

## Policy on Dual Club Participation for Kitchener Waterloo Olympic Hockey (KW Dragons)

**Effective Date:** November 1, 2024

### **Purpose:**

To maintain the integrity and competitive balance of our field hockey programs, this policy outlines the rules regarding athletes' participation in multiple clubs during the same season.

### **Scope:**

This policy applies to all athletes participating in club-level field hockey with the KW Dragons Olympic Hockey.

### **Policy Statement:**

Athletes registered with a field hockey club are prohibited from participating in practices, games, or any official activities with another club within the defined KWOH field hockey seasons. This policy aims to ensure fairness, dedication, and commitment to the athlete's chosen club while maintaining the integrity of competition. A club may request a player(s) from another club in certain circumstances, but the player request must be reviewed and approved by the head coach and a board member. The player request should define the player name(s), the time period and reason.

### **Definitions:**

- **Club:** An organization that provides training, coaching, and competition opportunities for field hockey athletes.
- **Season:** KW Dragons has two seasons. *Indoor Season* begins the date the team is named and ends on the date of the last scheduled practice. The *Outdoor Season* begins the date the team is named and ends on the date of the last scheduled practice.
- **Athlete:** Any individual who is registered and actively participates in field hockey activities within a club.

### **Procedures:**

- **Registration:**
  - Upon registration with a club, athletes and their parent/guardian must acknowledge and agree to adhere to this policy.

- **Verification:**
  - Clubs are responsible for verifying their athletes' adherence to this policy. Any athlete found participating with another club during the same season will be subject to disciplinary action.
- **Disciplinary Action:**
  - Athletes who violate this policy will face the following consequences:
    - Immediate suspension from all club activities.
    - Potential expulsion from the club without a refund of any fees paid.
  - The second club that the athlete participates with will also be notified of the violation and will be required to enforce this policy.

**Exceptions:**

- This policy does not apply to non-club-based activities, such as school teams, provincial teams, or national teams or international showcase tournaments as a guest player.
- Special exceptions may be considered under extenuating circumstances but must be reviewed and approved by the head coach and board of directors.
- Exceptions only apply if the above events do not interfere with a KW Dragons Team commitment/event

**Review and Amendment:**

This policy will be reviewed and approved annually by the KW Dragons Board of Directors. Amendments may be made as necessary to ensure its effectiveness and relevance.

**Field Hockey Ontario (FHO)**

This policy aligns with the FHO guidelines on the movement of players between clubs and inducement guidelines (Poaching). Adhering the KWOH Dual Club Policy includes also complying with the Field Hockey Ontario (FHO) guideline on player movement between clubs.

**Acknowledgment:**

By registering with KWOH, athletes and their guardians acknowledge that they have read, understood, and agree to comply with the terms of this policy.