

PLAYER AFFILIATION

The Halifax Hawks Minor Hockey Association endorses and supports the use of affiliate players as a means to replace players who are missing due to suspensions, injuries or other reasons. The Association also believes that giving players from a lower level team the exposure to participate in games, when the opportunity arises, supports our goals related to player development. This policy outlines the affiliation process mandated by Hockey Nova Scotia and Hockey Canada as well as to provide guidance on when and how teams within our organization shall use the affiliation process.

The Association shall utilize the 'club system' for player affiliation as defined in Hockey Nova Scotia regulation 6.16. In addition, teams should be aware that as per Hockey Nova Scotia regulations no player can be used more than 10 games per season, unless the players registered team has completed its season. Exhibition and tournament games, which are not part of regular league games or playoffs are excluded from 10 game cap.

While supporting affiliation, the Association recognizes that there are times when affiliation must be coordinated so as to ensure that all teams are treated fairly. The following Association guidelines shall determine when and how affiliation can be used. In cases, where team schedules do not conflict, full utilization of affiliation to fill vacancies is recommended.

In cases where the lower team is practicing and the higher team requires a player(s), full utilization of affiliation to fill vacancies is recommended with the lower team drawing players from their affiliate group for the practice. In cases where both the higher and lower team are playing games and the higher level teams requires affiliate players, the following guidance shall apply:

Player missing at one position (Forward or Defense)	
One player missing	No affiliation permitted
Two players missing	One affiliate permitted
Three players missing	Two affiliates permitted
Four players missing	Two affiliates permitted

In cases, where the higher team requires a back-up goalie and there is a conflict in games, they may request a goalie from the lower team to act as back-up if that goalie was not scheduled to start the game for the lower level team. In this case, using the same rationale, the lower team may then affiliate a goalie from the next lower team to back-up their starting goalie.

When requesting the use of affiliates, the Association expects that all coaches shall cooperate fully to ensure that the affiliation is handled appropriately. In all cases, the coach of the higher level team shall contact the coach of the lower level team to communicate the requirement and seek approval, in accordance with this policy, prior to using the player or players. In addition, it shall be confirmed that the player being requested is willing to participate. In cases, where the coaches disagree on the requirement for affiliate players, the divisional Director is to be contacted to facilitate a resolution in accordance with this policy.

In cases, where the Director is in a conflict of interest because they have a child on one of the teams, the matter shall be referred to the Executive Vice-President for resolution. The Association appreciates that the higher level team would, ideally, like utilize only a few of the players from the lower level team when affiliating. For this reason, the Association mandates that during the regular season or during tournament and exhibition games, that the higher

level teams rotate opportunities to all players on the lower level team so as to expose all players to this development experience.

During league play-offs and during provincial play downs and championships, the higher level team may utilize the players of their choice provided the player remains eligible as per the Hockey Nova Scotia playing limitation of ten games per season