



METRO WEST FORCE AFFILIATED PLAYER POLICY

Message from our Board of Directors

Metro West Female Hockey Association is an athlete-centred, recreational, grass roots organization. We aim to grow strong leaders through the delivery of inclusive, rewarding and unique experiences for all of our membership.

MWFHA's Affiliated Player Policy is to allow its teams to dress a maximum number of players for a game in accordance with Hockey Nova Scotia Female Regulations. For all of our competitive teams, that is up to 17 skaters + 2 goalies. Typically, affiliated players are to replace rostered players who are sick, injured, suspended or otherwise away.

MWFHA's Affiliated Player Policy is not an additional way that teams can gain an edge in the pursuit of winning or as a way to mitigate against underperforming rostered players. It is, rather, to be treated as an additional development opportunity for our affiliated players. Through games and practises at a higher level, our affiliated players will get exposed to different approaches and levels of competition therefore amplifying their likelihood of and comfort with playing at that higher level in the future.

Board of Directors
Metro West Female Hockey Association – October 2026

Association Principles

- MWFHA values player development and positive experience for all our players over winning – we win through development and not at the cost of development
- All MWFHA players deserve the opportunity to play and develop in all situations
- MWFHA issues can be resolved through open communication and mutual respect



Affiliated Player Guiding Principles

- MWFHA Policy is in accordance with [Hockey Nova Scotia Female Regulation 6: Affiliation](#)
- Teams cannot pull affiliated players from a higher-level
- Affiliation must be age appropriate
- At no time may a player skip a Division for the purpose of affiliation.
- Where multiple levels do not exist, teams may affiliate with the next level, regardless of level, provided that they do not skip a Division
- Consent must be sought from an affiliated player's Rostered Team Staff before any contact be made with player/family for practice or game.

Key Aspects

- Affiliated Teams. See Table 1 - MWFHA Affiliated Teams. MWFHA will assign affiliated teams from which affiliated players may be sourced. Teams may use players of any combination from its assigned affiliated teams where necessary. Coaching staff are encouraged to develop open communication with their affiliated coaching staff to facilitate player movement and opportunities.
- Player Selection. Affiliated players shall be selected from among athletes who demonstrate the skill and readiness to meet the demands of the higher level. Opportunities must be distributed fairly within this group and not repeatedly limited to the same individuals. The MWFHA VP Player Development and the Technical Director will support the identification of the eligible player pool at each level.
- Reporting. MWFHA VP Player Development and Technical Director must be copied on any agreed affiliated players for games as this will be tracked by the Association.
- Number of Players. A maximum of three affiliated players may be used by one team within one game.
- Number of Games. Affiliated players are permitted to play a maximum of 10 games/season with any of their affiliated teams. This does not include exhibition or tournament games.



- Playoffs/Provincials/Day of Champions. Affiliated players may participate in Playoffs/Provincials/Day of Champions beyond the 10 game maximum provided that their rostered team's season, inclusive of their own Playoffs/Provincials/Day of Champions, is complete.
- In Game Ice Time. If invited to play, Affiliated Players will be assigned ice time in accordance with MWFHA's [Fair Play Policy](#). They shall neither receive preferential treatment nor be subjected to reduced ice time based on their affiliate status, ensuring equitable participation within the team environment.
- Practices. Where ice availability exists, Coaching Staff are encouraged to invite affiliated players to participate in practices, provided that equal opportunity is extended to all affiliated players. Affiliated players may be invited to a practice ahead of a game in which they are intended to be rostered. They may also be used to optimize practice numbers when rostered players are absent from practice. Practices should not be used to provide individual players with preferential treatment or "added ice" opportunities.
- Goaltenders. Goaltenders who affiliate but do not play will not have the game count against their 10 games. In addition, an affiliated goaltender will only be permitted to play if the rostered goaltender(s) are sick, injured, suspended or otherwise away.

Coaching Staff Expectations

- MWFHA coaches must follow the principles of Hockey Nova Scotia's [The Shift Forward](#) which are built upon the mutual obligations of safety and respect.
- MWFHA coaches are not coaching a professional team – they are coaching our kids. Their goal is to develop our athletes to reach their potential in a positive safe environment



Parent Expectations

- MWFHA parents must adhere to the [MWFHA Parent Code of Conduct](#)
- MWFHA parents must understand the challenges of player availability and lining up replacements. They are to give the benefit of the doubt to our coaching staff over at least the first month following team selection.
- If, after this month, MWFHA parents believe there is a contravention of our Affiliated Player Policy:
 1. Follow the 24 hour rule regarding coaching staff engagement;
 2. Discuss their concern first with Team Representative;
 3. Seek resolution with the Coaching Staff;
 4. If resolution is not achieved, submit a complaint to VP Coach Development/VP Safe Sport who will work to provide an Association-led resolution

Association Accountability

- Oversight. This policy will be dynamically managed by the MWFHA Board. It will be routinely reviewed and adjusted, as necessary.
- Monitoring. All membership – players, parents, coaches, team staff and Board Executive – are to ensure that we adhere to our principles and the MWFHA Codes. Informed by the [MWFHA Path to Redemption](#), deliberate and systematic contraventions will be addressed accordingly.
- Mediation. As expressed in the MWFHA principles, our issues can be generally resolved through open communication and mutual respect. However, we acknowledge that there will be times where facilitation of this open communication may be necessary due to complexity. As such, if mediation/arbitration is agreed to by all parties, the Association will make use of professional, objective third-party mediator to facilitate on our behalf.



Table 1 - MFWHA Affiliated Teams (October 2026)

ROSTERED TEAM	AFFILIATED TEAM(S)
U18AA	U18A, U15AA
U18A	U15A
U15AAA	U15AA, U13AAA
U15AA	U15A, U13AA
U15A	U13A, U15C
U15C/U18C	Our U15C teams are a blend with U18C. No affiliates.
U13AAA	U13AA
U13AA	U13A, U11AA
U13A	U11A, U13/U15C
U13C	U11C
U11AA	U11A
U11A	U11C
U11C	U9 Intermediate (if approved by Female Council)