



ST. MARYS MINOR HOCKEY AFFILIATED PLAYER (AP) GUIDELINE

Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) Rules/Regulations for Affiliated Players (APs)

What is an AP player?

- An affiliated player (AP) is a player who is eligible to play on their own registered team, plus one other team of a higher age division or category
- A player can affiliate for no more than one other team; once they have been rostered as an AP they cannot switch to affiliate for another team in that season

Who can affiliate for a given team?

- In accordance with OMHA policy and published guidelines, affiliated players can come from either the same age division, lower category or the same category, lower age division
- For example, from a team perspective, Pee wee BB can AP from Pee wee AE or Pee wee LL (same age; lower category); or from Atom BB (same category, lower age). Pee wee AE cannot AP from Atom BB (lower age, higher category)
- From a player perspective, a Pee wee LL player can AP for any of Bantam LL, Pee wee BB or Pee wee AE.
- Players of Minor Novice and below age may not be used as APs
- A player must fulfill their obligations to their rostered team before participating as an AP

AP paperwork

- In order to play as an AP in a game or attend practice, a player must be rostered as an AP for that team
- An OMHA Offer of Affiliation form must be completed and signed by all of the following individuals: the coach offering the AP position, the coach of the player's registered team, the player, the player's parent and the SMMHA OMHA Rep
- The player is then added to the affiliating team's roster for approval by the OMHA
- The deadline for rostering an AP is January 15th

SMMHA Guidelines for APs

Guidelines on offering AP positions

- AP positions provide assistance to teams to fill in for ill, injured, absent, or suspended players
- The SMMHA strongly encourages the signing of APs such that it maximizes opportunities for all players, and recognizes that teams have access to different pools of players dependent upon their division

- With this goal in mind, where an AE team exists, the SMMHA encourages coaches of BB teams to consider selecting APs from the AE team in the same division as a primary source. A secondary source of APs would be the BB team from the lower division
- This approach will help to ensure that AE teams have reasonable access to local league players should they also require the assistance of APs

Communication before signing

- Most players are in a position where they are eligible to sign as an AP for more than one option of team (i.e. a Peewee LL player could AP for Bantam LL, Peewee AE or Peewee BB)
- Before an offer of affiliation is signed, the coach of the player's registered team must ensure that the player and parents understand all options available to them before committing to a specific team
- In the end, the parents and players have the right to choose to affiliate for any eligible team who gives them an offer

Participation in games

- APs are to be used to fill gaps, not to augment lineups. APs are only be permitted under the following circumstances:
 - When a team is at risk of missing one or more players from its approved roster due to illness, injury, absence, or suspension
 - Where a team has an unusually low number of rostered players. Note: The SMMHA Coaches Committee will determine if a team qualifies for this category.
- An AP may take regular shifts or may see minimal ice time but an AP cannot minimize the ice time of any regular rostered player
- An AP goalie can be called up as a backup goalie
- If an AP goalie attends an away tournament, s/he must play in least one game

Participation in practices

- APs, at the discretion of both affiliated and regular team coaches, shall be allowed to practice with the affiliated team whenever possible to enable the player to become familiar with the affiliated team.

Charges for AP participation

- When an AP participates in a game or practice, they are assisting the team. SMMHA will not charge AP players an additional fee
- If an AP is required for a tournament, it will be up to the affiliated team to confirm fees required