



OVERAGE PLAYER POLICY and PROCEDURE



1.0 INTRODUCTION

Hockey Eastern Ontario (HEO) and the Hockey Eastern Ontario Minor (HEO Minor) understand and appreciate 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.*

2.0 EFFECTIVE DATE

Rev. 0 November 2012

Rev. 1 August 2015

3.0 HOCKEY CANADA REGULATION

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.”

4.0 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 exemption. Exception: This requirement may be waived by the President HEO Minor in extraordinary 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.

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

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5.0 APPLICATION PROCESS STEPS

- 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, along with any necessary documents as described in "Overage Pre-Requisites". The Association President in turn provides a copy to the District Chair for review and secondary approval. The completed duly signed form and the supportive documentation is forwarded to the HEO Minor office 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.
- 9) Players who have received approval from the President HEO Minor are not eligible for provincial, interbranch, and national playoffs.

6.0 MAINTAINING ELIGIBILITY

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 must 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.

7.0 TOURNAMENT ENTRY LETTER

A signed copy of the "Tournament Entry Letter" shall be provided with the tournament application.

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OVERAGE PLAYER REQUEST FORM

NOTES: **OVERAGE STATUS MAY BE REVOKED AT ANY TIME.**

Prior to the applicant participating in any Branch sanctioned event, final approval must be granted by the District Chair and HEO Minor President.

This Form must be completed in full and submitted to the Association President who will provide a copy to the District and the HEO Minor office.

Player's Name: _____ Birth Date: _____ Age: _____

Male or Female: _____ Ht. and Wt. _____

Address: _____

School: _____

MHA Last Played For: _____ Category Last Played: _____

Years Played: _____ Position: _____

Has applicant played as an Overage Player previously? Yes ___ No ___ If yes, when? _____

Any Major Penalties Last Season?: Yes ___ No ___ If yes, what? _____

Any Suspensions Last Season?: Yes ___ No ___ If yes, what? _____

Category Wishing to Play: _____ Team/League Category: _____

Division According to Date of Birth: _____

Minor Hockey Association: _____

Reason(s) for playing one age category lower than eligible age level (attach all supporting documentation - refer to Section 4.0 APPLICATION OF POLICY (Overage Pre-Requisites) for options.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Email: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone Number: _____ Date: _____

Association President Signature: _____ Approval: Yes ___ No ___

Date: _____ Contact Email: _____ Phone No.: _____

District Signature: _____ Approval: Yes ___ No ___ Date: _____

HEO Minor Signature: _____ Approval: Yes ___ No ___ Date: _____

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TOURNAMENT ENTRY LETTER

This letter certifies that:

Player: _____

Team Name: _____

Minor Hockey Association: _____

Branch: _____

has been deemed to be an “Overage Player” in accordance with the terms of the (i) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) dated September 2011 and titled “Policy and Allowances Related to Overage Players Playing at a Lower Age Category”, as agreed among Hockey Eastern Ontario (HEO), the Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF) and Hockey Northwest Ontario (HNO), and their member associations,

and (ii) a second MOU dated December 2011 as agreed between Hockey Eastern Ontario (HEO) and Hockey Quebec (HQ).

As such, the above named Player is permitted to take part in all sanctioned events for his/her team.

Note: A copy of this letter must be completed and sent along with the tournament/event application in advance. This letter does not guarantee a spot for the team in the tournament/event, but rather provides for notice that an “Overage Player” is a member of the team making the application. A copy should also be brought with the team should they be accepted in the tournament/event.

Authorized by President of Association:

_____ Date: _____

Authorized by HEO Minor President:

_____ Date: _____