



Policy Name: Select Team Policy		Date of Approval May 30, 2026	Effective Date: May 30, 2026
Approved by: HNO Board of Directors	Prepared by: Minor Committee		Replaces Previous Versions Pilot Project
Review Cycle Bi-Annual			
Responsible Minor Committee	Accountable Board of Directors	Consulted Board of Directors	Informed HNO Minor Members

1. Purpose

The Select Team Policy establishes a standardized, branch-wide framework for the formation and operation of Select Teams within Hockey Northwestern Ontario (HNO). This policy provides an enhanced competitive pathway for players registered in A-level programming while ensuring the integrity and priority of each association’s core A-level operations.

2. Definition of Select Hockey

Select Hockey is a category of minor hockey in which eligible players:

- Are registered with a sanctioned A-level association, and
- Are active participants in the association’s house league or A-level programming.

Select Teams may be formed in all HNO zones and in age categories U11 through U18.

Select Teams may participate in Hockey Canada–sanctioned exhibition games and tournaments.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all HNO-sanctioned minor hockey associations across the branch.

4. Team Formation

4.1 Association Eligibility

- Any HNO association may form **one (1) Select Team** per division.
- Associations operating AA programs remain eligible to form a Select Team.

4.2 Player Eligibility

- Players must be rostered to a lower level of competition (A-level) before being approved to a Select Team.
- Players may be rostered from outside their home association, provided they reside within the same HNO zone.
- Players may be affiliated to a AA team, but not to multiple Select Teams.
- Overage players are not permitted on Select rosters.

4.3 Team Composition

- Maximum roster size: **20 players** (Hockey Canada regulation).
- Minimum roster size: **11 players** (10 skaters + 1 goaltender).
- No deviations from these roster limits are permitted.

5. Roster Submission and Approval

A complete Select Team Roster must be submitted to HNO for approval **before** participating in any exhibition games or tournaments.



Requirements:

- **Roster Deadline:** January 15 at 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time
- Rosters become frozen after the deadline.
- No rosters will be accepted after the deadline.
- Each player must have the home association president's signature before being added to the roster.
- Rosters must be approved by HNO **prior to** applying for travel permits.

6. Coaching and Bench Staff Requirements

All team officials must meet HNO Regulation E: Training Requirements for Coaches, Trainers, and Officials.

Minimum coaching qualification:

- Coach 2 – Coach Level (trained)
- All bench staff must meet applicable certification and screening requirements.

7. Priority of A-Level Programming

The Select program must not negatively impact A-level programming.

- A-team commitments take priority over Select activities.
- Select Teams may not request permission for players to miss A-team games or practices under any circumstances.
- Associations must ensure that A-level operations remain fully supported.

8. Games and Tournament Limits

8.1 Exhibition Games

Select Teams may participate in **up to ten (10)** exhibition games per season.

8.2 Tournaments

Select Teams may participate in **up to four (4)** tournaments per season.

Tournament restrictions:

- Select Teams **may not** enter the **A-division** within their own age category of any tournament within HNO.
- Select Teams **may not** enter the **HNO Tournament of Champions**.
- Tournament hosts must be informed of Select status prior to acceptance and may deny entry.

8.3 Participation

Select Teams **may**:

- Play exhibition games against AA teams
- Enter AA tournaments
- Play against other Select teams
- Play against teams designated as A1

Select Teams **may not**:

- Play games against A level teams within the age category.



9. Administrative Requirements

- All travel permits and exhibition game requests must be submitted through HNO-approved online platforms.
- Rosters must be approved before travel permits are issued.

10. Compliance and Sanctions

Associations or team officials found in violation of this policy may face:

- Loss of the right to operate a Select Team for a minimum of **one (1) playing season**, and/or
- Suspension of the Head Coach for up to **one (1) year**.

11. Relationship to the Specialty Affiliated Team Program

A player may be rostered simultaneously as:

- A, AA Development Stream Team, and
- A Select Team

provided all requirements of both programs are met.

12. Age Divisions

Select Teams may be formed in the following divisions:

- U11, U13, U15, U18