

ELMHA Affiliated Player Guidelines

August 2018

What is an Affiliated Player?

- An Affiliated Player (AP) is a player who is eligible to play on their own registered team, plus one other team of a higher age division or category.
- A player can affiliate for no more than one other team. Once an AP has been rostered as such they cannot affiliate for another team in that season.

Reasoning for AP positions

- Affiliate Player positions provide assistance to teams as a means to fill in for injured or absent players, or to bolster a short-staffed roster.
- The ELMHA strongly encourages the signing of Affiliate Players such that it maximizes opportunities for all players, and recognizes that teams have access to different pools of players dependent upon their division.
- The purpose of affiliating a player is two-fold. The first purpose is to have additional player resources from different pools to help out the affiliating team. The second is to encourage player development.
- Coaches, players and parents must understand that the affiliation process is necessary in order to run an effective hockey program. With this in mind, all persons involved must remain flexible and try to look at the big picture rather than their particular situation only. Where a concern is raised as to the interpretation of a particular statement, the responsibility for resolution rests with the Executive.

Benefits of Affiliating Players

For the affiliating team:

- Enhances practices due to an increase in player resources
- More players resources for games
- Affiliating from multiple teams allows flexibility to resolve game conflicts

For the affiliated player

- Player development
- More practice time
- Increased self-esteem
- Social opportunities
- Their rostered team also benefits from their player development

Who can affiliate for a given team?

- In accordance with OMHA policy, affiliated players can come from either the same age division, lower category or the same category, lower age division. For example, from a team perspective, a PeeWee Rep Team can AP from PeeWee LL (same age, lower category) or from Atom Rep (lower age, same category); from a player perspective, a PeeWee LL player can AP for Bantam LL or PeeWee Rep.
- A player must be eligible by residence under the terms of OMHA Regulations 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, and 3.7 in order to participate as an AP on a Representative team.
- Players who do not meet the “Residential Qualifications” may only participate as an AP in a Local League team in the next higher age division, provided they have been approved on both electronic rosters.

AP paperwork

- In order to participate in the Affiliate Player program, a player must first be on an approved roster with their registered team.
- An OMHA Offer of Affiliation form must be completed and signed by all of the following individuals: the coach offering the Affiliate Player position, the coach of the player’s registered team, the player, the player’s parent and our association OMHA Representative
- The player is then added to the affiliating team’s roster for approval by the OMHA.
- In order to be used as an Affiliate Player in a game situation, the player must be on the approved roster of the affiliating team as an Affiliate Player.
- The deadline for rostering an Affiliate Player to a team is January 15th

Communication before signing

- Before the OMHA Representative signs an offer of affiliation, the coaches of the registered team and/or the affiliated team will ensure that the player and the player’s family understands all options available to them before committing to a specific team.
- In the end, the parents and players have the right to choose to affiliate for any eligible team who gives them an offer.
- Affiliate Player opportunities can look different depending a variety of factors including but not limited to roster sizes and coaching philosophy. Coaches are encouraged to be forthcoming with the player (depending on their age) and parents regarding their intentions for signing and utilizing the Affiliate Player.

Participation in games

- The primary development of an affiliate player will occur during practices. Affiliate Players may be permitted to play games under the following circumstances at the discretion of the affiliating coach:
 - a. When a team is missing one or more players from its approved roster due to illness, injury, suspension, vacation, work or personal business.
 - b. Where a team has an low number of rostered players
 - c. An Affiliate Player may take regular shifts with an affiliated team, or may see minimal or no ice time in a game they have been called up for, at the coaches discretion.
 - d. Affiliate Player should have no more playing time than a rostered player, but may play in critical situations (i.e. last few minutes of a pivotal game, pivotal power play) ahead of a rostered player, at the coaches discretion.
 - e. If there are 2 goalies rostered to a team and one of the goalies is unavailable, the affiliated goalie may be brought up, but the rostered goalie must start the game.
 - f. An affiliated goalie may dress for a game and not play as long as the goalie and his parents are aware of the role he will be playing before leaving to play a game.
 - g. An affiliated goalie may start and play a game instead of the regular rostered goalie for that team as long as both goalies and their parents are aware of the situation.
- The decision of who will be an Affiliate Player for any game is the discretion of the coach of the affiliated team.
- Any player participating in a game as an Affiliate Player must be indicated on the game report by having "AP" beside his name.
- To be eligible to play in OMHA Playdowns and/or League Playoffs with their registered team, a player affiliating to another team, including Junior, must have played in a minimum of 50% of the regular season League games played by the registered team.

Participation in practices

- Affiliate Players shall be encouraged to practice with the affiliated team.
- In recognition of the development opportunity that practicing with an affiliated team offers a player, ELMHA encourages coaches to consider affiliating players that will embrace this opportunity.

There may be exceptional circumstances that arise from time to time that require changes and/ or exceptions to these guidelines. In all cases these situations shall be brought forward to the ELMHA Executive. Ruling and exceptions will be made on a case by case basis, as required, using these guidelines, OMHA policy, and past history as references.