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| Policy Name: Select Team Policy | Date of Approval January 31, 2026 | Effective Date: January 31, 2026 | |
| Approved by: HNO Board of Directors | Prepared by: Minor Committee | Replaces Previous Versions November 1, 2025 February 8, 2025 | |
| Review Cycle Pilot Project | | | |
| Responsible Minor Committee | Accountable Board of Directors | Consulted Board of Directors | Informed HNO Minor Members |

Introduction

What is “Select Hockey” - A category of minor hockey which to be eligible, a player must be registered with a recognized (sanctioned) “A” organization and accordingly be an active participant in the corresponding house league in a recognized (sanctioned) schedule of house league programming. All age categories from U11 to U18 are eligible to form a “Select Team” to participate in Hockey Canada sanctioned exhibition games and tournaments.

Select teams are eligible to play against other Select teams and teams that have designated themselves as A1 within their zone. They can also participate in AA level exhibitions and AA tournaments. They cannot play games against A level teams or in A level tournament at the same age group within Hockey Northwestern Ontario.

Select teams may play games against other Select teams and against teams designated as A1 within their zone. They are also permitted to participate in AA-level exhibition games and AA tournaments. However, Select teams are **not** allowed to play against A-level teams or enter A-level tournaments within their own age category within Hockey Northwestern Ontario.

This policy works in conjunction with the Speciality Affiliated Team program policy by way of allowing associations a way to support more competitive player pathways.

Pilot

This policy is an effort to pilot “Select” Hockey in the west zone of HNO. The policy is intended to help bridge the player development gap between recreational and competitive hockey streams with a focus on allowing players to stay close to home.

The pilot shall last 2 seasons starting in 2024 and ending in 2026. Its goal will be able to track how many teams, how many players, where they’re from and how much more ice time they receive. Ideally, we are also able to track how many players graduate to an “AA” team the following year.

Details

1. Associations from the West Zones shall be allowed to form "Select" teams using registered 'A' players from within their respective zones.
2. Any association, even those with a bona fide 'AA' team can create "Select" teams under this policy. Only 1 Select Team can be formed per association.
3. Team composition will consist of a maximum of 20 players as per Hockey Canada regulation. There shall be no deviation from this team make-up.
4. Team composition will consist of a minimum of 11 players - 10 skaters, and 1 goalie.
5. Players must be rostered to a lower level of competition before being approved on a Select team.
6. A Select Team Roster, listing all 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 a Select team is January 15 at 7 pm eastern Time. After this date, the roster will become frozen, and no further changes will be allowed. No Select Team Rosters will be accepted after January 15 at 7 pm eastern time.
7. Coaches and Bench Staff must meet the requirements of HNO Regulation E: "Training Requirements for Coaches, Trainers, and Officials" for Select Teams to be approved on the roster. Coaches must meet the requirements of Community Level Coaches, which must be a minimum of Coach 2- Coach Level "trained".
8. Those players selected to play, must have their home Association's President's signature on the Select Team Roster Form prior to being placed on the Select Team Roster.
9. The Association governing a Select Team will ensure that players fulfil 'A' commitments prior to participation on the Select team (e.g., 'A' tournament scheduled on same weekend as Select with 'A' team scheduled to participate. 'A" team will have priority over Select.) This will ensure that the "A" program will not suffer due to the formation of a Select team. Select Teams are not permitted to ask for permission for players to miss "A" team games or practices to participate with the Select team under any circumstances.
10. Select Teams will be allowed to participate in up to a maximum of ten (10) exhibition games.
11. Select Teams will be allowed to participate in up to a maximum of four (4) tournaments per season. The Tournament Host Association shall be informed, before entering the tournament, of "Select team" status. The Tournament Host shall have the authority to deny admittance to the tournament. Under no circumstance will a Select team be permitted to enter the "A" division of a tournament within HNO. Select teams are not eligible to enter the HNO Tournament of Champions.

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

Questions/decisions:

1. Can a select team roster players from outside it's residency, but within their respective zone? **Yes.**
2. Can a select team play in a local/zone AA tournament? **Yes.**
3. Can a select team play exhibition games against AA teams? **Yes.**
4. Can a player be affiliated to a AA team as well? But not multiple Select teams. **Yes.**
5. What divisions does the pilot look to include? **U11/U13**
6. How many games and tournaments are they limited to? **Same as the Special Affiliate policy.**
7. What are the coach qualification minimums? **Community level coaches.**
8. Can a team be rostered as part of the Specialty Affiliated Team Program AND select? **Yes.**
9. Can Overage Players be rostered as part of Select Team? **No**
10. Can Select Team participate in the Tournament of Champions? **No**