

BEDFORD & DISTRICT MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION AFFILIATE PLAYER AND CALL-UP POLICY

1. POLICY STATEMENT

The goal of Affiliate Player (“**AP**”) programs and call-ups is to foster player development and provide opportunities for players to grow their skills in more challenging environments.

Bedford & District Minor Hockey Association (“**BDMHA**”) is committed to fostering player development through a structured and transparent AP program and AP call-up process. BDMHA’s AP process encourages teams at higher levels to use the AP program to support player development while maintaining the integrity of team rosters, league competition, and ensuring compliance with applicable Hockey Nova Scotia (“**HNS**”) Rules and Regulations.

2. PURPOSE

BDMHA is committed to an AP program and AP call-up process that ensures opportunities for AP call ups are managed fairly, equitably, and free from bias. The purpose of this policy and procedure is to establish clear guidelines for the selection and use of APs, ensuring that:

- Players are given development opportunities at higher levels.
- Call-ups are based on objective evaluations and independent assessments.
- The process is free from favoritism, conflict of interest, or undue influence.
- Higher-level teams can maximize roster capacity while respecting the development of lower-level teams.

3. SCOPE

This policy applies to all BDMHA competitive teams and governs the selection, approval, and usage of the AP program. It covers the procedures for player selection, monitoring, and adjustments to the Call-Up List throughout the minor hockey season and in accordance with Hockey Nova Scotia (“**HNS**”) rules and regulations.

4. CALL-UP LIST & INDEPENDENT REVIEW

Subject to the Conflict of Interest provisions in Section 5 below, upon the completion of competitive evaluations each season, a committee comprised of the VP Competitive, VP Recreation, and VP Development (“**Committee**”) shall create a call-up list for each age group and each division within the age group (the “**Call Up List**”), in consultation with the Hockey Development Professional (“**HDP**”), Goalie Development Professional (“**GDP**”), and other staff, as applicable.

The Call-Up List for skaters shall include a specific list of players the Committee determines, based on ongoing assessments, is appropriate for AP to a higher division or age group for forward and defense positions.

The Call-Up List for goaltenders shall include all goaltenders for each age level and division ranked in order.

The HDP and GDP shall be responsible for personally attending minor hockey games at each level throughout the season to provide an independent, unbiased review of player and goaltender performance. Based on these observations, the HDP and GDP may make

recommendations to the Committee for players to be added or removed from the Call-Up List during the season.

The Committee shall be responsible for making final determination on all adjustments to the Call-Up Lists.

5. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- (a) For purposes of this Policy, a “conflict of interest” exists where there is a direct personal or professional relationship with a player, coach, or parent that ***could reasonably be perceived*** to influence the person’s judgment.
- (b) If any of the Vice President representative members of the Committee has a conflict of interest in assessing a particular team, player, or age group or division, they shall recuse themselves from the discussion and decision-making with respect to assessment, placement on, or adjustments to the Call-Up List for the applicable team or player.
- (c) Where a conflict is identified under (b) above with respect to an age group or division, or where more than one VP is in conflict with respect to any decision, the Committee shall designate another Executive Officer to the Committee to participate in the assessment, discussion, and decision-making in respect of the team, player, age group or division. At the start of each season, conflicts shall be declared by the Committee members and designates identified.
- (d) If a staff member (HDP, GDP, or other) has a conflict of interest in assessing a particular team or player, they shall disclose the conflict and the Committee shall refrain from consultation with the staff member. In such circumstances, the Committee may seek an independent assessment from an outside party where necessary.

6. CALL-UP GUIDELINES / RULES

- (a) All call-ups shall comply with the limitations and requirements outlined by HNS in Regulation 6, including the maximum number of games an affiliate player may participate in.
- (b) Coaches must use the Call-Up List on a rotational basis for league and exhibition games.
- (c) During tournaments, playoffs, and provincial qualifiers, coaches may request specific players if the players have remaining AP opportunities.
- (d) Wherever reasonably possible, higher-level teams should make use of eligible affiliate players when roster shortages occur. Prior to playoffs and provincial qualifiers, if a higher-level team is short one or more players, a request should be made for at least one AP, if available.
- (e) Lower-level teams are expected to support player call-ups where possible, taking into account their own game schedules and player availability.

- (f) AP opportunities should take priority over lower-level practices.
- (g) If a lower-level team has a game on the same day as the AP opportunity, the lower-level coach may determine whether players are available for a second game that day.
- (h) AP players are encouraged to practice with the higher-level team before participating in games.
- (i) The AP process should begin with as much advance notice as possible. While exceptions may arise, requests should be made no later than 48 hours before a required game.
- (j) Coaches are prohibited from directly contacting players or their families regarding call-ups. Any violation will result in the loss of the request and possible disciplinary action.
- (k) Movement of players shall be restricted in accordance with HNS Regulation 6.5 which appears as follows:

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, U13 A, B
U15 C	As approved by HNSMC
U13 AAA	U13 AA, A, B, U11 AA
U13 AA	U13 A, B, U11 A, B
U13 A	U13 B, C, U11 A, B
U13 B	U13 C, U11 A, B
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

- (l) To ensure opportunities for AP call ups are managed fairly and equitably, and optimize the opportunity for player development at appropriate levels, where possible, affiliation opportunities should follow in order of appearance in the above table - i.e., from U18AA to U18A first, then U18B, and from U18C last.
- (m) Affiliation from all C levels to a checking team requires approval of HNSMC;
- (n) At no time may a player skip a Division for the purpose of affiliation;
- (o) All players above U13 must have taken the approved HNS checking clinic before being eligible as an affiliate player at a checking level.
- (p) In addition to the above, all recreational level AP will be in accordance with Metro Minor Hockey League policies.

7. AFFILIATE PLAYER REQUEST PROCEDURE

- (a) The Coach of the higher-level team must contact the coach of the lower level team to make the request and seek approval prior to using the affiliate player(s)
- (b) Lower-level coaches shall make reasonable efforts to support players to be available for affiliation to higher level teams when requested, and confirm the player being requested is willing and available to participate.
- (c) All AP requests must be communicated in writing to the VP Competitive, VP Recreation (if applicable) and the Divisional Coordinator to ensure compliance with this policy and Hockey Nova Scotia rules and regulations.
- (d) Where coaches disagree, they must contact the Divisional Coordinator, VP Competitive and VP Recreation (if applicable) to facilitate a resolution in accordance with this policy.
- (e) In cases where there is a conflict of interest, if the Divisional Coordinator and/or the VP Competitive is in conflict the matter shall be referred to the VP Recreation or another designate of the Executive Committee.

8. COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT

All parties involved in the AP process are expected to adhere to this policy to ensure fair and transparent player call-ups.

Any coach, official, or administrator found to be in violation of this policy may face disciplinary action as determined by BDMHA.

The Vice President of Competitive, and where applicable, the Vice President of Recreation, shall be responsible for overseeing compliance with the policy.

9. REVIEW & AMENDMENTS

This policy shall be reviewed annually to ensure it remains effective and aligned with the principles of fair play and player development. Amendments may be made by the BDMHA Executive Committee based on feedback and evolving needs within the minor hockey program.

10. SOURCES

- Hockey Nova Scotia, Regulation 6
- Hockey Canada, Regulation F.