



OVERAGE PLAYER POLICY and PROCEDURE



Effective Date: November 2012

Revised: August 2015

Introduction

Hockey Eastern Ontario (HEO) and the Hockey Eastern Ontario Minor (HEO Minor) understands and appreciates the responsibility that local Minor Hockey Associations have in providing opportunities for all Players to enjoy the game of hockey, including less skilled Players who may be joining the programs later than other Players in their age category and Players who may be physically or mentally challenged. The intent of this policy is to make an allowance for these Players; it is not the intent to bolster player numbers to form a team or to make a team more competitive. *The intent is clearly to accommodate players in their development and participation in hockey.*

Allowance for instituting an Overage Player Policy is covered under Hockey Canada Regulation B. Competition 1.

Which states:

“The Player’s age is determined for the current playing season by the Player’s age at December 31 of the current season. Notwithstanding the above, Branches may allow players to play at a lower age division to accommodate less skilled players providing the player qualifies according to guidelines established by the Branch for assessing such Players. This Player shall be granted all the rights and privileges accorded by Hockey Canada except that any such player would be ineligible to register with or Affiliate to any Hockey Canada team in a division or category which could earn the right to participate in a Hockey Canada National or Regional Championship.”

Application of Policy (Overage Pre-Requisites)

- a) An Overage Player may only be one (1) year older than the age category in which the Player is applying for exception. Exception: This requirement may be waived by the President HEO Minor in exceptional circumstances; however, when such permission is granted, it is understood that the player may not participate in any out-of-branch games.
- b) A Player who has a physical or mental disability may apply with supporting medical documentation. This documentation shall remain confidential and not be made available for general consumption.
- c) A Player may apply who is significantly smaller in stature than those Players within the Player’s eligible age category and who has significantly weaker hockey skills than those Players within the age category.
- d) A new Player may apply (never registered, never played before) whose skill level is significantly inferior to those Players within the eligible age category.
- e) Players applying for Overage status shall be evaluated by the local Association for skill level which shall be documented as part of the application process.

Overage Participants must meet criteria (a) as well as one other criterion in (b) to (e).

Application Process

- 1) Overage Players wishing to compete at a lower age category shall complete an “Overage Player Request Form” and submit it to the Association President who in turn provides a copy to the District Chair for review and secondary approval. The completed form is forwarded to the HEO Minor office

HEO/HEO Minor OVERAGE PLAYER POLICY and PROCEDURE

for review by the President of HEO Minor, who after reviewing the documentation may grant approval. The District will be notified of approval or rejection. Applicants must provide a complete Player history, if applicable, and reasons for the request with supporting documentation where required.

- 2)
 - i) Applications Received by September 1 will be reviewed by September 15th.
 - ii) Applications Received by October 1st, will be reviewed by October 15th
 - iii) Applications Received by November 1st, will be reviewed by November 15th
 - iv) Applications Received by December 1st, will be reviewed by December 15th
 - v) No applications will be accepted beyond December 1st
- 3) The procedure used for assigning Overage Players within an Association must be written and communicated to the Player and parents involved.
- 4) Overage applications will not be considered if the reasons given include: dislike of coach or team members, assigned ice times, or parent's wish.
- 5) When a Player has been allowed to participate at the younger age level, a note must be attached to their HCR registration indicating both the placement and reason.
- 6) The participation of Overage Players must be brought to the attention of the Organizing Committee of any tournament. The coach must indicate "OA" on the game sheet after the name of each Overage Player.
- 7) Players who have received approval from the President HEO Minor are not eligible for provincial, interbranch, branch and national playoffs.

The following conditions must be adhered to in order to maintain overage participation.

- a) Overage Status may be revoked at any time when it is deemed that the actions of the player are not in the best interests of those affected by his/her actions. If the player's hockey skills have developed in such a manner where participation as an overage is no longer justified, consideration should be given to have the player placed in their age appropriate division.
- b) Overage players should be in the bottom half of the team in penalty minutes.
- c) Overage players who receive a match penalty or a major suspension may have their Overage Status revoked immediately.
- d) Overage Players are not eligible as affiliates to a higher Division or Category.

Applying for Overage Status

The Overage Player Request Form shall be completed at the Association level and sent to the District Chair and the HEO Minor office for review along with any necessary documents as described in "Pre-Requisites for Obtaining Overage Status".