

PEACE RIVER DISTRICT MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

AFFILIATE PLAYER POLICY

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 District 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 (development/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 PRDMHA rules and regulations.
- 1.3 Being designated an affiliate player is a privilege, not a right. Player performance and attitude are important factors in the selection of affiliate players. It also follows that being called up to play with a higher-level team is also a privilege and not a right.
- 1.4 All affiliate playing rules of HC, BC Hockey and PRDMHA are to be recognized as part of this policy unless specifically recorded as amended by PRDMHA.

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. Permission to use an AP player must be sought from the originally rostered team coach on a game by game basis. At no time should the use of an AP conflict with the original lower teams practice except with originally rostered head coach permission that will be reviewed by both teams Head Coaches (and the Division Coordinator/Manager if necessary).
- 2.2 All affiliate players will be approved by the division coordinator/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 PRDMHA affiliate player rules and regulations.
 - c) Team Managers (of both teams involved), need to keep track of AP games played and fully understand the PRDMHA AP policy 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 U11 – U18 Affiliation

- 3.1 Affiliate Players are done on a game-by-game basis. AP's must be drawn from recreational teams in a lower division.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 It is recommended if available, that AP players are drawn from the second year (older aged) pool of players on the lower based team.
- 3.4 **Affiliate Player - Goalies.** No replacement can be made for any ill or injured player in competition within the PRDMHA, except the goaltender. All Affiliate goaltenders must be rostered to the higher division team and may only affiliate to one team. In the event that no AP Goalie is rostered or available, teams must use the BC Hockey Minor Hockey Goaltender Replacement/Relief Request form found on the NERHL.com website or available on the BC Hockey website, submitted to the district association for approval. The above procedures must be followed however the request may cover a series of games rather than game by game.

- 3.5 AFFILIATED PLAYERS are permitted to play a maximum of 10 games with their Affiliated team. Regular Season, Tournament or Play-off games are included in the 10 game limit. Exhibition games, which are not part of regular League games, are excluded from the 10 game limit. Once the maximum number of games has been reached the affiliated player must be added to the roster of the higher level team permanently in accordance with rostering deadlines as specified by Hockey Canada and BC Hockey and PRDMHA to continue play with the Affiliated team.

4) DEVELOPMENT TIER 1 & TIER 2

As this level of hockey is highly competitive, the AP process has several guiding factors over and above the “general” rules outlined previously. A Hockey Canada/BC Hockey Development or rep team may affiliate up to 19 players, 2 of which MUST be goalies. No player is permitted to be part of more than one (1) AP list at any time during the current season.

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

- a. Last REP release(s) depending on whether multiple releases were made at the same time
 - b. Players who have dropped themselves to recreational (self-releases before rep rosters are formed)
 - c. Players identified by Head Coaches who have permission from their association President, Division Coordinator/Manager and/or Head Coach from recreational divisions
 - d. Players from the age division below
- 4.1 Coaches wishing to AP a player per PRDMHA policies, must first receive permission from the players’ coach, then the players parents and player and then notify the division coordinator, director, president or designated executive (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 contact with the player, player’s parents/guardians and prior to any game.
- 4.2 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** and must obtain permission to miss their originally rostered practices if there is conflict in schedule.
- 4.3 Generally, AP’s when called up to a game are to have a regular shift at the discretion of the coach, but AP’s are not to take ice time away from rostered players that have earned their position on the higher level teams roster.

5) DESIGNATION OF AFFILIATE PLAYERS

5.1 The designation of Affiliate Players will be done according to 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 or has played a partial or entire season in full contact hockey programs.
- b) Divisional Development or Rep teams will make every attempt to list affiliate players from the lower category of the like Development or Rep hockey division. For example: U15 – Tracker Team pulls from Tier 2 and U15 – Tier 2 pulls from U15 – Tier 3 or U15 Recreational.
- c) First year players of the recreational division league are not eligible to affiliate to a Development or Rep team of a higher division at the discretion of the board. For example, a first year U13 recreational player cannot affiliate to a U15 – Development or Rep lowest Highest Tier team without explicit written permission from their home association President with detailed explanation and PRDMHA subsequent approval.
- 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.

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 PRDMHA Board.