



NORTHERN ONTARIO HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

110 LAKESHORE DRIVE
NORTH BAY, ONTARIO P1A 2A8
PHONE: (705) 474-8851 • FAX: (705) 474-6019
www.noha-hockey.ca



NOHA Player Releases Clarification

Each year, there are many questions asked about Player Releases. Please refer to the NOHA Constitution for complete information. Please contact your District Council Director for further clarifications.

NOHA Permission to Skate/Release Form

- The only form used for NOHA Releases is the Release Form.
- The document must be completed in full (including the new team name and signatures) to be accepted by the NOHA.
- Please ensure you receive a completed copy of the document before allowing a player on your ice.
- All NOHA forms are available on the NOHA website.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. When two communities have a team — Team to Team below AAA and within a District.

An NOHA Release Form is required to be signed by the Home Association/Team allowing the player to tryout. This form must be scanned in PDF format and attached to the player's record in the Hockey Canada Registry. A copy of this form should be given to the team manager at tryouts so that they know the player is eligible to be on the ice. See NOHA Constitution R.6.2.1.:

b) A Player wishing to register to play for a Team in another Association within the NOHA may do so with a release from their home Association.

c) A Player may play for a Team other than above if the Player receives a signed NOHA Release, in which case the Player may play for the Team named on the form. The Release must be attached in the HCR to the Player's record. A Player who is released is only released to the Team named on the form.

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 **6.2.1.k**). When a player is in a community that does



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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.

NOHA Regulation 6.2.1:

k) A Player living in a centre not represented by a Representative Team in a Division for which the Player is eligible shall be released to the nearest Association within the District for which there is a Representative Team available that the Player is eligible to play for.

l) A Player living in a centre not represented by a House League Team in a Division for which the Player is eligible shall be released to any Association within the NOHA that has a Team available in the Division that the Player is eligible to play for.

i) A Player who has been released to play in a higher Division outside of their home Association/Single Entry Team must return to their home Association/Single Entry Team upon reaching the required age. The Player may request a release from their home Association/Single Entry Team

3. Duration of Releases

NOHA Regulation 6.2.1.:

d) If the Team is a Minor-aged Team and the Player is of Minor-Age, then the Player returns to their home Association after the season is completed. If the Team is a Major-aged Team and the Player is of Minor-age, then the Players returns to their home Association after they have completed their Major season. To return to their Home Association after their Minor year, a player requires a Release from their current Team.

If a Player is released and registers with a "Minor" team (U10, U12, U14, U16), they return to their home Association at the end of that playing season. If the Player is released as a first-year Player, but registers with a "Major" team, then the Player is released for two (2) years to the team they register with, until ineligible for that Division.

Note: NOTE: "Minor" and "Major" refer to divisions and sub-divisions within the NOHA and should not be confused with Local League divisions.



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4. AAA Teams

NOHA Regulation 6.1.:

d) U21, U18, U15, and U13 AAA, Minor and Major, will adopt the Zone concept. Zone Divisions will be the Districts as outlined in the definitions contained in the NOHA Constitution.

A Player from within a District may request an NOHA Release from the signing officers of the Association or Single Entry Team holding their playing rights to try out for the AAA Club within the District. The NOHA Release carries an automatic Release for the Player upon being signed by the AAA Association/Team. The same provision will apply for a Player wanting to try out for a AAA Association/Team outside their District.

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.

5. Tryout/Release Form

The NOHA Release form must be used for all Players who are granted permission to tryout with any Team. A Player must have a new form for each Team they tryout with.

6. My Association has House League Teams, but no Representative Teams, how do I gain a Release for a Rep team only?

The Player must obtain a Release form from their House League Association and must go to the closest Representative Team within their District.

7. My Association only has House League Teams, but I wish to play House League in another Association.



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The Player must obtain a Release form from their Home House League Association, and then may play for the desired Team ONLY in another House League Association.

8. 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.

9. My Home Association is House League, and I got 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.

10. 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, at U18, then the Player will require the NOHA Release Form from both Teams in order to leave the District.

11. 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 the NOHA Permission to Skate/Release form from your Association in order to play in another Association. Both Minor and Major-aged players are eligible to register on a Major team.

12. I have a Player coming to tryout from the USA. This Player will not be residing with their parents within the NOHA.

The following is the procedure that must be followed for Minor Hockey players who reside in the United States with their parents, live close to the U.S./Canada border, and wish to commute to Canada to register and play with Hockey Canada teams.



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Hockey Canada Regulation K.5.b):

b) A Minor player that continues to reside with their parents in a Hockey Canada Branch or in the USA, but wishes to play Minor hockey in another Branch, must receive approval from both the incoming Branch and the outgoing Branch they wish to transfer from. If this does not occur, the player may appeal to Hockey Canada under By-Law TWELVE (USA Hockey defined as Branch where applicable).

In order to meet this Hockey Canada Regulation, players must submit the following information to the NOHA Office to obtain the necessary approvals:

1. Hockey Canada written transfers – Letter of Approval (for players participating in youth classification hockey)
2. Release from Local Minor Hockey Association
3. Release from Michigan Amateur Hockey Association
4. Release from USA Hockey
5. Letter from parent indicating why you wish to play in the Hockey Canada program.
6. Letter from either Sault Major Hockey Association or the Soo Pee Wee Hockey League indicating support for the transfer.

The player must have approval of the NOHA, Ontario Hockey Federation, and Hockey Canada prior to participation in any Tryouts, League or Tournament games. The NOHA cannot process the player's registration prior to these approvals taking place.

Please Note: This is not an immediate process and can take up to seven days. All USA Hockey Transfer forms along with releases must be sent to the NOHA office. The NOHA office must approve and forward the documents to the OHF Office who will then forward the forms to Hockey Canada.

Hockey Canada and USA Hockey regulations stipulate that no player under the age of 21 will be granted an unlimited transfer. Every year the player must go through the same process in order to be able to participate in Canada.

Players who participate with Hockey Canada teams without the proper documents from their USA hockey teams and/or an approved appeal, are ineligible players with no access to Hockey Canada insurance coverage.

The Teams and/or Associations who allow this to take place will be sanctioned.



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Players from USA Hockey must have Primary Major Medical coverage to be eligible for Hockey Canada Insurance benefits.

Please note that USA players who commute from the USA to play in Canada under Hockey Canada regulations are ineligible to affiliate to a higher level team.

13. I have a Player from my Association (Sault Ste. Marie) wishing to tryout in the USA. This Player will not be residing with their parents within the USA.

The following is the procedure that must be followed for Minor Hockey players who reside in the Canada with their parents, live close to the U.S./Canada border, and wish to commute to the USA to register and play with USA Hockey teams.

Hockey Canada Regulation - K.5.:

b) A Minor player that continues to reside with his parents in a Hockey Canada Branch or in the USA, but wishes to play Minor hockey in another Branch, must receive approval from both the incoming Branch and the outgoing Branch they wish to transfer from. If this does not occur, the player may appeal to Hockey Canada under By-Law TWELVE (USA Hockey defined as Branch where applicable).

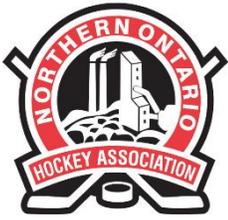
Parents are to contact USA Hockey USA Hockey, Inc. 1775 Bob Johnson Dr. Colorado Springs, CO 80906-4090, Phone: (719) 576-USAH (8724), Fax: (719) 538-1160,

E-mail: usah@usahockey.org to obtain information that USA Hockey requires.

In order to meet this Hockey Canada Regulation, players must submit the following information to the NOHA Office to obtain the necessary approvals:

1. Hockey Canada written transfers – Letter of Approval (for players participating in youth classification hockey)
2. Release from Local Minor Hockey Association
3. Letter from parent indicating why you wish to play in the USA Hockey program.
4. Letter from either Sault Major Hockey Association or the Soo Pee Wee Hockey League indicating support for the transfer.

The player must have approval of the NOHA, Ontario Hockey Federation and Hockey Canada prior to participation in any Tryouts, League or Tournament games. The NOHA cannot process the player's registration prior to these approvals taking place.



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Hockey Canada and USA Hockey regulations stipulate that no player under the age of 21 will be granted an unlimited transfer. Every year the player must go through the same process in order to be able to participate in Canada.

Players who participate with USA Hockey teams without the proper documents from their Hockey Canada Associations/teams and/or an approved appeal, are ineligible players.

The teams and/or Associations who allow this to take place will be sanctioned.

14. I have a Player from another Branch who wishes to tryout in the NOHA.

According to Hockey Canada Regulations, this player cannot tryout. The player can contact Hockey Canada or the NOHA Office and file a Hockey Canada Appeal. The player is unable to participate (Tryouts, League play or Tournaments) until the Hockey Canada Appeal decision is determined.

REGULATION K.6 (a) & (b) of the Hockey Canada Regulations states:

K.6 (a) No player of U18 eligibility or under (refer to Hockey Canada B.1) may be transferred from Branch to Branch, or from USA Hockey to Hockey Canada, or from any other IIHF Federation to play other than Major Junior Hockey unless such player comes under Regulation H. 8 (b). There is an exception for those Midget players in their last year of U18 eligibility, when there is no Junior A hockey in their home Branch.

In order to address regional differences that exist within the hockey program in Canada, Branches may enter into Agreements with other Branches, which would authorize the transfer of players in their last year of Midget eligibility. Said Agreements shall only be in effect upon being ratified by the Hockey Canada Board of Directors. In order for Hockey Canada to provide its ratification, such Agreements shall include provisions whereby any Branch which is a party to an Agreement may terminate the Agreement at the end of each playing season.

K.6 (b) No player of second year Midget eligibility or under may be transferred from Hockey Canada to USA Hockey unless a player resides with his parent and



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the parent changes his place of residence to the USA and the player continues to reside with his parent.

Regulation H.8 (b) indicates that the player must move with their parents.

Please contact the NOHA Office to obtain the Hockey Canada Forms.