



6.5 ON-ICE HELPER

i) PREAMBLE

Within Hockey Eastern Ontario (HEO), we understand that more players are interested in helping within our amateur hockey program. As well, some of these helpers are young adults wanting to collect high school volunteer hours, and/or are looking to take on a different role within hockey. It has become evident that older Minor Hockey players, as well as Junior Hockey Players, partake in practices with teams of lower divisions to assist and help within their association. With this change in role, moving from player to helper, associations and coaches are faced with many questions. How old should they be? What equipment is required to be worn? What training do they require? Etc. This policy has been developed to set out guidelines for associations and coaches to follow for the use of on-ice helpers.

ii) EFFECTIVE DATE

Rev.0 September 2011
Rev. 1 January 2015
Rev. 2 July 2016
Rev. 3 February 2017

iii) PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to our members, associations and coaches, on the selection and use of on-ice assistants, while ensuring safe opportunities for our young “helpers”.

iv) GUIDELINES

This policy applies to young “helpers” only. Adults and older teenagers providing on-ice assistance/instruction shall have the required qualifications.

It is important to stress, that team officials are to utilize sound judgment when selecting a young person as an on-ice helper. These decisions must be made from a developmental and supportive perspective. We want these “helpers” to provide assistance to the other team officials, while gaining knowledge and experience of a teaching type role. This is not designed as an opportunity for players to get extra ice time.

- i. Individuals that volunteer within an association must be either; a “registered” member of a Minor Hockey Association, or a Junior Hockey League, or an on-ice official. This ensures that the insurance coverage has been secured.
- ii. Individuals may assist with a team during practices. They may only be demonstrators/helpers and are not to partake in any scrimmages as a player would.





- iii. Individuals that help must be at minimum, one age division higher than the team which they are helping with; they are not permitted to volunteer, as an on-ice helper, with a team at the same or higher division.

- iv. Individuals that help must wear as a minimum a CSA certified helmet, and facial protection, (as required by their level of hockey) BNQ certified neck guard (as required by their level of hockey) as well as hockey gloves and skates. Although this is the Branch's minimum requirement, the helpers Home Association/League may mandate full gear.

- v. Individuals, who are not registered team officials, and who are 16 years of age or older are recommended completing the online Shift Forward Program.

- vi. "On-Ice Helper" is neither a qualification nor a designation to be used in any level of hockey recognized under HEO regulations. Rather, it is limited to those under age 20 who wish to give back to the game, perhaps become involved in coaching or obtain high school volunteer credit hours.

NOTE:

All team players must wear full gear for all games and practices with their own team.

