



HCMHA - Player Affiliation Guidelines

HCMHA is a small association and this can result in very small team numbers. Affiliating players is critical to the success of all of our teams. Our goal is to ice at least 10 players (excluding goalies) on all teams when at all possible, and the affiliation is a huge part of that. Below are the guidelines for the affiliation process.

Players will affiliate to the team directly above the team they are on (unless given special exception from CAHL/HA)

e.g. U9B to U9A.....U9A to U11B.....U9 Team to U11 Team...etc

Eligibility:

- 1) Requested player and parent/guardian must approve the affiliation as the first step in this process.
- 2) If the higher team has less than 10 skaters and the lower team has more than 10 skaters then the affiliation will be approved.
- 3) If the higher team has 9 skaters or less and the lower team has 10 skaters or less then the lower team will need to affiliate as well so that each team ends up with 10 or more skaters. If the lower team is unable to affiliate then the affiliation may be denied.
- 4) If the higher team has more than 10 skaters and is requesting a player from a lower team that has 10 skaters or less and if there is a conflict with game times then the affiliation will be denied, unless the lower team is able to affiliate a player as well to bring their numbers to the minimum of 10 skaters.
- 5) If the higher team has more than 10 skaters and the lower team has more than 10 skaters and there is a conflict of game times then the affiliation will need to be discussed between all effected parties of the affiliated player(s) and coaches from each team. Preference will be that a player is committed to their original team first.

A head coach **cannot** deny the affiliation of any player from their roster for any reason other than the above stated conflicts in #3. and #4. All coaches are required to participate in the affiliation program.

Affiliation Process:

- 1) Head coach of the team requiring a player may request any player on the roster of the team below that is eligible to affiliate to their team. (See note 1)
- 2) A request will be sent in writing (email) to the requested players parents/guardian and the lower team head coach. The head coach needs to be informed of this affiliation in case they need/want to start an affiliation process of their own. (If the player or the parent/guardian denies request then the process stops here and is re-started from the beginning for a new player)
- 3) If accepted by the player and parent/guardian and it meets the above eligibility requirements then the affiliation request will be sent to the appropriate governor for CAHL Approval.
- 4) Upon CAHL/HA/HCMHA approval the affiliated player may play with the affiliating team.
- 5) This process must be repeated (steps 2-5) for any subsequent games that any player is requested to affiliate.
- 6) A player is only eligible to be affiliated 10 times during the season. Once the affiliated players season and playoffs are over they may affiliate to the higher team for the rest of the higher teams season/playoffs

Note 1 - The player being requested for affiliation should have an appropriate skill level for the team that is requesting the player. The player must also be one of the previously HA approved affiliations.

Skill Level of Affiliated Players:

- 1) If the requested player has a skill level well below the rest of the affiliating teams skill level there can be safety concerns for the player and the request may be denied. If this determination is made by the affiliating coach or the players parents, the player will be ineligible for affiliation for the remainder of the season.
- 2) If the requested player has a skill level that could be well above the rest of the affiliating teams skill level the affiliation will require special consideration. (see below)

- a) If this determination is made by the affiliating coach (via a team practice with the “extra” player) before the player has played a game with the affiliating team a request will be sent in to CAHL/HA to have the player eligible to affiliate to the next higher team.
- b) If the affiliated player plays a game with the affiliating team and performs at a much higher level* than the rest of the players on the affiliating team, the scoresheet will be presented to CAHL/HA so the player can then be affiliated to the next higher team.

*a much higher performance level will be determined based on the players stats during the game and input from the head coach of the affiliating team.

It is recommended that the coach requesting the player have the affiliated player practice at least once with their team to ensure an appropriate skill level of the affiliated player.

HCMHA is here to ensure each team in our association has a reasonable amount of skaters (10) for each game if possible.

HCMHA is here to allow and promote any player(s) eligible that has been requested by a higher team the opportunity to receive as much extra playing/practice time as possible.

