



Cochrane Minor Hockey Association (CMHA)

Policy Title: Player Release Policy

Effective Date: September 15, 2024

Website: www.cochraneminorhockey.com

1.0 Overview

This policy outlines the process and conditions under which **player releases from CMHA** may be granted. All final decisions related to player releases will be made by the **President** of CMHA, except where otherwise directed by **Hockey Alberta** or **governing regulations**.

2.0 Policy

2.1 Allowed Releases

2.1.1 If a player is released during tryouts for a **CMHA AA team**, a **Permission to Tryout Form** will be provided.

- The player may then attend a **second tryout** at a Hockey Alberta-assigned location.

- If the player is accepted, that association will submit a **transfer request through the Hockey Canada Registry (HCR)**, and CMHA will grant a **one-year release**.

2.1.2 After CMHA evaluations, if a player requests a release to join a **higher-level team** in another MHA, and that level does not exist within CMHA, a **one-year release** may be granted.

2.1.3 Releases may be granted if **all applicable CMHA programs are full**, regardless of the player's program preference.

2.1.4 A **change in residency** affecting membership eligibility is grounds for release.

2.1.5 **Exceptional circumstances** may be considered, pending a **written request** and review by the **President and a VP**.

2.1.6 CMHA reserves the right to **evaluate a player, and their family** based on compliance with policies, procedures, and codes of conduct.

- CMHA may release a player or family **indefinitely** if standards are not met.



2.2 Releases Not Given

2.2.1 In general, CMHA does **not grant releases to other MHAs** when a team at the appropriate level exists within CMHA.

2.2.2 If a release would **negatively impact a division**, such as reducing the number of players or goalies needed to field a team, **no release will be granted**.

2.2.3 The following reasons **do not qualify** for release:

- Disagreement with **evaluation outcomes**
- Disagreement with **CMHA policies**
- Transitions between internal streams (e.g., from AA to Rep, Rep to RHL, or Female to RHL)

*Note: If a release is granted under these circumstances, it will be considered **permanent**, and re-entry into CMHA will require re-application as a **new member**.*

2.3 Exceptions

2.3.1 If CMHA grants a release **despite having an appropriate team**, that release will be deemed **permanent**. The player **may not return** to CMHA in future seasons.

2.3.1.1 If a **Permanent Release** is granted and multiple children are registered in CMHA, **all children** may be permanently released at the discretion of the Executive.