

# HOCKEY OPERATIONS



## General

- A. The WMHA Board shall be charged with the responsibility of managing WMHA's Hockey Operations as set out in the Bylaws, Operational Policy and Procedures and any other manual of WMHA relating to hockey operations to ensure the orderly operation of all hockey programs. The WMHA Board shall set the operational parameters for each program. This will include among other things, ice allocation per division, evaluation scheduling, practice and game scheduling, home tournament and playoff scheduling, equipment distribution and coaching selection.
  
- B. It is the view of WMHA that all players registered in WMHA play at the level consistent with their skills and abilities, and that as players move from level to level, the emphasis is on developmental hockey. WMHA will provide positive opportunities and experiences for ALL players. This includes encouraging competition on both a competitive and recreational level for those who enjoy hockey for the sportsmanship, skill and enjoyment it can provide.
  
- C. WMHA will abide by Hockey Alberta Fair Play Codes. It is everyone's responsibility to conduct themselves in a way that creates a positive culture around the sport we love. WMHA is committed to providing a safe environment for everyone in our association and in this sport. Any form of bullying, harassment, or abuse is unacceptable, whether physical, emotional, or sexual.
  - a. [https://www.hockeyalberta.ca/uploads/source/Parent\\_Engagement/fair\\_play\\_codes\\_e.pdf](https://www.hockeyalberta.ca/uploads/source/Parent_Engagement/fair_play_codes_e.pdf)

D. West 39 Minor Hockey Association Policies and Procedures within a division simply reflects varying abilities and skill levels in groups of hockey players for that year, who are at various levels of development. It in no way reflects any negative connotation on any child's future ability as children grow and develop from year to year. In order for hockey to be both fun and developmental, all players need to play at a level consistent with their skills and abilities.

E. WMHA shall have teams in the following divisions:

- a. U7
- b. U9
- c. U11
- d. U13
- e. U15
- f. U18

F. If there is more than one team at a specified level, the teams will be evaluated. Please refer to the evaluation process.

## TEAM SELECTION AND PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

A. Any player who is in good standing shall be eligible to play for WMHA, provided:

- a. They reside within the boundaries of WMHA. Please see exceptions E & F below.
- b. If they do not reside within the WHMA boundaries, WMHA has the right to accept or refuse registration and is based on numbers of teams and roster size. Additionally, WMHA will take into consideration prior established continuous years registered in Calmar, Thorsby and Warburg Minor Hockey Associations and WMHA.

- c. In the event that the expected team rosters are full, the registration deadline will be set at Sept 5 of the current year. Any players that register after Sept 5, will be put on a waiting list. Players on a wait list will be contacted by WMHA Executive for potential options.
  
- B. The number of registrants on a team will be based on registration numbers on all levels. If there are enough players for two teams the teams will be tiered. The decision on how teams will be chosen will be made by the WMHA Executive. At the U15 and U18 level, one large roster may be decided on by the WMHA Executive. Coach and parent input will be considered if the roster size is excessive.
  
- C. Please refer to the Evaluation Process for details on team placement. Player placement will be discussed by the evaluation committee and past coaches from all associations to ensure fair representation of the players. Final placement will be decided on by the evaluation committee.
  
- D. If any parent wishes to have their child play on a specific team, they may make a request to the executive in writing for consideration; however the executive may refuse any request without reason. See player movement below.
  
- E. EXCEPTION: TOO FEW PLAYERS- All players are to be released except those that wish and can be accommodated at the immediately younger or older level subject to the approval of the WMHA Executive, the pertinent leagues, and Hockey Alberta.
  
- F. EXCEPTION: TOO MANY PLAYERS- Players will be released with consideration of the following:
  - a. Players not in good standing with WMHA.

- b. Players outside WMHA boundaries that have not established continuous years registered with Calmar, Thorsby, Warburg or WMHA.
- c. Partaking in the WMHA Evaluation Process and failing to be placed on a team.
- d. Players within WMHA boundaries that have previously requested multiple releases and have been released to play on a preferred team while WMHA registers a team at their level, not establishing continuous years registered with Calmar, Thorsby, Warburg or WMHA.
- e. Exclusions to this include:
  - i. Releases from WHMA for AAA or AA teams Hockey Alberta teams,
  - ii. Releases from WMHA due to not enough players for a team,
  - iii. Releases due to completing the WMHA evaluation process and failing to be placed on a team,
  - iv. Releases due to having too many players at a level and WMHA requesting player interest to be released.

G. The executive is to make all reasonable efforts to find other minor hockey associations to accommodate released players. A full refund of the registration fee for the released player will be made.

## NUMBER OF GAMES PLAYED

A. The total number of games shall not exceed 45. This does not include tournaments, league playoffs and provincial play. The WMHA recommends that the number of tournaments be discussed by parents and coaches at the beginning of the hockey season.

## AWAY TOURNAMENTS

- A. All away tournaments if outside the zone require a travel permit and must be approved by the WMHA Executive or designate.'
- B. If a team wishes to enter a tournament outside the province an application must be submitted to the WMHA Executive in writing outlining the intent or reason for attending; methods of fundraising; list of team members attending including parents, siblings and chaperones; an itinerary outlining the days events including activities other than hockey; and any other information that may be seen by the WMHA Executive as relevant. The WMHA Executive has the right to refuse a team to travel to a tournament at any time if it feels for any reason there may be a risk to players or others, or if there is a lack of planning and supervision.

## Player Eligibility

### A. PLAYER CATEGORIES:

- a. U18                      15 -17 years old
- b. U15                      13 & 14 years old
- c. U13                      11 & 12 years old
- d. U11                      9 & 10 years old
- e. U9                        7 & 8 years old
- f. U7                        6 and under

- B. Player's age of eligibility must be reached by December 31st of the year of registration.

# Player Movement and Acceleration

- A. Players wishing to move to a higher or lower category house league are generally NOT allowed. A player/parent can request a move in writing to WMHA Executive and include the following:
  - a. The player's name, his qualifications and grounds for the application
  - b. A statement of the facts in support of the application
  
- B. Upon review of the request and if within league and Hockey Alberta regulations, the WMHA Executive, at their discretion may grant the request. Coaches input will be solicited. The player wishing to move to a higher category, must evaluate within the top third of the evaluations for that category.
  
- C. If necessary in order to field teams with the appropriate number of players only, the executive may determine that it would be advantageous to under age players to a higher division. The process will be open and fair to all players in the younger, eligible division.
  
- D. If a coach feels a player should be over-aged to a younger division the coach will bring their request to the President of WMHA only, who will make the decision whether or not the parents and player will be approached. The coach will not directly approach the parents or player.

# Player Affiliation

- A. WMHA will provide each team with a list of possible affiliates, this list must be on your HCR. In order to use an Affiliate Player in a CAHL game you must ensure

that you have the proper affiliation documentation completed within WMHA. As well, be sure that you maintain a log of the critical dates the affiliate played and the total number of games documented.

- B. Always make sure that the player you wish to use for affiliation is on your approved roster. Playing a player that is ineligible will result in the Coach being suspended indefinitely.
- C. Additional rules may apply for players outside of your current division or the total number of affiliates you are allowed to use at one time.
- D. Please review the CAHL Policies and Regulations around affiliation. Never use affiliation to strengthen your team. Doing that may result in actions being taken within the CAHL's Unfair Competition policy against your team.
- E. Managers must fill out the online notification form and email the Governor prior to game start. [http://site2362.goalline.ca/page.php?page\\_id=63466](http://site2362.goalline.ca/page.php?page_id=63466)
- F. Affiliation deadline is December 15th
- G. Affiliated players must be indicated with "AP" beside their names
- H. Affiliated players are NOT PERMITTED to play until approved by Hockey Alberta and follow the Hockey Alberta affiliation grid.
- I. Affiliated players can only be affiliated to ONE team and can play no more than 10 games with the affiliated team (excluding tournaments and exhibition). After that they are considered ineligible for either team.

J. Managers and Coaches are responsible to keep track of the number of times each AP is brought up to play with their team.

K. AP request to play procedure

- 1) contact registrar to ensure player is eligible for affiliation
- 2) contact AP Head Coach for permission to use the requested player
- 3) contact AP Parents for their permission

## Overage Player

A. All overage players must have an "OA" marked clearly beside their name on EVERY game sheet. (This includes tournaments and exhibition games)

B. Overage players cannot play in any games until their application has been approved by the league and Hockey Alberta. Check with the registrar on approval status.

C. Overages are not eligible for provincial play.

## Player Ice Time

Coaches are expected to discuss their own philosophy regarding fair play at the beginning of each season, to ensure all players and parents understand what the expectations are for the year.

During games coaches will provide fair play opportunities for all players, regardless of ability. Please note however that fair play is NOT equal ice. Throughout the course of a



game, situations will arise which may result in the coach choosing to support line consistency and a specific line of players may have to be adjusted.

- A. A 50-10 Rule is supported by WMHA. Coaches may observe the 50-10 rule, where in the last 10 minutes of close games, coaches can use discretion to reward players if they so choose. Up until then, coaches are expected to ensure a normal rotation applies unless the following applies:
- a. A line shift may be shortened where critical mistakes are being made and immediate correction or instruction is required. The line will then return to their normal rotation to have an opportunity to put into play what they have just learned.
  - b. A player may be required to sit a single shift, or more, as a disciplinary action if the player is repeatedly refusing to follow a coach's instruction, and other tactics have failed to get the players attention. Where such disciplinary action is taken, the coach will provide an explanation to the player and if necessary, his/her parents. Proper communication to the player is crucial to ensure they understand what is happening, why, and what they need to do to ensure it does not happen again. The coaching staff are expected to be fair and consistent all season, no exceptions.
  - c. During both practices and games, all coaches will do their best to maximize the number of teachable moments for all players. Coaches will offer individual and collective praise where due; correction where required, with demonstration or explanation of the appropriate action expected of the player.
- B. Overall, it is expected that by the end of the year, every player will have played in all situations (such as power play and penalty kill). We are a development focused association, and coaches are required to adhere to WMHA policies and procedures.