

Cumberland County Minor Hockey Association – Policy Manual

CATEGORY: Team Management	LAST REVIEW: 2025
POLICY NUMBER: 6.2	DATE APPROVED: September 11, 2025
TITLE: Player Selection	
PURPOSE: Rules and procedures for player selection for CCMHA hockey teams.	
RELATED GUIDELINES: Hockey Nova Scotia Regulation 2.31; 3.8; Four; 19.11 Process For Consideration For Exceptional 14 Year Old Male Hockey Player Status	

1. INTRODUCTION

All players trying out must be registered with the CCMHA for the upcoming season of hockey. If a player is trying out from an association outside of CCMHA, they must have permission from their home association, where they have registered as per HNS Regulation Four (4) – Residency.

No player may participate in Association activities unless they are registered, and in good standing. A player is registered when a completed registration form has been filed with the Registrar and registration fees have been paid, or arrangements made for payment in accordance with CCMHA policy. Registration can be done online.

2. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- The best interest of the Players will always come first.
- All Players will have the opportunity to play at a level compatible with their skill, ability, attitude, experience and development needs & requirements.
- The Team Selection Process will be conducted in an open and transparent manner.
- Tryouts will be completed in a fair and timely manner and be a positive learning and growth experience for the Players.
- Members and Players will be treated with the utmost respect.
- Integrity.
- Players trying out must declare a position they intend to be evaluated at. A player may be moved from their intended position at the discretion of Technical Director in consultation of parents and player.
- Players must attend tryout sessions unless injured or having a conflict which is approved by CCMHA
- All evaluators must be deemed out of conflict

3. DIVISIONS

The Cumberland County Minor Hockey Association IP Program consists of three levels:

- **INITIATION PROGRAM (IP)1** - This program is focused on children who are just being introduced to the game of hockey and have not played organized hockey with a minor hockey association.
- **INITIATION PROGRAM (IP)2** - This program is primarily focused on second year players who have spent one season with a minor hockey association.
- **INITIATION PROGRAM (IP)3** - This will be comprised mostly of third year players.

Please be aware that Players may be moved up or down in IP based upon their abilities and adequate space in the group. This decision is made keeping in mind the players best interest and their continuous development.

All Divisions will be defined by Hockey Nova Scotia guidelines.

4. ALL DIVISIONS – GENERAL POLICIES

The Directors, Provincial Teams, “C” Division and the Division Coordinators must meet with each evaluation group and Coach to establish the criteria and method by which the players will be evaluated.

- a. The Hockey Canada Evaluation Form for Minor Hockey will be used as a standard.
- b. The specific methodology utilized in evaluating the ability level of the players may vary depending upon the division, but the following general criteria should be used:
 - **Drills** – should be used to evaluate basic skills, i.e. skating, puck control, passing, shooting. Goaltenders are a special case and specific drills must be designed to evaluate the particular skills required by goaltenders.
 - **Scrimmages/Exhibition Games** – hockey sense, positional play, hustle, attitude and commitment.
- c. Players in their second year within a division, where all evaluations ratings are equal, should be given preference for selection to the higher team over a first year player.
- d. Coaches will limit team selection to the time allotted for each team by the Board so as to minimize disruption to the team(s) on the level(s) below.
- e. At the discretion of the Director, Provincial Teams, and with the approval of the Board, outside expertise may be solicited in evaluating certain players, for example: two particular goaltenders, etc.
- f. All individual player ratings should be held confidential within selected members of the Board, evaluation group and Coach.

5. OUT OF AREA PLAYERS

The CCMHA Out of Area Player policy is guided first by the following Hockey Nova Scotia Regulation 2.31.:

- A Minor player at the U11 AA, U13 AAA, U15 AA, or U18 AA classification of competition but whose MHA does not provide that classification, may try out for those teams in that division from another Association in their Region. A player may try out for up to two of these teams per year. An U11 player may try out for only one AA team per year.
- An U11, U13, U15 or U18 age player whose Association does not provide U11 A, U13 AA, A, U15 A or U18 A may try out for one team at these levels in another Association in their Region.
- Any player requesting to move from one MHA/Region to another shall be referred by the Regional Director to the Conference Coordinator for approval.
- A Female player at the U11 AA, U13 AA, U15 AA, or U18 AA classification of competition but whose FHA/Zone does not provide that classification, may try out for those teams in that division from another FHA/Zone. Female players may try out for one AA team per year. A second AA tryout may be allowed, only where players are required, with permission of their home FHA/Zone and the Female Council Executive. Any player requesting to move from one FHA/Zone to another shall be referred by the Regional Director to the Female Council Executive through the Conference

6. U18 Division – Special Circumstances

The selection of the U18 Provincial Teams presents a special circumstance. Players trying out for a Major U18 or Minor U18 are often late returning to try out for the CCMHA U18 Provincial Teams. As a consequence, it is recommended that the final selection of the U18 Provincial Teams be delayed until after the Major/Minor teams have substantially completed the team selection process. It is understood that players returning from Major/Minor tryouts will be allowed a tryout for CCMHA teams, but will not automatically be assured a position on the U18 Provincial teams.

Players trying out with High School and Major/Minor U18 may also register with CCMHA and participate in both tryout processes. Should a player make wither High School or Major/Minor U18 then their registrations fees will be returned per the refund policy.

The U18 Division Coordinator may check with players trying out for High School and Major/Minor U18 (or team representatives) to obtain an estimate of the number of players who might be returning to CCMHA.

7. “C” DIVISION TEAMS

The Director, “C” Division will be responsible for implementation of Draft Selection process that ensures that the CCMHA “C” Division teams are balanced competitively from the onset of the hockey season. The Director, “C” Division along with the Division Coordinator and in consultation with the “C” Division Coaches may make adjustments as required to the “C” Division teams after the selection process is completed in an attempt to achieve this competitive balance. These adjustments shall normally occur within thirty (30) days of the completion of the team selection process.

8. PROVINCIAL HOCKEY

8.1 Provincial Team Formation

The decision as to whether there should be Provincial teams is made in the interests of the Association as a whole and cannot be based solely on the interests of a few. Accordingly, the Association is guided by the following policy:

1. Provincial Teams at each level will only be declared when the Board of CCMHA, determines that there is a sufficient number of registrants whose skills, commitment and fitness are of such a level as to allow the team to play competitively within CCMHA’s designated Tier level.
2. The number of Provincial Teams at each level will be decided by the Board of CCMHA based on the number of registrants who meet the requirements for Provincial play.
3. Provincial teams will be comprised of the ‘best qualified’ registrants. Lower provincial teams shall only be created if:
 - There are sufficient registrants not playing A to meet the minimum team size, and;
 - the skills, commitment and fitness of the registrants wanting to play are of such a level as to allow the team to play competitively
4. Any provincial team shall be allowed to take the minimum number of players as set out by Hockey Nova Scotia Regulations and as approved by the CCMHA Board.

CCMHA will, to best of its ability, provide each participant with the opportunity to participate at a level commensurate with their ability while recognizing there are a limited number of players at competitive levels.

The movement of players outside their respective age group or division will be discouraged and will only be effective in exceptional or special circumstances and with the approval of the Board (see section 10. Exceptional Player Process).

The Coach, in conjunction with the Director, Provincial Teams, will select an evaluation group, consisting of at least three (3) individuals, preferably non-parents with past coaching experience. In choosing the evaluation group, the coach must consider the hockey knowledge of the evaluator. As well, an evaluator must commit to being present at each evaluation session.

Players from adjacent Associations are eligible to try out for CCMHA Provincial Teams, if their own Association does not offer that level of hockey. All outside players must show proof of registration within their own Association at the onset of tryouts before being permitted on the ice.

8.2 Provincial Try-Outs & Team Selection

Playing provincial is a privilege and not a right. The selection process is not perfect and making the Provincial team does not mean that you are there for the season. Players can be moved up and down at any time before the CCMHA deadline of January 1, or otherwise stipulated.

The Association will keep track of all players who wish to try out for a provincial team. To participate you must be fully registered and have paid all fees.

If you wish to play on a CCMHA Provincial team, you must agree to abide by all of the Provincial Team rules of conduct and meet all of the commitment expectations including games, practices, tournaments, on-ice skill development and off-ice hockey development.

Provincial team players and goalies will be selected based on commitment to play Provincial hockey, ability, fitness and desire. Players need to be there because they want to be and not because their parents want them to be. **Attendance of all team activities is a requirement for acceptance to Provincial team play.**

- Once teams are selected, players may still be transferred to other teams (including movements up and down).
- Players and goalies who did not indicate on their registration form that they want to try-out for a Provincial Team and wish to do so, must obtain permission from the Provincial Coordinator.
- Except with approval from the Director, Provincial Teams, any player failing to attend more than 1 scheduled ice time(s) for try-outs or who registers late without valid reason is not eligible for Provincial selection.
- Registered players attending Junior, Academy or Major Midget/Minor Midget try-outs or any higher level teams are exempted from attending try-outs where a scheduling conflict occurs by giving notice to the Director, Provincial Teams prior to September 1.
- Selection of initial Provincial team rosters will be determined by September 30 with allowance for returning Junior or Major/Minor Midget players if applicable.
- Being selected as a Provincial player in a division for one year, does not entitle the player

to a place on the Provincial team the following year.

- Except with the permission of the Director, Provincial Teams, any player who registers late or is a new player must compete in at least 1 C-Division game and then be placed at the appropriate level after an evaluation by the Provincial Coordinator or designate.

9. PLAYER INJURY/ABSENCE POLICY FOR EVALUATIONS

1. If a player is injured prior to or during tryouts a medical note must be presented to continue to be considered for evaluation.
2. If a player is to return to play during tryouts for medical reasons they must have a medical clearance to confirm medical approval.
3. If the player is injured during tryouts and they have had a scoring evaluation session their score will be prorated based on scores completed. If a player has not competed in 50% of the process, the evaluation will revert to point 5.
4. A player is able to attend due to family emergency i.e. illness or death in a family they will be considered as per point 5.
5. If a player is unable to attend any session's due to injury or absence during the tryout process the following process will take place:
 - Research will be completed to talk to past coaches and with technical directors input to compare the player in question to players who are taking part in the process.
 - The information will be taken into consideration and the player will be placed compared to a player of like skill who is also competing at the level in question.

10. APPEAL PROCESS

If a Parent or Supporter disagrees with the decision concerning their child, then the procedure for communicating the disagreement is as follows:

1. After a 24-hour cool-down period, contact the Division Coordinator to discuss your questions/concerns.

Parents/ Guardians may request a copy of the player's "Try Out Evaluation Report Card" to review.

1.1 REPORT CARDS

Report card requests must be written and submitted to division coordinators NO EARLIER than 24 hours after the last ice time of tryout weekend.

Report card requests will be responded to within 10 business days, from the date of request submission.

2. If you still have issues you have 48 hours to contact an Executive member of CCMHA. Submit in writing the Players name, the team the player is trying out for and contact information. Outline in the written submission the concerns of the selection.
3. CCMHA will require time to review the Player Evaluation Report and consult with the Coach. Within 7 days, a meeting will be scheduled. At no time will discussion of a competing Player's report be entertained. If a session is deemed warranted, the meeting will be to discuss the Player Assessment Report of the player in question, not

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the placement of competing players.

The above steps have been introduced to deal with Player Selection complaints in an efficient and professional manner. Any escalation that involves inappropriate behaviour before, during, or after the evaluation process may warrant disciplinary action.

11. PLAYER AGE ADVANCEMENT

HNS Regulation 3.8

At the discretion of the Minor Hockey Association and with the approval of the appropriate Regional Director, a qualified Minor or Minor Female Hockey player may be placed in a higher Division than their age would indicate with the consent of the parent(s) (see Regulation 5.4, 5.5, and 5.6 for exceptions). The player must make the highest level team offered in their MHA. In order for a player to advance beyond the next highest age division in which they are eligible according to their age they must apply for a special evaluation.

HNS Regulation 19.11

As specified per HNS Regulation 3.8, at the discretion of the Minor Hockey Association and with approval of Hockey Nova Scotia Minor Council, a highly skilled player within the U9 Program may be placed in the U11 division with the consent of the parent(s) or guardians. For any movement of players from the U9 Program to the U11 level the following process must be followed:

1. Parents of the player to be considered for advancement must apply in writing to their respective Minor Hockey Association, by November 15th, to request that the player be considered for advancement.
2. Only players that are eight years of age and who have been competing in the Level 3 - Advancing are eligible to be moved to the higher level and this player must make the U11 team at the highest level offered in that Minor Hockey Association. If the player does not make this team, he/she must play in the U9 Program for that year.
3. If the Member Minor Hockey Association decides to continue such a request, it must form an evaluation committee of not less than four members. Committee members must be fully certified to coach as per "Hockey Nova Scotia Regulation 8, Certification Requirements", and who have at least three years experience in coaching. Committee members, being unbiased, shall not be associated in any way to the associations' U7 Program. One member shall be the coach of the U11 team to whom this player may advance. The committee and its members shall be approved by the Hockey Nova Scotia Minor Council upon formation and prior to any evaluations is conducted.
4. The approved committee shall evaluate the player in question to determine if the player possesses the skill and ability to compete at the higher level with a high probability of success. The committee shall also consider the social, physical and skill development impact upon the player before making such a decision. The committee shall submit its findings and recommendation in writing to the Minor Hockey Association President. If the Minor Hockey Association finds that the circumstances of such a request are warranted, the Minor Hockey Association President shall submit the findings and recommendation to the Regional Director for written approval.
5. All underage players will be evaluated by outside evaluators and scored by only these evaluators on Team Genius. The U11 coach(es) DO NOT evaluate

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the U9 player(s) for Player Age Advancement.

6. Minor Hockey Associations must ensure that once the player is advanced that they are not released back to a lower category U11 team, however, the player may be returned to the U9 division.

12. PLAYER MOVEMENT

All Provincial Team players must be registered prior to competing in a sanctioned tournament or any regularly scheduled game. If, after a player is registered, the player asks to move to another lower level team, he will not be permitted to do so without the prior approval of the Board. The players only option will be to go to one of the “C” Division teams.

13. RELEASES

Release of players may be granted at the discretion of the Board.

14. AFFILIATE PLAYER (AP) POLICY

The following section is adapted in part from Hockey Nova Scotia’s By-Laws, Regulations and Playing Rules (November 14, 2024). CCMHA has modified these regulations for local application.

1. PURPOSE

To outline the guidelines and procedures for the use of Affiliate Players (APs) within the Cumberland County Minor Hockey Association (CCMHA), ensuring alignment with Hockey Nova Scotia (HNS) regulations and promoting player development.

CCMHA supports opportunities for higher division or category teams to dress the maximum number of players permitted under the applicable playing rules. However, an affiliate player’s primary commitment remains with their regularly assigned team, unless their participation with a higher-level team is approved by their registered team’s coach.

2. DEFINITION

An Affiliate Player (AP) is a registered player who is primarily rostered on one team (the "Home Team") and may be called upon to play for a higher division or older age group team (the "Affiliate Team") when necessary.

3. ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION

A player of a team of a lower Division or category of the same club, or of an affiliated team, or a specially affiliated player, may affiliate to a team or teams of higher Divisions and categories at any time, to a maximum of ten (10) games per season. However, if the player’s registered team completes its regular season and playoffs before the player’s affiliated team or teams, the player may thereafter affiliate an unlimited number of times. For goaltender exceptions, see Hockey Canada Regulations.¹ At CCMHA, affiliated players are intended to temporarily replace regular rostered players who are absent due to illness, injury, suspension, or other legitimate reasons. Affiliated players are not to be used to expand the team roster beyond its established limits. This approach ensures fairness across teams and maintains the integrity of the competition.

Table 1: Player Movement Restrictions — reproduced from Hockey Nova Scotia By-Laws, Regulations and Playing Rules (November 14, 2024).¹

¹ [1] Hockey Nova Scotia (HNS), *By-Laws, Regulations and Playing Rules of HNS*, Regulation 6: Affiliation (PDF), November 14, 2024, accessed June 16, 2025, <https://5647e90c-cdn.agilitycms.cloud/HNS%20Regulations%20Doc-Nov%2014-2024.pdf>.
6.2 CCMHA Player Selection and Evaluation

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Division	Affiliates To	Division	Affiliates To
U18 AA	U18 A, B, C	U18 A	U18 B, C
U18 B	U18 C	U18 C	As approved by HNSMC
U15 AA	U15 A, B, C	U15 A	U15 B, C
U15 B	U15 C	U15 C	As approved by HNSMC
U13 AA	U13 A, B, C	U13 A	U13 B, C
U13 B	U13 C	U13 C	As approved by HNSMC
U11 AA	U11 A, B, C	U11 A	U11 B, C
U11 B	U11 C	U11 C	As approved by HNSMC

Affiliation from all C levels to checking teams will require approval of HNSMC.

To ensure consistency, player safety, and fair play across all levels, CCMHA follows these affiliation practices in alignment with Hockey Nova Scotia’s regulations¹:

1. Divisional Movement

Players may not affiliate by skipping a division. Affiliation must follow the appropriate progression through divisions and categories¹.

2. Permission from Lower Teams

Before using an affiliate player, higher division or category teams must receive consent from the player’s regular team. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action, including the potential suspension of the offending team’s Head Coach¹.

3. Game Limits

Teams may now use affiliates to dress players in addition to their rostered players, up to the maximum allowed within the playing rules (20 players for a game).

4. Affiliation Limits within Amalgamated Associations

With the exception of U13 AAA, U11, U15, and U18 AA teams, other teams within amalgamated Minor Hockey Associations may affiliate players from **only one team** in a lower category¹.

Example: If there are three “A” teams, they must all affiliate to a single “B” team.

Affiliate teams must be selected and declared by **December 1st** each season¹.

5. Club System Flexibility

Minor teams may use affiliate players from any combination of teams allowed within their club system’s structure¹.

6. Checking Clinic Requirement

All affiliate players in divisions **above U13** must have completed the **approved 2014 HNS Checking Clinic** before being eligible to play at a body-checking level¹.

Note: This requirement does not apply to goaltenders.

7. No External Affiliates

Teams may not roster players (excluding goaltenders) from outside the CCMHA association for the purpose of affiliation¹.

8. Game Participation Definition

If an affiliate player is listed on a game sheet, this will count as game participation—**except** in

the case of an **alternate goaltender**, where only actual game play will count. Any goaltender participation must be specifically noted on the official game report¹.

9. **U7 and U9 Affiliation**

U7 and U9 players are not typically eligible for affiliation. Exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis and must be approved by both the Regional Director and the Conference Coordinator¹.

4. AFFILIATION REQUEST PROCESS

CCMHA is committed to fostering a fair, player-centered approach to the use of Affiliate Players (APs). The process outlined below ensures clarity, communication, and consistent documentation.

1. Affiliation Request Initiation

- The Affiliate Team coach identifies the need for an Affiliate Player and initiates a request to the Home Team coach.
- The purpose of this communication is to promote awareness, collaboration, and planning between both coaching staffs.

2. Home Team Consultation

- The Home Team coach is consulted to provide insight into the player's development, availability, and any potential scheduling conflicts.
- This step is not intended to grant approval or denial rights, but rather to ensure transparency and shared understanding.
- Once consultation has occurred, the Affiliate Team coach may proceed with the request.

3. Consent and Documentation

Any affiliate requests must be made through and approved by the team that the player is currently on. The team requesting the participation of the affiliate must receive permission.

- The Affiliate Team coach should approach the player and their parent(s)/guardian(s) to discuss the opportunity.
- Upon receiving consent, the request must be documented using CCMHA Affiliate Player Notification & Tracking Form
- The CCMHA Registrar must be notified to ensure accurate tracking of all Affiliate Player activity.

4. Dispute Resolution

- If concerns arise during the consultation phase that cannot be resolved informally, the CCMHA Division Coordinator may be contacted to assist.
- The Division Coordinator will review the circumstances, and if necessary, facilitate a mediation meeting involving:

- The Home Team coach
- The Affiliate Team coach
- The Division Coordinator
- Mediation aims to ensure that all parties are heard, with the player’s development, well-being, and fair access to opportunities as the guiding priorities.
- Final decisions will rest with the Division Coordinator in consultation with CCMHA Executive.

5. Recordkeeping and Transparency

- All communication, decisions, and outcomes related to the AP process must be documented and submitted to the Division Coordinator and Registrar for recordkeeping.

Consent: The player and their parent/guardian must provide consent for the affiliation.

Documentation: The CCMHA Registrar must be notified to complete all necessary documentation with Hockey Nova Scotia.

Record Keeping: Team managers are responsible for maintaining records of all AP usages and sharing them with the CCMHA Division Coordinator.

APs must be indicated with “AP” beside their name on the official game sheet.

5. ENFORCEMENT

Non-compliance with the AP policy may result in disciplinary actions, including but not limited to coach suspension, removal of AP eligibility, or forfeiture of games.

15. REVIEW

The Policy will be reviewed by Cumberland County Minor Hockey on an annual basis.