



High Country Minor Hockey Association (HCMHA)

Eligibility for Higher-Level Play

Effective Date: May 27, 2025

Approved By: HCMHA Executive Board

Applies To: All Registered HCMHA Players

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to define the eligibility criteria and procedures for High Country Minor Hockey Association (HCMHA) players who wish to pursue opportunities in higher-level hockey, including AAA, AA, and Tier 1 levels, outside of the association.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all players registered with HCMHA who are interested in trying out for elite hockey programs within the designated pathways, including those offered by the Okotoks Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) and Foothills Bisons AA Program.

3. Policy Statement

HCMHA supports the development of its players and their pursuit of advanced hockey opportunities. All players within the association are granted equitable access to try out for higher-tier programs, subject to the terms outlined in this policy and the regulations of Hockey Alberta.

4. Higher-Level Play Pathways

4.1 AAA Eligibility

All HCMHA players are eligible to try out for the **Okotoks Minor Hockey Association AAA Program**.

- Players must follow the OMHA tryout procedures and guidelines as published by OMHA.

4.2 AA Eligibility

Players not selected for the AAA Okotoks Oilers are eligible to try out for the **Foothills Bisons AA Program**, the designated AA draw zone for HCMHA.

- Players are not required to attend AAA tryouts in order to be eligible for AA.
- Players may choose to register directly for AA tryouts.

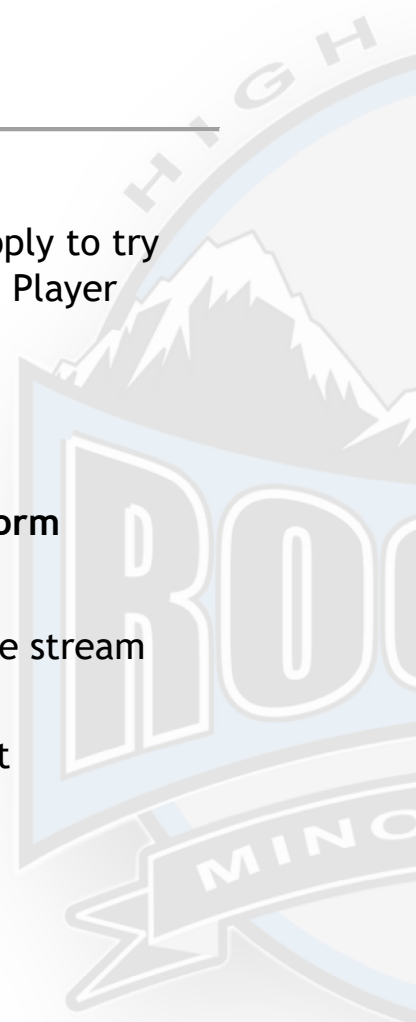
5. Tier 1 Eligibility and Player Movement Requests

Players that wish to pursue higher-tier opportunities, may apply to try out for a **Tier 1 team** with OMHA through the Hockey Alberta Player Movement process.

5.1 Application Process

To be considered, the following steps must be completed:

- Submit a **Hockey Alberta Player Movement Request Form**
- Submit a **Letter of Intent** outlining:
 - Whether the player intends to pursue the full elite stream (AAA, AA, and Tier 1)
 - Motivation and goals for requesting a Tier 1 tryout



5.2 Submission Deadline

- All required documents must be submitted **via email to the HCMHA President** no later than **September 1st** of the upcoming season.
- **Late submissions** (including those after AAA or AA tryouts) will not be accepted under any circumstances.

5.3 Conditional Approval

- Approval from the HCMHA President will only be granted if the following condition is accepted:
 - If the player does **not** make the OMHA Tier 1 team, the player will return to HCMHA and the Player Movement Request will become null and void.

6. Fees and Financial Responsibility

- All costs associated with tryouts, registration, and participation in OMHA or other external programs are the sole responsibility of the player and their family.
- HCMHA bears no financial obligation for any fees assessed by OMHA or affiliated programs.

7. Agreement with Okotoks Minor Hockey Association

- This policy is the result of a cooperative agreement and trial process with OMHA, aimed at ensuring a transparent and structured pathway for higher-level hockey eligibility.
- OMHA has acknowledged and agreed that this process applies **only to Tier 1 eligibility**.
- HCMHA respects OMHA's internal boundaries and the prioritization of players registered within their association.

8. Review and Amendments

This policy is subject to annual review by the HCMHA Executive Committee and may be amended as necessary to align with changes in Hockey Alberta regulations or inter-association agreements.

