected affiliated team and should be based on a team's needs in supplementing a temporary incomplete roster. In an effort to help support the development of APs, MLMHA understands a time when an affiliate player may be required to practice (e.g. tournament, playoffs, etc.) and accordingly deems it fit to practice with the affiliated team at the discretion of the Coach and with MLMHA Board approval when such team has individual ice allocated.
2. The number of on-ice practices that an AP may participate in with an affiliate team is limited to fifteen (15). Further AP participation in affiliate team on-ice practices shall be upon MLMHA Board approval obtained by the affiliate team Head Coach.

**Additional Information**

In the U7 and U9 Divisions, teams may affiliate players from one another, in the same tier, for tournament and exhibition games only (ie. A U9 team may not affiliate another U9 player from the same tier for a league game).

In the U7 and U9 Divisions, affiliate players may only be used if the affiliating team is unable to ice a team of eleven (11) players. When APs are used, the total on the team cannot exceed eleven (11) players in these Divisions.