

# STETTLER MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

## Affiliate Player (AP) Guidelines

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*Date of Adoption: May 2026*

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### **Purpose**

The purpose of this guideline is to establish clear parameters for the use of Affiliate Players (APs) within Stettler Minor Hockey Association (SMHA) teams. The intent is to ensure fair player development, maintain roster integrity and provide teams with the ability to ice a full lineup when rostered players are unavailable.

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### **1. Definition of an Affiliate Player**

An AP is a player registered on a lower division or lower tier team who has been formally designated as eligible to play for a higher division or tier team when required.

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### **2. General Principle**

APs may only be used when a team is unable to field a full roster due to the absence of a rostered player(s). Teams must not use APs to strengthen their lineup when all rostered players are available.

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### **3. Conditions for Use**

APs may be used under the following conditions:

- A rostered player is unavailable due to illness, injury, suspension, school commitments, or other legitimate absences.
  - The AP replaces the absent player in the lineup and does not increase the total number of players beyond the regular roster size for that game.
  - The team is not strengthened through use of affiliate player(s) (per Hockey Alberta regulations).
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### **4. Exceptions**

#### **Tournaments**

Teams may use APs during tournaments even if their full roster is available, provided the use of APs complies with CAHL, RMFL, and/or Hockey Alberta regulations.

#### **Playoffs/Provincials**

Teams may use APs during playoffs and provincials even if their full roster is available, provided the use of APs complies with CAHL, RMHF, and/or Hockey Alberta regulations.

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### **5. Process for Requesting an Affiliate Player**

The following steps must be followed when requesting the use of an AP:

- a) **Coach-to-Coach Request**  
The head coach of the team requesting an AP must contact the head coach of the AP's rostered team to request permission for the player to participate.
  - b) **Coach Approval**  
The head coach of the AP's team must approve the request before the player can be asked to participate.
  - c) **Parent/Guardian Approval**  
If the coach has approved the request, the manager of the team requesting the AP must contact the parent/guardian of the AP. Parent/guardian approval is required prior to player participation.
  - d) **League Approval**  
After coach and parent approval are obtained, the team manager of the team requesting the AP must submit the affiliate player form before the AP is allowed to participate in a game.
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## **6. Tracking and Eligibility**

Team managers are responsible for tracking the number of games played by APs to ensure eligibility limits are not exceeded according to CAHL, RMFL, and/or Hockey Alberta regulations.

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## **7. Affiliate Player Practices**

APs may attend practices with the higher-level team for the week preceding the upcoming game if they have already been confirmed to play for that team.

APs are not permitted to attend practices solely for additional ice time and/or evaluation if they are not scheduled to participate in the upcoming game.

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## **8. Fair Development**

Coaches must ensure the use of APs supports player development and does not reduce opportunities for rostered players.

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## **9. Guideline Compliance**

Failure to follow these guidelines may result in review by the SMHA Board and potential disciplinary action.