ASK AHAI

QUESTION: If a player is on a junior hockey team, can they play on a High School team? Also, what is an "Affiliate Agreement"?

ANSWER: A player cannot be on both a junior team and a High School team at the same time. However, let me explain the "Affiliate Agreement" and the AHAI policy. The Affiliate Agreement allows a youth (High School) player to play as many as 7 games with a specific junior team without becoming ineligible to play youth hockey (inclusive of High School). If they play an 8th game they are stricken from the youth roster and are part of the junior team. However, the agreement must be completely executed between a Tier I or Tier II junior team, the player, parents, the youth coach and the junior coach. If all have not agreed and signed the Affiliate Agreement form then the Affiliate Agreement is not valid. This agreement is not valid for Tier III junior teams, only Tier I and Tier II. Tier III follows the AHAI Policy below:

If no agreement is in place, or it is a Tier III junior team, it is AHAI policy to allow the player to "try" junior hockey for a weekend or a couple of games. AHAI encourages players to take advantage of opportunities placed in front of them, but we do not want to see a player "used" or abused or caught not knowing the consequences of their actions. If the player then elects to participate with the junior team any further, the player is deemed to be "on the junior team" and will be stricken from the youth roster.

It is essential to keep in mind that no youth player can be added to a youth roster after December 31. It is vital that the player know that if he chooses to play juniors after December 31 he can no longer play with a youth team for the rest of that season. Even if the junior team "promises" the player a spot on the team, the junior team can still cut that player at any time. The player must take that risk into account.

If the player or parent has any further questions, I do encourage them to call me (Mike Mullally). I can be reached at 224-636-3217.