



ST. MARYS MINOR HOCKEY AFFILIATED PLAYER GUIDELINE

Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) Rules/Regulations for an Affiliated Player

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, U13 BB can AP from U13 AE or U13 LL (same age; lower category), or from U11 BB (same category, lower age). U13 AE cannot AP from U11 BB (lower age, higher category).
- From a player perspective, a U13 LL player can AP for any of U15 LL, U13 BB or U13 AE.
- U9 players are not permitted to AP during the first half of the season.
- A player must fulfill their obligations to their rostered team before participating as an AP.

AP Documentation

- In order to play as an AP in a game or attend practice, a player must be rostered as an AP for that team following the requirements noted above.
- An OMHA Offer of Affiliation form must be completed and signed by all of the following individuals: the Head Coach offering the AP position, the Head Coach of the player's rostered team, the player/parent, and the SMMHA OMHA Rep.
- OMHA must approve APs added to a roster and the deadline is January 15.

SMMHA Guidelines for APs

- AP players 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

Offer of Affiliation and Communication

- Most players are in a position where they are eligible to consider AP options for more than one team (e.g. a U13 LL player could AP for U13 AE, U13 BB, U15 LL) but can only AP for one team.
- Before signing an Offer of Affiliation, the Head 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 and Practices

- APs are 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 is not expected to have a full roster
- An AP may take regular shifts or may see minimal ice time but an AP cannot minimize the ice time of a roster player for that team.
- An AP goalie can be called up as a backup goalie. If an AP goalie attends an away tournament, s/he must play in at least one game.
- APs, at the discretion of both affiliated and regular team Head Coaches, shall be allowed to practice with the affiliated team whenever possible for the benefit of the team and AP player.
- 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.