



<b>Policy Name:</b> <b>AA Development Stream Program Policy</b>		<b>Date of Approval</b> December 6, 2025	<b>Effective Date:</b> June 1, 2026
<b>Approved by:</b> HNO Board of Directors		<b>Prepared by:</b> Minor Committee	<b>Replaces Previous Versions</b> February 8, 2025. November 1, 2024. June 10, 2023.
<b>Review Cycle</b> Annually			
<b>Responsible</b> Minor Committee	<b>Accountable</b> Board of Directors	<b>Consulted</b> Board of Directors	<b>Informed</b> HNO Members

1. Associations from the East and West Zones shall be allowed to form a team(s) under the *AA Development Stream Program Policy* 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 nineteen (19) players, in accordance with Hockey Canada Regulation F, Affiliation, paragraph 1(b). No deviations from this roster size are permitted.
4. Players must be rostered on an "A" team before being approved on an *AA Development Stream Team*. Overage players are not eligible.
5. A Team Roster, listing a maximum of nineteen (19) players, Team Officials, and governing Association must be submitted to HNO and approved prior to playing any exhibition games or tournaments. The deadline to register an *AA Development Stream Team* is January 15 at 7pm Eastern Time.  
After this date, the roster shall become frozen, and no further changes will be allowed. No *AA Development Stream 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, Safety Person, and Officials*" for AA teams to be approved on the roster.
7. Those players selected to play, must have their home Association's President's signature on the *Affiliated Players Outside Your Organization Form* prior to being placed on the Team Roster.
8. The Association governing an *AA Development Stream 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 an *AA Development Team*. *AA Development Teams* are not permitted to ask for permission for players to miss "A" team games or practices to participate with the *AA Development Team* under any circumstances.

9. *AA Development Stream Teams* will be allowed to participate in up to a maximum of ten (10) exhibition games.
10. *AA Development Stream 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 an *AA Development Stream Team* be permitted to enter the "A" division of a tournament or any division below "AA" within HNO.
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.

Any Association operating *AA Development Stream Team* that are found to be acting in violation of any part of this policy will lose the right to offer an *AA Development Stream Program* for the minimum of the next playing season. The Head Coach may also be suspended for up to one (1) year.