

QMJHL Education Policy

Adopted by the Commissioner of the QMJHL, on May 9, 2005,
in force on June 1st 2005, modified in September 2007 and August 2009 (article 4)

Article 1 Statement of principle

The whole purpose of the League and its teams is to participate in the development of young players aged from sixteen to twenty, and look after their progress towards the highest levels of professional hockey.

The main focus of the League and its teams for players in this age category, their parents and the public in general extends beyond the basic mission described in the previous paragraph: we want to make sure that the player benefits from an optimum development and protect his integrity related to ability and physical and mental condition, and continue top-quality academic education that will allow the player to go on studying normally after his junior hockey career.

The optimum development of the players by the teams is guided by the commitment of our elite professionals in the fields of coaching, training, physical conditioning, diet, sports therapy and educational supervision through provision of a full, intensive and structured training program, a significant high level of competition and the maintenance of general education for the players.

Extensive marketing of the League's sporting events enables the teams to provide money for comprehensive and costly operations in order to meet their commitments. However, the games schedule offered to the public by the League and its teams must consider the energy the players must direct to required activities in order to maximize their full development.

Article 2 The main rules governing the school mission

The main rules governing the education mandate of the League and its teams must be interpreted and applied within the statement of principle described in Article 1.

- 2.1 The team is responsible for organizing players' education, and it must develop all necessary partnerships, with regards to the variety of its players' school options. The player's parents must support and encourage him to continue his studies. The team must make sure, before recruiting a player, either by selection or by trade, that it has all the necessary resources to let him continue his studies.**
- 2.2 Taking into account the special school context in major junior hockey, the Commissioner must develop and maintain partnerships that will make it easier for distance study, when necessary, make it easier for the harmonization of the organization and the operation of involved educational establishments, allow some flexibility for accommodation of special cases and to minimize the «school» problems that are inherent in the case of a player being traded to another team.**
- 2.3 The team that commits itself to a player at the beginning of a school session (fall or winter) must maintain its commitment until the end of the session (educational follow-up expenses, school expenses and lodging expenses).**
- 2.4 All school expenses, travel expenses, textbook and school material expenses are to be paid by the team. If necessary, the terms of reimbursement to the player are established by the team.**
- 2.5 The player must study programs from the province (or state) where he usually lives in order to obtain a diploma in his own province (or state). Exceptions to this rule must be agreed upon by the player and his parents if he has not reached the age of majority, and must be approved by the Commissioner.**
- 2.6 The player taking distance courses must be provided with appropriate supervision by his team (a place to work while being supervised, one or more competent tutors to support him in his work, etc.).**
- 2.7 The player's progress in school must correspond to approximately two-third (2/3) of a regular full time program. For instance, the two regular Cégep years could be completed in three years.**
- 2.8 A player temporarily away from school due to schedule and travel requirements must be given all necessary support to make up for the course work missed.**
- 2.9 Summer courses are not compulsory but the player should understand their importance in order to keep up his progress in school or to make up for schoolwork in arrears. Education fees are to be reimbursed by the team if the player returns to the team as a regular, the following season.**
- 2.10 Any player aged 16, 17 or 18, except the European player, must take courses leading to a secondary (high school) or CEGEP (college) diploma; the**

Commissioner must be informed of any exception to this rule and the parental authority must approve it if the player has not reached the age of majority. A 19 or 20-year-old player not taking courses leading to a diploma must take alternative courses (second language, computing, etc.); if he does not take such courses, he must carry out useful work for the community.

- 2.11 The League maintains a grant program to support the players who have started studying immediately after their junior career. The player's effort and success in school during his junior career will determine his eligibility for the grant program, as presented below, at Article 4.**
- 2.12 The team must keep an up to date individual school file for each of its players, indicating school credits, courses currently being taken, as well as the education plan for subsequent years. The Commissioner must have access to this file, which can be transferred to the new team when a trade occurs.**
- 2.13 The Commissioner, or his representative, will provide guidelines at any time for the implementation of the present policy.**

Article 3 The educational consultant

The team is responsible for providing education to its new players. The educational consultant, named by the team, must work closely with the General Manager and the coach in order to make sure that the players continue with their studies in accordance with the League's policy. The main tasks of the educational consultant are the following:

- **Act as a consultant to the team management for all matters concerning the players' education, and mainly for the assigning of necessary resources in time, staff and money in order to carry out that mandate;**
- **For collaboration with the school educational establishments, act as a consultant to the player and his parents for the selection of programs or courses;**
- **Work with the player, his parents and his boarding family in order to maintain the player's motivation for satisfactory school progress;**
- **Act as a consultant to the player who is invited to a professional camp in order to minimize any inconvenience that could affect his progress in school;**
- **Make sure that partnership agreements with appropriate local organizations are well established, maintained and managed;**
- **Make a regular periodic follow-up on the progress of each player;**
- **Keep a complete and up to date school file for each player;**
- **Make sure that all needs for catching up or updating after unavoidable absences from school are met;**
- **Make sure that the players who are taking outside courses are well supervised, with a regular follow-up;**
- **Cooperate with educational consultants of other teams, make sure that players who are to be traded have their school files fully understood;**
- **Submit all reports requested by the Commissioner;**
- **Participate in all meetings called by the Commissioner for consultation, information and coordination purposes related to the application of the QMJHL education policy.**

Article 4 QMJHL Grant Program

A grant is a sum of money given to the student, former QMJHL player, in order to help him continue studying to obtain a diploma from a school establishment recognized by the Commissioner.

4.1 Eligibility conditions

Any player who has played in the QMJHL is eligible for the grant program if he meets all the five (5) following conditions:

- 4.1.1 The player must have played at least four academic sessions in the QMJHL. This condition is not applicable to a player who would have initiated his major junior career at the age of nineteen (19) or twenty (20).**
- 4.1.2 The player must have played the two academic sessions of his nineteenth year of his age. This condition is not applicable to a nineteen-year-old player who agrees to go to his team's training camp and who is not offered a contract, by that team or another team; it is not applicable to a nineteen-year-old player who, after having signed a contract, is released from his team during the Holidays, and has not received a contract offer from another team. This condition is not applicable to a player who would have initiated his major junior career at the age of twenty (20).**
- 4.1.3 The player must have significantly pursued his studies during at least four (4) academic sessions at the junior level:**
- At secondary or high school level, he must have taken at least half the courses outlined in the normal curriculum attributed to full time students ;**
 - He must have succeeded in at least half of the courses in each of these sessions;**
 - At CEGEP, he must have followed at least three (3) courses per session(two (2) if the courses were taken at Cégep@distance);**
 - For a High School or Cégep diploma holder, he must have succeeded in at least one (1) university or pre-university courses per academic session;**

For the purposes of reaching previous school objectives, summer courses taken at the junior level are evaluated as courses taken to complete otherwise incomplete sessions .

- 4.1.4 The player must have started his courses no later than at the second fall session following the end of his junior career, is studying on a full time basis and without any interruption, and is succeeding in at least 75% of his courses in each session (three courses per session or the equivalent, in the case of university studies).**
- 4.1.5 The player must have been duly accepted as a full time regular student in a university school program, in a post-secondary professional or technical**

school program, in a secondary level professional course program, or in a Cégep to finish his pre-university college course.

4.2 Granting

- 4.2.1 When a request for a study grant meets the requirements of the QMJHL Grant Program, it is analyzed by a committee appointed to this end by the Commissioner.
- 4.2.2 The player who wants to get grants from this scholarship program must submit a grant request with its study plan to the Committee, on the appropriate form, before the date of September 30th of the first year of the academic program for which the grant is requested. He must have provided, as soon as possible, the most recent transcripts of the courses he followed during his junior stage.
- 4.2.3 When all the conditions stipulated in the QMJHL Grant Program are met, the grant is given; if the conditions are not met, the grant is refused.
- 4.2.4 The player who asks for a grant, but who has not met one or more conditions due to an accepted medical reason, can make a special request that will be analyzed by the committee.
- 4.2.5 The student who must go to Cégep to finish his pre-university college course (maximum of two sessions) before enrolling in a university program must submit a new request to the committee as soon as he ends his pre-university courses to eventually benefit from sums paid for university studies.
- 4.2.6 The committee will inform each grant requester of its decision as soon as possible and in writing.

4.3 Grant allocation

The player who qualifies for grants, according to the criteria presented in section 4.1 of the present Education Policy, may receive grants, as outlined by the following applicable circumstances: the player is allowed one (1) grant for each session of his junior level if he meets the criteria listed in article 4.1.3. The maximum amount of grants is limited to eight (8):

- To complete a general college degree (DEC): \$700 per session, maximum of two (2) grants;
- University studies: for each session a grant of \$500 per succeeded course, maximum grant of \$ 2500 per session and maximum of eight (8) sessions (a University course is a 45-hour course or a 3-credit course; a course of more or less than 45 hours or 3 credits increases or decreases proportionately the amount of \$ 500;
- Secondary professional program or post-secondary professional or technical program: for each session, a grant of the amount of half of annual school fees* plus \$ 700, for a maximum of \$ 2500 par session. The maximum number of grants is limited to four (4), maximum of four (4) grants.

- For the application purpose of the present policy, a session is a period of time which lasts for approximately four (4) months, during which full time studies are taking place.

*School fees here refer to fees as usually identified; they exclude registration fees, file opening fees, subscription to a student association, textbooks or course notes.

4.4 Payment of grants and status of grant holder

- 4.4.1 Grants are given at the end of each academic session, upon receipt of school report, certified by the academic establishment.**
- 4.4.2 If the student does not succeed in 75% of his courses in the current session (3 courses or the equivalent in the case of university studies), he then definitely loses his right to the payment of that portion of the grant. If it occurs on a second occasion, he definitely loses his status of grant holder, and he will receive no other payment.**
- 4.4.3 The student may modify his study program without any penalty at the end of the first session. Any other program modification will make him definitely lose his status of grant holder. When the first study program is completed, the student may continue to receive grants for another study program as provided for in article 4.3.**
- 4.4.4 The student who stops studying on a full time basis or interrupts his studies definitely loses his status of grant holder.**
- 4.4.5 If the student loses his status of grant holder for medical reasons, he can submit his case to the Commissioner who can reinstate his status of grant holder.**

4.5 Appeal procedure

The student who is refused a study grant or a portion of that grant or who loses his status of grant holder can appeal by writing to the Commissioner by clearly explaining to him that the decision was not taken according to the QMJHL Grant Program, or that circumstances beyond his control kept him from meeting some of the conditions. The Commissioner or his representative will hear the student as well as the witnesses the student wishes to present. The Commissioner's decision is final.

4.6 Transitional Clause

- 4.6.1 The actual QMJHL Grant Program comes into force at the beginning of 2005-2006 for all players born after December 31st, 1986. However, for the years played by those players in the QMJHL before 2005-2006, the years' service will be worked out according to former criteria, and the obligation to «take courses without any interruption» during his major junior career will be applied according to former criteria.**
- 4.6.2 The amendments to the Education Policy established in September 2007 are applicable retroactively to September 2005 for any player returning to the League after September 2007. If a player has played in the League as a regular player for the 2005-2006 or 2006-2007 seasons and feels that the present amendments have a negative impact on him; he may ask, at the time when he is**

submitting his grant request, that all provisions mentioned in the Educational Policy prior to the 2007 amendments be applied.

- 4.6.3 The grant programs in force during the 2004-2005 year will continue to apply to players born in the years 1986-1985, for as long as they are playing in the QMJHL or have the status of grant holder.
- 4.6.4 The amendments to the Education Policy established in August 2009 are not applicable retroactively to any player who would have ended his major junior career before September 2009.

Article 5 A few special rules

5.1 Selection and training camp

- 5.1.1 At the team selection camp, the decision to keep a player going to cégep or to send him back to his lower level team must be taken at the latest on the first day of class of most of the Cégeps in Québec, in accordance with the agreement between Alliance Sport-Études and the QMJHL. The decision to keep any other student player or to send him back to his lower level team must be taken at the latest on the Sunday prior to the beginning of the season.
- 5.1.2 Notwithstanding the foregoing, a player who has been sent back to his lower level team after the beginning of his school year and who needs updating to enter his courses can receive such updating at the major junior team's expenses, according to the criteria set by the Commissioner.
- 5.1.3 Players attending courses in a local school establishment must be able to start their courses at the very beginning of the establishment's school year. Players who take distance courses must start their school activities no later than at the beginning of September.

5.2 Calling back an affiliate player

When calling back an affiliate player for a few games, the team must make sure it does not upset the player's studies, and it must give him all necessary support given the circumstances.

5.3 Playoffs

The team choosing to reduce their players' school activities during the playoffs must make sure that their school term will not be disrupted.