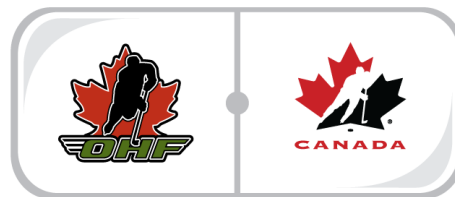


ONTARIO HOCKEY FEDERATION

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OHF Bulletin

To: OHF Members, Associations
From: Phil McKee – Executive Director
Date: 12/21/2022
Re: IIHF Transfers
Bulletin ID: 22-33

The Ontario Hockey Federation, the largest branch of Hockey Canada, met November 27, 2022 in Toronto. The OHF Board of Directors, Senior Staff and the seven Member Partners had a very productive all-day discussion about how to make the game better and easier to play and coach with less barriers for volunteers.

One of those areas of regulatory concern is the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) rules on player transfers that require a participant registering for the first time to play hockey outside of the players Birth Country, to complete an IIHF International Transfer prior to participation. In most cases this process can be completed in a short ten (10) day timeframe.

Despite the ability to be completed in a relatively short timeframe, the OHF understands there may be additional sensitivity in instances where individuals have fled countries for safety or fear of persecution, as well as players that have never participated in the sport in their birth country requiring permission to participate in Canada and become assimilated into the culture of their new country as quick as possible.

In most cases the IIHF regulations are developed for the purpose of elite and National Team programming and there is sound reason for those regulations. In this case the impact of the regulations is impacting youth recreational hockey and the OHF continues to work with Hockey Canada to the IIHF to find better solutions to provide an expedited and customer focused transfer process for youth recreational players.

There are only four reasons that an IIHF Transfer can be refused and as you will see most apply to elite programming with the exception of item 4:

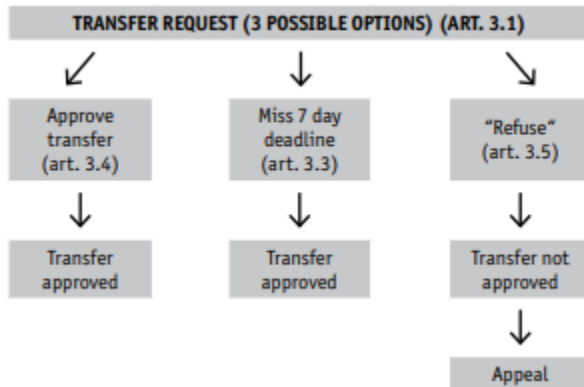
1. The Player has an existing Professional Player Contract with a club in the current MNA;
2. The Player wishing to transfer has not fulfilled their contractual obligation to their former club (all contractual obligations other than those in accordance with reason 1)
3. The Player has not fulfilled financial commitments to their former club such as debts or has not returned the club's equipment; or
4. A material reason exists between the two clubs regarding the Transfer other than issues concerning compensation (an example of a material reason is the existence of a confirmed suspension or pending disciplinary proceeding by either the IIHF or by the Current MNA when such suspension is recognized by the IIHF).



In the overwhelming majority of cases there is no reason to deny an under 18 transfers. The best approach to not impact kids participation is to inform potential customers of the process and start the process as early as possible. Further, if an individual has significant concerns with the process based on their personal situation the OHF and Members will work with the person on a one off basis. The process is set out below.

International IIHF Transfer Process

1. IIHF Transfer documents to submitted by the Family to the Branch/ Member Partner.
2. The Branch/Member Partner will submit all completed forms/documentation to Hockey Canada by email.
3. Hockey Canada will process the IIHF Transfer Requests through the IIHF website (not completed through the HCR)
4. Once approved, the IIHF Transfers are entered in the HCR by Hockey Canada.
5. If denied, the applicant may submit an appeal.
6. **Federations have 7 days to respond to the transfer to approve or refund. If no response is provided, the transfer is automatically approved. (in most cases this is the end result)**



Full International Transfer Regulations can be found in Appendix H1 of the Hockey Canada By-Laws: <https://cdn.hockeycanada.ca/hockey-canada/Corporate/About/Downloads/2022-23-bylaws-e.pdf>