



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

Select Teams **may**:

- Play exhibition games against AA teams
- Enter AA tournaments

## 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