



INFORMATION BULLETIN

Issue # 2026-011-I

August 26, 2026

TO: MHA Presidents
FROM: Al McCulloch, VIAHA President
COPY: VIAHA Officers
League Commissioners and Managing Directors
SUBJECT: Affiliation

This bulletin will serve to clarify the regulations and policies on affiliation for both Island League and the recreational leagues in the District. VIAHA strongly encourages all teams to make use of affiliation to ensure that they always have sufficient players available to safely participate in games. This is particularly important if a team has a small roster or only one goaltender.

Hockey Canada Regulation F, BC Hockey Regulations 2.8 and 2.9 and VIAHA Regulations 5.26 – 5.33 outline the processes and restrictions on affiliation.

Hockey Canada Regulations contain the following definitions:

- Affiliate Player (AP) refers to a player who is eligible to participate with a higher Division/Category team through the affiliation process described in Hockey Canada Regulation F.
- Affiliate Team refers to the team to which a player affiliates.
- Roster means the list of Active players registered by a team on the Hockey Canada Registry excluding any Affiliate Players.

Minor Hockey Associations have or should have their own policies or processes to be followed by an Affiliate Team and those policies may be more restrictive than those of the District. The team staff should always contact their own MHA before deciding to add Affiliate Players.

Those regulations applicable to minor hockey teams are:

- A team may have a total of seventeen (17) skaters and two (2) goaltenders as specially affiliated players. No player is permitted to be part of more than one (1) Affiliated Players' list in a particular category at any given time during the season. (e.g. a U15 "C" player could be affiliated to both a U15 "A" team and a U18 "C" team but not to both a U18 "C" team and a U18 "A" team.)
- An affiliate player must have the approval of his/her registered team and their MHA before being added as an affiliate player.
- An affiliate player must have the permission of his/her registered team to participate in a game as an affiliate player.
- The Affiliate Player must be listed on the HCR of the team to which they are affiliated before playing as an affiliate. Otherwise, the player is considered ineligible.
- Affiliate Teams must ensure the MHA Registrar has adequate time to add the Affiliate Player to the HCR. An email or telephone call asking that the player be added is not sufficient.
- Affiliate players will have the designation "AP" beside their name on the game sheet. Spordle Play game sheets add this designation automatically.



Vancouver Island Amateur Hockey Association

2301-E McCullough Road Nanaimo BC V9S 4M9

info@viaha.org www.viaha.org

Ph: 250-751-8811 Fax: 250-751-8812

- Affiliate Players cannot be added after January 15.
- Affiliate players may be used to replace a player or players absent due to injury, suspension or family vacations. An available and eligible rostered player cannot be a "healthy scratch" to make a spot available for an affiliate.
- A carded player may not be affiliated to a recreational team. A U11 Development Player may not be affiliated to a U13 recreational team
- U9 players may affiliate to a U11 team provided they are no more than one year out of the U11 category. U7 players may not be used as Affiliate Players.
- A player may not participate as an affiliate in more than ten (10) placement, league or playoff games in a season. The player is considered ineligible after the tenth game.
- Except for goaltenders, appearance on a game sheet is considered participation. For goaltenders taking part in any part of a game will be considered participation while appearing as a back-up, on the bench, will not.
- Exhibition and tournament games are excluded from the restriction of ten (10) games.
- Players remain registered with their lower Division/Category team.
- A carded team may not use Affiliate Players to bring the numbers of players in a game to a number greater than the number of players on their roster for league, playoff and exhibition games. This restriction does not apply to tournament games.
- A recreational team, including U11 Development, may not use Affiliate Players to bring the numbers of players in a game to a number greater than the number of players on their roster for league, playoff and exhibition games. If the team's roster exceeds fourteen (14) skaters, they may use affiliates if they have thirteen (13) or fewer skaters available for a game and may only use affiliates to bring the number of skaters up to fourteen (14). These restrictions do not apply to tournament games.
- Recreational players may not participate as Affiliate Players until the first Wednesday following Thanksgiving. There is no such restriction on carded players.
- Recreational teams that wish to avail themselves of lateral transfer provisions must have Affiliate Players, and they must attempt to use these Affiliate Players before lateral transfers will be considered.
- Affiliate Players used contrary to any of the limitations in this bulletin will be considered ineligible players. Please refer to Regulations #5.14 and #5.15 for the consequences of using ineligible players

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact your league Managing Director/Commissioner or have your MHA President contact the applicable VIAHA Vice-President or myself.

Yours sincerely,

Al McCulloch
VIAHA President