

**OVERVIEW**

This policy is in relation to Minor Hockey players participating with other Minor Hockey teams in the capacity of coach and/or volunteer. It has become evident in recent years that older Minor Hockey players partake in practices with teams of lower divisions to assist and volunteer.

**MINOR HOCKEY PLAYERS COACHING MINOR HOCKEY**

As per Hockey Canada's National Coaching Certification Program, all certified coaches must be a minimum of 16 years of age by December 31st of the current season.

All coaches must be carded members of the applicable team and approved by H.N.O.

**MINOR HOCKEY PLAYERS VOLUNTEERING WITH OTHER MINOR HOCKEY TEAMS (LOWER DIVISION)**

Registered players may volunteer with a team at practices. They may only be demonstrators and are not permitted to partake in any drills/scrimmages.

Volunteer players must be at minimum, one age division (i.e.. U18, U15 etc) higher than the team that they are volunteering with.

Volunteer players must wear as a minimum a CSA helmet, full facial protection, neck guard, mouth guard and hockey gloves.

Member teams, Leagues or Associations may mandate that such volunteers wear full gear. Hockey Northwestern Ontario only requires the minimum outlined.

**MINOR HOCKEY PLAYERS VOLUNTEERING WITH OTHER MINOR HOCKEY TEAMS (HIGHER DIVISION)**

Players are **not permitted** to volunteer/participate at any time in practices/scrimmages with a team in a higher division.

This does not include players who are registered "Affiliated Players" with a higher category team.

Players who are carded members (approved by H.N.O.) of a higher division team than their applicable age category, are permitted to participate in practice.

**GENERAL**

- All team members must wear full gear for all practices.
- Players that may be returning from an injury and may only be skating with their team must wear full gear, there are no exceptions.

Approved by the Board of Directors: February 11, 2023

Replaces: January 24, 2015

Reviewed: Triennial