



Affiliation for Development Directive

This directive outlines the placement and usage of affiliates in the WBHL for U11 to U15.

Affiliation Definition:

FMMHA's process to affiliate (officially attach or connect) players to teams of a higher level in order to ensure that teams have adequate numbers of players for games, and to create and facilitate opportunities for players to experience practice or game play with players who play at a higher level.

In accordance with Hockey Alberta rules, no player is considered an affiliate unless they are on a team's official Hockey Alberta roster in advance of playing any games with the higher teams.

In accordance with Hockey Alberta rules, a player can only be affiliated to one team per season.

In accordance with Hockey Alberta rules, teams can only affiliate players from a lower division or category. In the Junior Oil Barons Program, players on the A team may be affiliated to the AA team. For example, a U15A Team player may be affiliated to the U15AA team and play with the team when another player is injured or sick OR a U13 Tier 1 player may be affiliated to the U13 A team and play with the team when another player is injured or sick. The teams in the WBHL may only affiliate from one category below. For example, Tier 1 from players from the U11 division to Tier 2 of the higher division, i.e. U13 Tier 2 OR Tier 3 from U15 to Tier 2 of U15.

It is the expectation that coaches take responsibility to include affiliates in their season development plan.

Junior Oil Barons Affiliates

Junior Oil Barons coaches will select their affiliates directly through the elite director. These players will be invited to games and practices as determined by the head coach. The division director will provide the Junior Oil Barons director contact information for players and coaches to encourage coach to coach conversation. Coaches will make the best effort to allow all development opportunities to affiliated players with cooperation.



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Intro to Hockey Under - 9

For all U9 and lower please follow hockey Alberta rule 7.1 and FMMHA is aligned with this process ([Add Hyperlink here](#))

- Players may be added to U11 as required for Games only.

Goaltenders

Goaltender affiliation is outlined in the Goalie directive.

U11 through U15

Nomination of Affiliates:

Coaches will be asked to Nominate a number of players. They should select players based on skill, work ethic, game understanding and attitude. Nominations will be approved by the division director. The Division Director will then invite players to the Affiliation for development program via email.

Please note: If more nominations than affiliation spots are available, then decisions between players will be made from the following criteria; First, directors will refer to and compare the evaluation scores, then they will consider the age of the player and the final tie breaker will be the technical evaluation score. This discussion will be with the Division Director and Player Development Chair.

Placement of Affiliates:

Once a player has accepted the Nomination, Directors will place them on a team and have them added to SNAP to their affiliation team. Managers Should send out a welcome email informing them of how an invite to a game will take place (email, phone calls, etc)

Usage of Affiliates:

Practices

Affiliates will be welcomed by coaches to all practices and coaches will be prepared to incorporate the players into the practice plan. ***Affiliated players may not skip their own games and or practices to attend an affiliate practice.*** With the exception of a time when a player is traveling with the team and a verbal agreement is discussed between coaches.



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Team Building, Tournaments and extra development sessions

Affiliates may be invited to participate in Team Building, Tournaments, and or extra development sessions. However as they do not participate in affiliate team fundraising the invite is at the discretion of the head coach and the manager will inform them of how this invite will happen. Affiliates should attend all FMMHA provided development.

If a team is short players for a tournament, then a coach may invite their affiliated players. A coach to coach conversation is expected when a coach plans to pull a player for an extended time such as a tournament or an injury.

Affiliates will be added to Team Snap for their respective affiliate team with their position as an AP-Position and are expected to use the availability as part of their commitment.

Games

All players should be using the **availability tab** within snap. When a coach is aware that they will be below bench (bench is defined as the amount of skaters on the team) because of illness, injury or other travel, then they are expected to call up an affiliate to replace the missing players.

Coaches must rotate through their affiliates and utilize them all in a fair fashion.

Coaches may not replace a suspended player with an affiliated player as per Hockey Canada rules.

Discipline:

A player can be removed from the affiliation program by the Division Director and/or Player Development Director for the following reasons:

- Failure to attend their own practice and games in favor of affiliated team
- Deviation from any FMMHA policy by player or their parents.



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Process

1. Division Director Puts out the call to Coaches for how many affiliates each coach would like to take. Coaches can decide how many affiliates that they are comfortable with - a minimum of 3 per team.
2. Once the Division Director knows how many each team will need they will put the call out for nominations to appropriate coaches on supplying the required number of nominated players.
3. Coaches will submit their nominations to Director, who will make a decision on the selection and placement of nominated players in partnership with the WBHL Goalie director and the WBHL Player director
4. The Director will contact parents of selected players to verify that they indeed wish to be an affiliate and that they understand the extra commitment and benefits to the program.
5. Once confirmation is received, then the affiliates will be placed on the rosters by the Director of the division in which they are being placed (ie U11 Tier 1 players will be placed by U13 Director)
6. Managers will send out a welcome email letting players know they are welcome to start attending practices.
7. All communication invites to games and events will be done through the team manager. Any conflicting events i.e. tournaments or requiring a player when they have a game, should be a coach to coach conversation - prior to the invite.



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