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**OPERATIONAL POLICY: MINOR HOCKEY OVERAGE PLAYERS**  
**DATE ISSUED: February 23, 2007**  
**LAST UPDATED: June 1, 2019**

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### **POLICY STATEMENT**

Providing opportunities for players to access Minor Hockey or Minor Female Hockey when there are no other relevant options within their respective age division is a priority for Hockey Alberta. In accordance with this policy, Hockey Alberta may allow a player that is of first year in a division, by date of birth, to register and participate with a team of a lower age division provided they meet the criteria outlined herein.

### **PROCESS FOR REQUESTS**

Approval of all Overage Players must be obtained through an application made by the Minor Hockey Association (MHA) to the appropriate League President (or designate) and the respective Hockey Alberta Minor Leagues or Minor Female Committee. The process for submitting an application is as follows:

- Completely fill out an Overage Player Application Request Form via the Hockey Alberta website (Please be sure to include the email of your MHA President in the 'President Email Box');
- Your MHA President will receive notification of the request via email and either provide their 'approval' or 'denial' of the Overage Player Request;
- If approved by your MHA President, Hockey Alberta will be notified of the Overage Player Application Form. Hockey Alberta will then forward the request to the respective Minor League or Minor Female Coordinator, who will notify the appropriate League and obtain their position on the application;
- Should the appropriate League President/ designate provide support, the application will be submitted to the appropriate Hockey Alberta Minor Leagues or Minor Female Coordinator for final approval;
- Applications must be made to the League President/ designate no later than **October 31**;
- Prior to a formal decision, Hockey Alberta and/ or the League may use an evaluation or "trial" period to determine the correct division of hockey for the applicant;
- Should final approval be given by the appropriate Hockey Alberta Minor Leagues or Minor Female Coordinator, they will notify the applicant, MHA, league and Minor Administration Coordinator.

### **CRITERIA**

The Overage Player application process can be accessed for any of the following scenarios:

- Player has a physical or mental impairment that would restrict them from participating within their designated age Division;
- Player's skill level provides limitations that would restrict them from participating within their designated age Division;
- Player is from a remote community with no team at their designated age Division within 75 kilometers of travel.
- Player is a goaltender and there are no other goaltenders for the age Division being applied.
- Player is a Junior aged goaltender, 18 years of age as of December 31 of the current hockey season and meets the following criteria:



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- Applicant is for the position of goaltender only and is required to make a U18 team;
  - Applicant is enrolled full-time in high school;
  - There are no U18 aged goaltenders within the Minor Hockey Association or within 75 kilometers of travel.

**Exception:** Junior Female Overage Players may be permitted to register on a Minor Female Hockey teams, provided they are approved in accordance with the Minor Female Overage Regulations.

Overage Player applications will not be considered under the following circumstances:

- Application is for a AAA and/ or AA team;
- Application is for a Junior aged skater, 18 years of age as of December 31 of the current hockey season;
- Application is based on the dislike of a coach, teammate, ice time or anything conduct related.

#### **OVERAGE PLAYERS IN INTRO TO HOCKEY LEVELS**

- Hockey Alberta may allow a Player that is in their first year in the U11 Division, by date of birth, to register and participate in an MHA's Intro to Hockey Program. Completed applications are to be sent straight to the Hockey Alberta Minor Leagues Committee Coordinator.
- Minor Hockey Associations will be permitted to proceed, without Hockey Alberta approval, with registering U9 aged participants in the U7 division should they deem it appropriate for the participants development. Notification must be made to the Minor Administration Coordinator.

#### **USE OF AN APPROVED OVERAGE PLAYER**

- Approved Overage Players will be placed on the lowest team of the specified division within the MHA;
- Approved Overage Players are eligible to participate with their registered Team in all exhibition, tournament, League and Provincial games;
- Approved Overage Players are eligible to affiliate to a team of their age appropriate division;
- Approved Overage Players must be marked as "OA" on all game sheets;
- A maximum of three (3) Overage Players can be approved per one team;
- Approved Overage Players may have their overage status revoked at any time within the season up to and including December 31 should it be deemed the player no longer meets the respective prerequisites in which the application was approved;
- Overage Player approvals are valid for the current season only.