

Bow River Bruins Hockey Association (BRBHA) Player Affiliation Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish a clear and consistent process for the use of affiliated players and goaltenders within the BRBHA. Affiliation is intended to support player development, maintain team operations, and ensure compliance with Hockey Calgary regulations.

All affiliations must be conducted in good faith, with the player's registered team remaining their first priority.

Authority

The BRBHA 2nd Vice President (or designate), and/or the Board of Directors reserves the right to make affiliation decisions when coaches cannot reach agreement regarding the use of affiliates.

General Principles

1. **All affiliations must comply with Hockey Calgary Rules and Regulations.**
 2. The player's registered team takes priority over any affiliated team activities, subject to the circumstances outlined in this policy.
 3. Affiliated players must be listed on the team's approved affiliation roster.
 4. Coaches are expected to communicate respectfully and collaborate in the best interests of the player and both teams.
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Game Affiliation Procedures

Requesting an Affiliate

1. The Head Coach of the requesting team must first contact the Head Coach of the player's registered team to request permission to use an affiliated player or goaltender.
2. Coaches should discuss the availability and recent performance of eligible affiliated players.
3. The requesting coach may select the affiliate they wish to use, subject to the approval of the player's registered team coach.

Player/Goalie Contact

4. Once approval has been granted, the requesting coach may contact the player and/or family to invite the player to participate.
5. Coaches must not contact players or parents before receiving approval from the player's registered team coach.

Confirmation

6. The requesting coach or manager shall confirm the affiliation details with the player's registered team coach, including the date, time, and location of the game.
7. The affiliated player must be properly identified on the game sheet in accordance with Hockey Calgary requirements.

Availability

8. The player's registered team may decline an affiliation request if the player is required for a game, practice, team event, or other team obligation.

BRBHA supports providing players with affiliation opportunities whenever possible. As a general principle, affiliated players are encouraged to play at a higher level when requested, even if it conflicts with a practice, team event, or other non-game obligation with their registered team.

9. BRBHA encourages flexibility where reasonable, including allowing players to miss a practice, team event or other team obligation in order to participate in an affiliated game.

If an affiliation opportunity conflicts with a game for the player's registered team, the registered team and the affiliate team should work collaboratively to determine the best outcome based on player availability and team needs. The player's registered team should only decline an affiliation request when the player is required for their own scheduled game and no reasonable alternative exists.

10. If teams are unable to come to a joint resolution on an affiliation request, the requesting team must contact the BRBHA 2nd Vice President. The BRBHA 2nd Vice President (or designate), and/or the Board of Directors reserves the right to make affiliation decisions when coaches cannot reach agreement regarding the use of affiliates.

Maximums (as per Hockey Calgary)

1. A player of a team of lower division or category may play a maximum of ten (10) games. If the player's registered team completes its regular season and playoffs before the player's affiliated team, the player may thereafter affiliate an unlimited number of times.
2. An affiliated U9 player may play a maximum of five (5) games with their affiliated team in the current hockey season.

3. Exhibition and Tournament games do not count in the total for the use of affiliates.

Practice Affiliation

1. Coaches must be able to justify the affiliate player's attendance at practice. Examples of appropriate reasons include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Preparing the player to participate in an upcoming affiliated game.
 - b. Familiarizing the player with the team's systems, structure, and expectations.
 - c. Integrating the player with teammates prior to an anticipated game or tournament.
2. There is no maximum number of practices for which an affiliate player may be invited to participate with an affiliated team.

Practice Affiliation Procedures

Requesting an Affiliate

3. The Head Coach of the requesting team must first contact the Head Coach of the player's registered team to request permission to use an affiliated player or goaltender.
4. Coaches should discuss the availability and recent performance of eligible affiliated players.
5. The requesting coach may select the affiliate they wish to use, subject to the approval of the player's registered team coach.
6. Coaches who regularly use affiliates for practices may obtain season-long written approval from the player's registered team coach.

Player/Goalie Contact

7. Once approval has been granted, the requesting coach may contact the player and/or family to invite the player to participate.
8. Coaches must not contact players or parents before receiving approval from the player's registered team coach.

Goaltender Development

Teams with a single rostered goaltender are encouraged to work collaboratively with affiliated teams to ensure two goaltenders are available whenever possible for practices throughout the season.

Non-Compliance

Failure to follow this policy, Hockey Calgary regulations, or established affiliation procedures may result in disciplinary action by BRBHA and/or Hockey Calgary.

Examples of non-compliance include:

- Contacting players or parents before obtaining coach approval.
- Repeatedly disregarding the priority of a player's registered team.
- Failing to act in good faith during affiliation discussions.

Disciplinary measures may include a hearing before the BRBHA Discipline Committee and suspension from team activities, up to and including suspension from games, at the discretion of the BRBHA Discipline Committee.