

Policy Respecting Releasing Players Where Numbers Do Not Permit All Registrants to be Placed on Teams

If during the registration and evaluation process, the number of registrants in a particular category do not permit all players to be placed on teams, decisions respecting the release of one or more players will be made under the following guidelines:

1. In the Rec League, priority will be given based on the date of registration.
2. Rep teams will be selected by the coaches of the teams and consideration will be given to all eligible players trying out.
3. For all teams at the house level, the following will apply:
 - a. the Level Director shall work to structure as many viable teams as the number of registrants will permit. As an illustration, if there are 30 registrants, rather than selecting a team of 19 players and then not having sufficient players for a second team, priority would be given to making two viable teams; however, teams will not be set with insufficient players to be viable teams. It is recognized that, the number of players required to form a viable team will increase as the age of the players increases and notwithstanding that Hockey Alberta rules and SMHA policies and procedures permit teams to be formed with as few as 12 players and as many as 19 players, a 12 player team will not be viable in all circumstances. Best efforts will be given to having a minimum of 15 players plus a goalie for all teams;
 - b. priority for placement on teams will be given to players living in SMHA boundaries;
 - c. priority for placement on teams will be given to returning SMHA players. For certainty, players who have played in SMHA in prior years and live in the SMHA boundaries, but were released in one or more prior years to play in another association, will be considered returning players;
 - d. if after applying the priorities in b. and c. the numbers require that returning players from within SMHA boundaries be released, the Level Director will contact the players in the category to determine whether any of the players are willing to volunteer to be released;
 - e. if after taking into account voluntarily released players, if any, as set out in d. above, the numbers still require that players be released, priority will be given to players on the basis of number of years of registration with SMHA;
 - f. if after taking into account the relative number of years players have been registered with SMHA as set out in e. above, the numbers still require that players be released, priority will be given based on the date of registration;
 - g. if after considering all factors above, the numbers still require that players be released, the Level Director will do a random drawing of names and the names drawn will be released; and
 - h. the Level Director will communicate to all house league players as soon as practical in the house league evaluation process if SMHA anticipates having to release any players at that level.