

1. Associations from the East and West Zones shall be allowed to form specially affiliated 'AA' teams using registered 'A' players from within their respective zones.
2. Associations with bona fide 'AA' teams will not be able to create 'AA' teams under this policy.
3. Team composition will consist of a maximum of 19 players - 17 skaters, 2 goalies. There shall be no deviation from this team make up.
4. Team composition will consist of a minimum of 11 players - 10 skaters, 1 goalie.
5. A Specially Affiliated Team Roster, listing all 19 players, Team Officials, and governing Association must be submitted to the Executive Director and approved prior to playing any exhibition games or tournaments. The deadline to register a Special Affiliated "AA" team is January 15 at 7pm Eastern Time. After this date, the roster will become frozen, and no further changes will be allowed. No Specially Affiliated Team Roster will be accepted after January 15 at 7pm Eastern Time.
6. Coaches and Bench Staff must meet the requirements of HNO Regulation E: *"Training Requirements for Coaches, Trainers, and Officials"* for AA teams to be approved on the roster. This includes the requirement for a Head Coach to be Development 1 certified and have the checking skills course. Teams failing to meet the requirements of Regulation E. for AA hockey will not be approved.
7. Those players selected to play, must have their home Association's President's signature on the Specially Affiliated Player Form prior to being placed on the Specially Affiliated Team Roster.
8. The Association governing a Specially Affiliated Team will ensure that players fulfil 'A' commitments prior to participation on the 'AA' team (e.g., 'A' tournament scheduled on same weekend as 'AA' with 'A' team scheduled to participate. 'A' team will have priority over 'AA'.) This will ensure that the 'A' program will not suffer due to the formation of a specially affiliated 'AA' team. Specially Affiliated "AA" Teams are not permitted to ask for permission for players to miss "A" team games or practices to participate with the Specially Affiliated "AA" team under any circumstances.
9. Specially Affiliated Teams will be allowed to participate in up to a maximum of ten (10) exhibition games.
10. Specially Affiliated Teams will be allowed to participate in up to a maximum of four (4) tournaments per season plus the AA Tournament of Champions for a total of five (5) AA tournaments. The Tournament Host Association shall be informed, prior to entering the tournament, of 'Specially Affiliated' status. The Tournament Host shall have the authority to deny admittance to tournament. Under no circumstance will a Specially Affiliated AA team be permitted to enter the "A" division of a tournament or any division below "AA".
11. Teams are to apply for travel permits and exhibition game requests through the online platforms accepted by the branch. The branch office will inform the Minor Convenor of requests for tracking purposes.

- 12. Team Roster must be approved by Hockey Northwestern Ontario Office prior to applying for a travel permit.
  
- 13. Any Association operating Specially Affiliated AA teams that are found to be acting in violation of any part of this policy will lose the right to offer a Specially Affiliated AA team for the minimum of the next playing season. The Head Coach may also be suspended for up to one (1) year.

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| Reviewed: May 14, 2023<br>Approved by the Board of Directors: June 10, 2023<br>Reviewed: Annually |
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