



League Player Entry Draft Policy — Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the new HEO draft policy?

The HEO League Player Entry Draft Policy provides clarity on players eligible to be drafted to a Junior Team by age. Basically, the Junior League members within HEO can no longer draft U15 players.

2. Why did HEO create this policy?

Only players who are residents of HEO and are of age based on Hockey Canada Regulation D.18.A are eligible to be rostered on Junior Teams' primary rosters; therefore, there is no requirement for a U15 Draft to occur as 15-year-old players are not eligible to be added to a Junior Teams primary roster, and affiliation is limited.

3. When is the policy in effect?

The policy is in effect now.

4. What happens to players drafted in 2022 or earlier?

Players who were drafted in 2022 by CCHL teams will be eligible to be rostered to a Junior Roster in the 2023/2024 season as a 16-year-old player. Junior A and B Teams are limited to two (2) 16-year-old players per roster, Junior C one (1) 16-year-old player per roster. Players drafted in 2022 will remain on those teams' protected lists unless otherwise released. This is for CCHL teams only. The EOJHL and the NCJHL do not currently have player drafts.

5. Where can players who are drafted by CCHL Junior A teams try out?

Currently the only league in HEO that holds a draft is the CCHL. Players drafted by CCHL teams can only try out for the CCHL team that drafted them. Players drafted by the CCHL are free to try out for any team in the EOJHL or NCJHL. Players can also try out for their residentially assigned U18 AAA Team.

6. What do the Hockey Canada Regulations say about junior drafts?

There is no reference to junior league drafts in the Hockey Canada Regulations

7. Where is the CCHL policy regarding their draft?

The CCHL has a section on "Drafting Players" in their Rules and Regulations.



8. Does the draft apply to non-sanctioned leagues?

Sanctioned and non-sanctioned programs are completely separate and independent. Non-sanctioned leagues fall outside Hockey Canada's sanctioned programs, and also of the Rules and Regulations of HEO or Hockey Canada. Playing for a team in a non-sanctioned league would make a player ineligible to take part in any HEO and Hockey Canada sanctioned league if the non-sanctioned league participation took place after September 30th of the current Hockey Canada/HEO season. A player wishing to return to HEO/Hockey Canada sanctioned programming would need to apply for reinstatement.

9. Is a player obligated to play for the team that drafted them if that team no longer plays in a league sanctioned by HEO and Hockey Canada?

No, the player cannot be forced to take part in a non-Sanctioned league. Player "rights" are a League construct and are only viable within that league's bylaws or rules and regulations. Minor hockey players' "rights" are defined in Hockey Canada's Regulation C. Hockey Canada's regulations do not apply in a non-Sanctioned League, nor can they be enforced.

A player (16 years old and older) who is rostered by a Sanctioned Junior Team on their primary roster will remain as a rostered member of that team unless released from their primary roster, or un-rostered by Dec 1st of the following season, at which point the player would become free to play with another team.

10. What happens to a drafted player who does not make a Junior A team?

If the drafting team releases the player, then the player is a free agent and can try out for other Junior A teams (League may have additional processes i.e., Waiver Systems). Player can try out for a Junior B or Junior C, or U18 Team as outlined above.

11. Can U16 players be rostered to Junior teams?

No, as per Hockey Canada Regulation D.18.A.

12. Can U16 players be affiliated to Junior teams?

Yes (Junior A and B only) Teams are limited to five (5) fifteen-year-old players and can only dress one 15-year-old player in any game. (Hockey Canada Regulation F. 17)

13. How many U17 players can be rostered to Junior teams?

Junior A – 2

Junior B – 2

Junior C - 1