

Rocky Mountain

ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

PLAYER MOVEMENT POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to members of the Rocky Mountain Athletic Association (RMAA) and its member associations on the regulations that the RMAA will use when evaluating requests for player movement requests into, out of, and within the Association.

SECTION 1 – ELITE HOCKEY REQUESTS

- 1.1 The RMAA is committed to providing an opportunity for players to participate in elite hockey including AA and AAA programs. The RMAA will adhere to Hockey Alberta's processes as they relate to AA and AAA tryouts. Player releases for this purpose are not administered by this Policy and will solely follow Hockey Alberta's regulations. No release is required to be, nor will be, issued for the purposes of playing AA or AAA.
- 1.2 Players falling within one AA or AAA recruitment area, that wish to be released to an alternative recruitment area, fall outside of the jurisdiction of the RMAA and therefore shall make such request through their assigned recruitment association.
- 1.3 Players that wish to attend and participate in Hockey Alberta sanctioned camps, tournaments or events outside of the RMAA shall be required to submit a request for a "Letter of Permission" through Hockey Alberta's online form submission program. It should be noted that this approval only permits temporary support for the player to participate in an event and the expectation is for the player to return to the RMAA upon conclusion of the event.

The RMAA, upon receiving confirmation from the respective member association, will approve all Letters of Permission.

SECTION 2 – PLAYER RELEASE REQUESTS

In principle, the RMAA is focused on the retention of all players within the Association's boundaries for the purpose of having adequate players to provide diverse and competitive program offerings for all players. As such, the RMAA does not support releasing players from the Association except for in extenuating circumstances outlined within this Policy Section.

- 2.1 In accordance with Hockey Alberta regulations, the RMAA will **consider** player releases in the following scenarios:
 - a) There are insufficient spots for a player within their age division, including a situation where there are excess goaltenders;
 - b) There are no teams within the player's age division;

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- c) The player wishes to move to a different stream of hockey (female hockey, non-body checking hockey, recreational hockey etc);

2.2 The following process shall be utilized for members seeking a release from the RMAA:

- a) The member shall fill out the Hockey Alberta Minor Hockey Player Movement Form and submit the document to their respective member association;
- b) The member association shall ensure the document is filled out correctly. The document in its entirety, with a written recommendation from the member association, shall be forwarded to the RMAA within forty-eight (48) hours of initial receipt.
- c) Upon receipt of the Player Movement Form, the RMAA shall within seven (7) days, meet to review the request. During the course of its review, the RMAA may take into account any information they deem appropriate and may request further information from any party.
- d) Following the review by the RMAA, the Board shall provide written documentation to the member and the respective member association outlining their decision including reasons for their decision.

2.3 The decision of the Board may not be appealed to the Appeals Committee as an appeal function already exists through Hockey Alberta.

2.4 It shall be the responsibility of the Parent to follow all processes established by Hockey Alberta.

2.5 The Board shall deny any Player Movement requests based solely on dislike of a coach, teammate, other Member of the RMAA, or the Association.

2.6 Out of fairness for previous decisions of member associations and to recognize that players may have established bonds in other associations. the Board **may** give consideration to players that have previously played greater than 2 concurrent seasons within another association when reviewing a Player Movement Form.

2.7 Player Movement requests to leave the RMAA in order to participate in an association that has alternative programming options not offered by the RMAA, such as Female Hockey or recreational hockey/pond hockey, will be granted after consultation with the respective member association. In some circumstances, the member association may direct for the Player Movement request to be forwarded to the Board, at which point it will be considered in accordance with this policy, with approval or denial at the Board's discretion.

SECTION 3 – PLAYER IMPORTS

3.1 Requests by a player, from outside of the RMAA, to join one of the member Associations shall be considered and approved by the respective member Association and submitted as part of their registration process.

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SECTION 4 – INTERNAL PLAYER TRANSFERS

- 4.1 Requests from players to transfer from one member association to another member association shall be dealt with independently from Hockey Alberta's Player Movement request and in the following manner:
- a) The member shall submit a request in writing to their respective member association. The request, shall be accompanied with written confirmation from the proposed member association that they are willing to accept the player if released;
 - b) The member association shall, within forty-eight (48) hours of initial receipt, provide a written recommendation to the RMAA for consideration;
 - c) Upon receipt of the Player Movement Form, the RMAA shall within seven (7) days, meet to review the request. During the course of it's review, the RMAA may take into any information they deem appropriate and may request further information from any party.
 - d) Following the review by the RMAA, the Board shall provide written documentation to the member and the respective member association outlining their decision including reasons for their decision.
- 4.2 The decision of the Board may be appealed to the Appeals Committee as formed by RMAA Bylaw and/or Policy as no appeal process lies with Hockey Alberta;
- 4.3 The Board shall deny any Player Movement requests based solely on dislike of a coach, teammate, other Member of the RMAA, or the Association.
- 4.4 The Board shall give strong weight to the recommendation of the player's initial member association and only provide an alternate decision in extreme extenuating circumstances.