

## **Affiliate Players**

Affiliating players allows opportunity for lower level players to experience hockey at a higher level. This may assist with their skill development, knowledge of the game, and confidence. It also allows higher category teams to complement their rosters when there are absences due to injury, health or other reasons.

A higher category team may affiliate a maximum of nineteen (19) players, 2 of which must be goalies, from lower category teams. A player is only permitted to participate as an affiliate player (AP) with one team of a higher category during a playing season. Team is encouraged to AP a minimum of (2) players prior to December 15 to establish their team affiliation list. Players may then be added to their list until January 15 of each season and each team should have a minimum of (4) APs.

As per BC Hockey policy, affiliate players are limited to a maximum of 10 games over the course of a season. The purpose of this limitation is to prevent the use of "permanent affiliates". Affiliate players may not play an eleventh game until their carded team has completed their season. Any affiliate player who does participate in more than 10 games will be deemed to be an ineligible player. If a player's registered team completes its regular season and playoffs before the player's affiliated team, the player may thereafter affiliate an unlimited number of times. There are exceptions to this BC Hockey policy for goaltenders. Appearance of an affiliate player's name on the official game report of a game shall be considered participation in the game except in the case of an alternate goalkeeper, in which case actual participation only will be considered as taking part in the game, and such participation will be specially noted on the official game report.

Affiliation within recreation teams will be limited to allow for a fair distribution of APs and players will be assigned to teams with a priority of keeping teams balanced.

Coaches are encouraged to have AP players participate regularly at practices when it does not conflict with their primary team's sessions. Practicing promotes development, confidence and familiarization with the players and coaches of the higher-level team that they could participate with and should provide an easier transition should the player be needed for games.

### **AP Process**

1. To initiate the AP process, prospective players will be identified by the division director according to their tryout ratings and coaches of the affected teams will be contacted.
2. Once the directors and coaches are in agreement, parents will be contacted for approval to AP their player.

If the parents and player agree to participate in the AP program, it is up to the higher division coach to determine the schedule for practice and games. The coach of the higher level must communicate directly with the player and the primary coach to ensure that there is no conflict with the primary team.

There should be consensus between the two coaches as to whether the player can play up or not. This decision should take into consideration:

1. The development of the player.
2. The needs and circumstances of the higher division team.
3. The needs and circumstances of the lower division team.

Where consensus cannot be reached, the Division Director shall become involved to assist with reaching a resolution. Should the Division Director not be able to resolve the issue, the Coach Coordinator will be advised, and his decision shall stand. Under no circumstances should coaches be approaching a prospective AP or their parents prior to receiving approval from the division director.

Prior to participation as an affiliate player, the player's name must appear on the team's Official HC Team Roster as an affiliate.

Failure to adhere to the AP policy may result in sanctions and/or disciplinary action.

