



NORTHERN ONTARIO HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

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Player Releases Clarification – 2007-2008

There have been many questions asked each year about releases. The following are some of the common questions and answers. Please refer to the NOHA Constitution for more information and complete documentation of the Regulations dealing with releases. Please contact your NOHA Executive member for further clarifications.

The NOHA has developed one form to deal with Player Permission to Skate and Releases in Minor Hockey.

In Junior Hockey a player must obtain a Junior Permission to Skate form to participate in try-outs and if they make the team must obtain a Junior Release form.

1) When two communities have a team - Team to Team below AAA and within a District

A NOHA Permission to Skate/Release Form is required to be signed by the Home Association/Team allowing the player to tryout. This form must accompany the new team's HC Player Registration certificate. See NOHA Constitution R.6.2.

NOHA Constitution - R.6.2. That the NOHA Permission to Skate form will only be an automatic release when the team receives the signature of either one of the signing officers so named on the team application form of the team or club which the player is a member.

NOHA Constitution - Regulation R.5.10

a) A player wishing to register to play for a team in another community that is fully registered may do so with a release from his or her home association, club or team.

b) A player wishing to play in a higher age division outside of their Home Association/team, once being released to play at a higher age division and upon reaching the required age, the player must return to his home Association/team for that hockey season. He may request a release from his resident Association/team at that time.

2) When a community does not have a team for a player – Rep team to Rep team or House League team to House League team

As outlined in the NOHA Constitution R.5.6. When a player is in a community that does not have a team, they may go to the closest community to play. If a team is formed the

following year then they must go back home as per NOHA Constitution R.5.8. They would require a release to get back to the team they were with last year.

NOHA Constitution R.5.6. A player resident in a community which is not represented by a club having a team entered in a division in which he/she is eligible to play, may, if there is more than one team or more than one community with teams for which he/she is eligible, near his/her residence, choose which team he/she wishes to join. However, this choice is only available if the difference in distance from his/her residence, over a well maintained highway to the two or more communities does not exceed five (5) miles (eight kilometres). Such players shall continue to belong to the club chosen until properly released.

NOHA Constitution R.5.7. The distance in Item R.5.6. shall be determined by the mileage between the corporate limits of two communities over a road which is at all times maintained for motor traffic.

NOHA Constitution R.5.8. However, if, after registering with such a team as outlined in Item R.5.6., a team is entered from the community in which he/she is a resident, such a player shall be subject to claim, not later than November 15th in the current season, providing the claiming club was entered by October 1st.

NOHA Constitution - Regulation R.5.10

a) A player wishing to register to play for a team in another community that is fully registered may do so with a release from his or her home association, club or team.

b) A player wishing to play in a higher age division outside of their Home Association/team, once being released to play at a higher age division and upon reaching the required age, the player must return to his home Association/team for that hockey season. He may request a release from his resident Association/team at that time.

3) Players moving Zone (District) to Zone (District)

Players will have to get a release from their Home Association/Team in their zone (District) that they are eligible to play for. Once they receive this release they can then play anywhere within the NOHA. The release must indicate the team to which the player wishes to go to.

NOHA Constitution - Regulation R.5.10

a) A player wishing to register to play for a team in another community that is fully registered may do so with a release from his or her home association, club or team.

b) A player wishing to play in a higher age division outside of their Home Association/team, once being released to play at a higher age division and upon reaching the required age, the player must return to his home Association/team for that hockey season. He may request a release from his resident Association/team at that time.



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4) Players who move up a Division

As per the NOHA Constitution under R.5.10 they must go back home once they become the right age for that division and get the proper releases to go back to the old team.

NOHA Constitution - Regulation R.5.10

- a) A player wishing to register to play for a team in another community that is fully registered may do so with a release from his or her home association, club or team.
- b) A player wishing to play in a higher age division outside of their Home Association/team, once being released to play at a higher age division and upon reaching the required age, the player must return to his home Association/team for that hockey season. He may request a release from his resident Association/team at that time.

5) Duration of releases

NOHA Constitution R.4.35 Once having elected to register in a division, sub-division and/or category, the player shall remain in that division, sub-division and/or category until he/she becomes overage or is released by that team. (An exception to this regulation is granted to Minor Hockey in Item R.6.4)

NOHA Constitution R.6.7. A player resident in a community represented by a club with a team entered in a series for which the player is eligible to play, must register with that club except where such player's services are waived by such club, in which case the player may play for any club for which the player is eligible to play. Such waiver must accompany the application for the player's certificate. A player, who is released, is only released for that age division. At the end of the division he must return home or be released again. To return to his habitual residence after his minor year a player requires a release from the current team. It must not be construed as having altered the original residence of the player and it shall be filed with the Executive Director of the NOHA.

NOHA Constitution - Regulation R.5.10

- a) A player wishing to register to play for a team in another community that is fully registered may do so with a release from his or her home association, club or team.
- b) A player wishing to play in a higher age division outside of their Home Association/team, once being released to play at a higher age division and upon reaching



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the required age, the player must return to his home Association/team for that hockey season. He may request a release from his resident Association/team at that time.

If a player is released and registers with a “Minor” team (meaning all first year players of that division) within the NOHA, then he returns to his home association at the end of that playing season. If a player is released as a first year player but registers on a “Major” team within the NOHA, then said player is released for two (2) years to the team he registered with (until ineligible for that division).

NOTE: “Minor” and “Major” refer to divisions within the NOHA and should not be confused with local league divisions.

6) AAA Teams

NOHA Constitution R.5.2. - AAA Major and Minor Juvenile, Midget, Bantam, and Pee wee in the NOHA adopt the Zone concept. Zone divisions will be the districts as outlined in the NOHA By-Law B.1.13.

A player from within the Zone may request written permission from the signing officers of the Minor Team or Association holding his/her card, to try out for the AAA Club within the Zone. This permission must carry an automatic release for the player upon being signed by the AAA club. This same provision will apply for a player wanting to tryout for a AAA club outside his/her zone. A player is only released to the team to whom they have signed a HC card. If a player signs a Minor Bantam AAA card then they must return to their Home community after their Minor Bantam year. If the player signs a Major Bantam HC card as a Minor Bantam player then they are eligible to stay for the 2 years.

Players must play for the AAA team in their Zone (District) unless they are released from their Zone team to go to another AAA team within the NOHA. A player leaving a AAA zone would have to have two releases to sign with an AAA team outside their Zone. One release from their Home Association and one from their Zone AAA team.

7) I have been released by a Rep Association in one District to play Rep hockey in another District and now wish to affiliate with the AAA team in the new District?

NOHA Constitution R.7.15 - If a player is released by his/her residence association (AA or below) and there is a AAA team in their District which they are eligible to play for and then registers with another association (AA or below) in another District, he/she is not eligible to affiliate with the AAA team in that District or any other District without written approval from their Home District AAA team.



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8) Tryout Form/Release Form

The NOHA Permission to Skate/Release Form must be used for all players who are granted permission to tryout with any team. A player must have a new tryout form for each team that they tryout with.

NOHA Constitution - R.6.2. That the NOHA Permission to Skate form will only be an automatic release when the team receives the signature of either one of the signing officers so named on the team application form of the team or club which the player is a member.

9) I have no Association or Team where I live where do I go?

Players must play for the closest team within their District. For example you wish to play representative hockey, you are required to play for the closest Association within your District. If you do not wish to play representative hockey for this Association, then you must obtain a release from this Association and then you can go anywhere within the NOHA as per Regulation 5.10.

10) My Association has House League teams but no Representative teams.

A player wishing to go from an Association with only House League teams to a representative team must obtain a release from their Home Association and must go to the closest representative Association/team within their District.

11) My Association only has House League teams and I wish to play House League in another Association

You have to obtain a release from your Home Association and then you can play for the House league team ONLY in another Association.

12) My Association has Representative teams and House League teams and I obtain my release to play for a House league team in another Association that also has Representative teams and House League teams. Can I affiliate with the Representative team in my new Association?

You cannot affiliate as per NOHA Regulation 11.7. You would have to obtain another written release from your Home Association allowing this affiliation to happen.

NOHA Regulation 11.7 – If a player leaves his/her residence association and registers with another association, he/she cannot be affiliated with the new association's "rep" team until he/she gets the proper releases as per the NOHA Constitution. See Regulation Number Six



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13) Residential Moves

The OHF Residential Move Form must be completed in its entirety with supporting documentation and must be signed by the Association which the player left and also by the new Association before approval. This form and documentation must accompany the players registration certificate.

14) My Home Association is House League and I get a release from them to the nearest Rep team in my District (non AAA). If I am released by this nearest Rep team, do I need to go to the next closest Rep team in my District or can I move anywhere within the NOHA?

You can now go anywhere within the NOHA below AAA hockey. See NOHA Regulation 5.6 and 5.10.

15) What if I have two AAA teams in my District and I wish to move to another District to play AAA Hockey?

If a District has two AAA teams in the same Division, for example Midget, then the player will require a release from both teams in order to leave the District. This is as a result of the change to Regulation 5.10 at the 2005 NOHA Annual General Meeting. The player must now follow Regulation 5.2 and Regulation 5.10.

16) I am a Minor aged player and my Association does not have a Minor aged team but does have a Major Aged team.

You must obtain a Permission to Skate/Release form from your association in order to play in another Association. According to NOHA Regulation R.5.6 your Association does have a team for you to play for, which is a Major Team. Minor and Major aged players are eligible to register on a Major team. The Regulation talks about Division. Divisions within the NOHA and Hockey Canada are as follows: Initiation, Novice, Atom, Pee wee, Bantam and Midget. Sub Divisions are age groups within Divisions such as Minor Novice, Minor Atom, Minor Pee wee, Minor Bantam and Minor Midget.

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