

ERRA Regional Two Year Pilot Policy
DEFINING CLOSEST (NEIGHBORING) ASSOCIATION

Policy:

1. Effective August 1, 2005, a player granted a release based on “level of play” will be released to any association offering that level of play, within the Eastern Region, subject to all conditions that follow:
 - A. If a player is trying out for a competitive team in more than one association it is the responsibility of the player to advise each and every association which associations she is trying out for prior to getting on the ice, and/or making a commitment. A Tryout/Release form M-F-07, ORA Appendix, must be signed for each association that the player will be attending tryouts with. Players/parents that do not comply with these two requirements may be denied release by the region.
 - B. It is the responsibility of the individual association to document a player’s decision when a position is offered and provide a copy of the tryout form and decision to the Regional membership services coordinator.
 - C. The association other than the ‘Home Association’ that a player chooses to play for will then be considered the player’s “Chosen Association”.
 - D. The “Chosen Association” must consider the player a local player once they have selected that player and have placed that player on their TRF for the current playing season.

Procedure:

2. Any player who is granted a release based on “level of play” can “choose” the association she plays for (assuming a position is offered) for that playing season.
 - a) In the subsequent year, the player must obtain a release from her home association (as per ORA policy) and her “chosen association” in order to try-out for competitive teams in any other associations.
 - b) The “chosen association” must issue a tryout/release form as per ORA policy (*Membership Services section 8*), however, a release is not guaranteed (ORA policy same as ‘home association’).
 - c) If the player is not offered a position in her “Chosen Association” the next consecutive playing season, then that association has no right to her in future years and the player can then “choose” the association she plays for (assuming a position is offered) for that playing season. This new association now becomes the “chosen association”.

3. All Associations planning to release players based on level of play not available should advise Eastern Region Membership Services of the players , level of play and “chosen association” no later than September 15th of current season.

Transitional Provision

4. Players who were playing out of their home association in the 2004-2005 playing season, will be deemed to have chosen their “Chosen Association” at the start of the 2005-2006 playing season. They may acquire a Tryout/Release form from their “Chosen Association” and their home association (subject to approval by either association as outlined above).

Background Historically, geographic determination of closest association in this region has been problematic, the source of most tribunals, and sometimes resulted in unfair outcomes. Players and associations should support their decisions of “choice” over the long term. Unrestricted movement of players (in particular top end players) from year to year to “the best team that year” has a negative impact on the sport . However players entering the competitive stream for the first time should be given choice (pending their selection) as to their new “Chosen Association”.

Approved at the ERRA AGM May 9, 2005 as a two year pilot policy within ERRA.