



### Definitions

*Affiliated Player (AP)* refers to a registered player who is temporarily included on the playing roster of a team in a higher division or category within the Association. For the purpose of this policy, all registered players shall be eligible as an affiliated player.

*Playing up, or being called up, or AP* refers to when an affiliate player is asked to play a league game in a higher division or category. The affiliated player is included in the team roster for that game only.

*Runner* is a player on a team who is not a goaltender. In the U8 division, a goaltender may also be considered a runner because the teams in this division are encouraged to rotate their players through the goaltender position.

### Affiliate Player Rules

#### **A. Team Eligibility to Call Up an AP**

Teams shall follow the "Fill to 12" rule:

- If a team expects to have fewer than 12 active players for a game (excluding goaltender), then the team may call up enough affiliated players to ensure they have at least 12 runners
- A team may call up a goaltender for any game providing the team's regular or designated backup goalie is not available
- At no time shall the team's roster for a game exceed their league posted roster

**Note:** A player who has notified the coach that they will arrive late for a game, or that they need to leave early during a game, shall be considered an active player.

#### **B. Player Eligibility to be Affiliated - Runners**

As SMBHA has tiered and non-tiered divisions, the following shall apply:

- U11 division team may call up any registered U9 division player
- U13 division team may call up any registered U11 division player
- In tiered divisions, a **Mountain Tier** team may call up a player from:
  - the Pacific Tier of the same division, or
  - either the Mountain or Pacific Tier of the next lower division

For example, a U20 Mountain Tier team may call up an AP from U20 Pacific Tier, U17 Mountain Tier, or U17 Pacific Tier.

- In tiered divisions, a **Pacific Tier** team may call up a player from the Pacific Tier of the next lower division. For example, a U20 Pacific Tier team may call up an AP from U17 Pacific Tier.



### C. Player Eligibility to be Affiliated - Goaltenders

As SMBHA has tiered and non-tiered divisions, the following shall apply:

- U11 division team may call up any registered U9 division goaltender
- U13 division team may call up any registered U11 division goaltender
- In tiered divisions, a **Mountain Tier** team may call up a goaltender from:
  - the Pacific Tier of the same division, or
  - either the Mountain or Pacific Tier of the next lower division

For example, a U20 Mountain Tier team may call up an affiliated goaltender from U20 Pacific Tier, U17 Mountain Tier, or U17 Pacific Tier.

- In tiered divisions, a **Pacific Tier** team may call up a goaltender from the Pacific Tier of the next lower division. For example, a U20 Pacific Tier team may call up an affiliated goaltender from U17 Pacific Tier.

**Note:** During the regular season *only*, a team may affiliate a goaltender from across their own tier or division, if all of the following apply:

- The team has made reasonable attempts to call up a goaltender from a lower tier or division and has been unsuccessful
- The affiliation has been authorized by the SMBHA President or Vice President and the goalie's coach in advance

### D. Team Conflicts

If there is a conflict of schedule, the affiliate player should make every effort to prioritize and attend their regular team games over the games of the team calling them up.

### E. Affiliated Players Exceeding the "Fill to 12" Rule

In the event that a rostered player, who was not expected to attend, arrives to play in a game:

- The rostered player must play, and
- The AP may not play if they bring the active roster above 12 runners

**Note:** Coaches will make the best decision about calling up affiliated players based on the information provided by their players or player families. Coaches should emphasize the importance of players updating their availability for games, and should set the expectation with APs that they are not guaranteed to play.

If a coach knows their players update their availability and attend games inconsistently, that coach might consider calling APs to "fill to 10" rather than "fill to 12".



### F. Playoffs

Teams may not affiliate runners during playoffs.

A team may affiliate a goaltender during playoffs if their designated goaltender is unavailable and there is no other player on the team's active roster who has played in goal for three or more games (whole or in part) during the regular season.

In any other circumstance, a team must submit a written request in advance to the SMBHA President ([president@smbha.org](mailto:president@smbha.org)), Vice-President ([vp@smbha.org](mailto:vp@smbha.org)), and Technical Director ([coach@smbha.org](mailto:coach@smbha.org)). The request should outline the reason for the request and any pertinent information. Each request will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and a decision made. The Association's decision will be final.

**Note:** A team may not call up a goaltender and play their designated goaltender as a runner in the same game.

### G. Limit on Number of Games

According to BC Ball Hockey Association rules, a team may call up the same affiliated player - including goaltenders - for a maximum of three (3) games in a single regular season. The team coach, team manager, and player's parents are responsible for tracking the teams and number of games for which a player is called up.

If there is a legitimate reason to exceed the three (3) game maximum per team, a request can be submitted in writing in advance to the SMBHA President, Vice-President, and Director of Coaching. The request should outline the reason for the request and any pertinent information. Each request will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and a decision made. The Association's decision will be final.

The association will track AP players via submitted score sheets.

### **Notification of the use of Affiliated Players**

The coach requesting the AP must submit a request for approval to the SMBHA Technical Director using the [SMBHA Coach's Call Up Request Form](#). The following individuals must be informed of the call up, via email, prior to the start of the game for which the player / goalie is being called up:

- SMBHA President, Vice-President, and Technical Director
- Head coach of the AP player
- The parents of the AP player

If a coach is not able to identify, or acquire, an affiliated player, they should email the Technical Director for next steps.

### H. Documentation of Affiliated Players

The score sheet must reflect the affiliated player with "AP" to the left of the player's name on the team's roster. For example, "(AP) Wayne Gretzky".



## Affiliate Player (AP) Rules

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### I. **Failure to comply**

Where a team fails to fulfill the requirements outlined above, that game shall be considered forfeited, and any points awarded shall be deducted from the team record. In addition, the SMBHA reserves the right to apply disciplinary actions against the team coach for violation of this policy.

*These rules were reviewed and revised in April 2025.*