

## Minimum Bench Strength and Affiliated Player (AP) Information Sheet 2024

### Minimum Bench Strength

#### U7 to U9

**Minimum Bench Strength:** 13 players

If a team has 12 or less players available, an AP player can be called up

#### U10 to U15

**Minimum Bench Strength:** 15 players

If a team has 14 or less players available, an AP player can be called up

#### U16 to U21

**Minimum Bench Strength:** 13 players

If a team has 12 or less players available, an AP player can be called up

GOALIES ARE INCLUDED IN THE MINIMUM BENCH STRENGTH COUNT

*Exceptions can be made if the team is at minimum bench strength but does not have a goalie*

Teams who do not meet the Minimum Bench Strength may call up Affiliated Players (APs) to make up the difference

The minimum number of players to start a game is 6 players or 5 players and a goalie

### Affiliated Players

A “chain affiliate” is a Select team from the same member club

A “house league affiliate” is a House League team from the same member club

#### U7 to U10

A player may be brought up from a chain affiliate in a **lower tier** of the same age division, or

A player may be brought up from a house league affiliate of the same age division

#### U11 to U13

A player may be brought up from a chain affiliate in a **lower tier** of the same age division, or

A player may be brought up from a chain affiliate **One Year below** the age division, or

A player may be brought up from a house league affiliate of the same age division

#### U14 to U21

A player may be brought up from a chain affiliate in a **lower tier** of the same age division, or

A player may be brought up from a chain affiliate **up to Two Years below** the age division, or

A player may be brought up from a house league affiliate of the same age division

## Affiliated Players (continued)

An AP must be distinguished as such on the electronic game sheet.

A team may ONLY call up an AP if the team is **below** their minimum bench strength, and may only call up enough APs to reach the appropriate minimum bench strength

Teams may use **a maximum of five (5) AP's in any one game**

After January 15<sup>th</sup>, individual players from **Chain Affiliation** teams may be **used six times** as an AP in regular season or playoff games; once a player plays a 7<sup>th</sup> game with the team they must be added to that team's roster and may only play on that team. **The six (6) games played, may include a maximum of three (3) playoff games.**

After January 15<sup>th</sup>, individual players from **House League Affiliation** teams may only play on one select team. The individual player can play a maximum of 5 regular season games plus **a maximum of three (3) playoff games.**

### Examples:

#### **Scenario 1**

A team in U8 Tier Three would like to call up a player from U8 Tier Two of the same chain affiliation. Is this allowed?

**No.** A player in the U8 age group can only call up an AP from a chain affiliate team in a **lower tier** or the house league of the same division and not from a higher tier team.

#### **Scenario 2**

A team in U13 has 17 players rostered and 2 are away for their game next week. The team will have all 15 remaining players available for the game. They would like to call up 2 AP's from the U12 of the same chain affiliation to fill their spots. Are they allowed?

**No.** The U13 team has 15 players available and meets their minimum bench strength requirement. They are not allowed to call up an AP in this scenario.

### Scenario 3

A team in U9 Tier One will only have 9 players available for their next game. They decide to call up 4 players from their chain affiliation in Tier Two. Is this allowed?

**Yes.** The U9's can call up AP's from a chain affiliation in a lower tier, they are within their 5 player maximum for any one game and will not exceed the minimum bench strength of 13 for their age group.

### Scenario 4

After January 15<sup>th</sup>, an AP from a chain affiliate plays 2 games in the Winter Season and 3 games in the playoffs. The team is requesting them again for a 4th playoff game. Is this allowed?

**No.** Though an AP from a chain affiliate may play 6 games total after January 15<sup>th</sup>, they are only allowed to play a maximum of 3 games in the playoffs of those 6 games.