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**HP-POL001**

**IMPORT PLAYER POLICY**

**AUGUST 2014**

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**Purpose**

This Policy defines the use of import players in Hockey SA state teams.

**Scope**

This Policy applies to state AHL and U21 teams.

**Definitions**

- Overseas athlete: An athlete who is ineligible to represent Australia in international competition under FIH rules.
- Imported athlete: An athlete who is not selected by their home State or Territory, and is selected from that State or Territories pick up roster to play for another team. Each State or Territory must complete the transfer form (Attachment F) and submit to Hockey Australia. Transfers are valid for one season only.

**Background**

It is the intention of Hockey SA to support and develop South Australian players providing every opportunity for South Australian players to reach elite status and represent their state. This is subject to nominations for selection and players reaching a suitable minimum level of proficiency for physical, technical, tactical abilities, and an overall positive impact on theirs and team development and performance.

**Import Players**

Hockey SA defines an import player through application of the eligibility criteria contained in the Hockey Australia Operations Manual:

**Eligibility Criteria**

To be eligible to compete in a Hockey Australia sanctioned event, all teams, athletes and officials must be fully financial and appropriately registered with Hockey Australia and their respective State Association. Each State and Territory has the right to determine their own eligibility criteria for their teams and pick up rosters.

#### A. Australian Championships

- a) For the purpose of Australian Championships, an athlete is deemed to be a resident in a State or Territory if they satisfy one or more of the following;
  - i. He / she has resided in such state for a continuous period of not less than three (3) months prior to the schedule commencement of the championship in question and during such period has pursued occupation, employment and / or education in that state;
  - ii. The Association in which the athlete plays is affiliated with the State or Territory he / she wishes to represent.
  - iii. In the event of an athlete relocating to Perth at the request of the National Program, then the athlete shall continue to play for their home state.
- b) Where, for whatever reason, a State or Territory may require significant assistance to field a touring squad of 18 players, the State or Territory may apply to Hockey Australia for specific concessions. Decisions regarding this will be made by the HA CEO in consultation with the HA High Performance Director and HA Competitions Manager.

#### B. Australian Hockey League

Any one team may use a maximum of two (2) overseas athletes. There isn't any limit to the number of imported athletes a team may have.

Any athlete selected as an import player must pay the levies of the State or Territory that he/ she then represents. Failure to do so will see that athlete ineligible from playing club hockey in their home State or Territory until this debt is cleared.

Should for any reason, an athlete who has been loaned to another State or Territory, then becomes required by their home State or Territories team for that championship, they are able to be recalled up to two full working weeks out from the championship commencement. The athlete must then play for their home team.

The State or Territory who recalls any athlete is not obliged to provide a replacement athlete to the other State or Territory.

This regulation is designed not to hinder the development of an individual who may have moved for the legitimate purpose of pursuing employment / education / family commitments. We are mindful that this is potentially open to exploitation; however we are confident that athletes and States and Territories will act in the spirit of the regulation and the sport.

In the event of any exploitation of this regulation, HA will exercise its powers to impose a penalty on the athlete and the State or Territory.

## **Use of Import Players**

AHL: The HSA Board may approve the use of import players if used in accordance with current AHL Rules set by Hockey Australia and published in the AHL Operations Manual. A submission re their use must be presented to the Hockey SA Board by the Chief Executive Officer before approval will be granted. The use of import players in local competition will be at the discretion of the Board at all times.

U21: The HSA Board may approve the use of import players if used in accordance with current National Championship Rules set by Hockey Australia. A submission providing evidence as to why an import player is required and what benefit this will bring to the selected side must be presented by the Chief Executive Officer to the Hockey SA Board before approval will be granted. Submissions will be judged on a case by case scenario.

A “fast-tracked” approval by email to HSA Board Members may be undertaken with consultation between HSA Athlete and Coach Development Manager and CEO.

### **All other Hockey SA State Teams:**

Import players are restricted from being used in all other Hockey SA state teams. Exemptions will only be considered by the Board of Hockey SA if applications are made to the Board by the Chief Executive Officer.

Where at all possible a South Australian player must be selected ahead of an import player provided they reach the minimum proficiency for a player’s ability, development and performance for themselves and team.

### **Review of policy**

The Board of Hockey SA will review this policy annually or as often as it determines necessary and will make any changes it determines necessary or desirable.

### **Access to the policy**

This policy will be available for viewing by any member of Hockey SA through its website or a copy will be provided upon request.