



QMJHL EDUCATION POLICY

Adopted by the Commissioner of the QMJHL, on May 9, 2005
and in force on June 1, 2005

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 programme, 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, travelling 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 cegep 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 programme 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 programme, 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 programmes 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 Programme

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 the following conditions:

- 4.1.1 Has played at least two years in the QMJHL, including when he was nineteen; however, the 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, is eligible for the grant program if he meets all the other conditions;

The years of service of a player with the League is worked out according to school sessions, two sessions being equivalent to one year; the player with 3 service sessions will be considered as having 2 years' service; the player with 5 service sessions will be considered as having 3 years' service.



- 4.1.2 Has taken acceptable courses during each session of his junior career:
- ✓ Has completed his secondary course (secondary V in Québec) or his High School (grade 12) and is no more than one year behind compared with his school level when he joined the League;
 - ✓ Has succeeded in at least half of the courses in each of these sessions;
 - ✓ At CEGEP, has succeeded in at least 6 courses per year (5 if the courses were taken at Cegep@distance);
 - ✓ For High School or Cegep diploma holders, has succeeded in at least two university or pre-university courses per year
- 4.1.2.1 For the purposes of reaching previous school objectives, summer courses are acceptable.
- 4.1.2.2 The player who has not achieved the requirements in a year and who thus becomes ineligible for the grant program, can redeem his eligibility by submitting a plan to make up for his failure, the educational consultant and the Commissioner must agree to the plan; the player must also succeed in the said plan. For this clause, the League updates a record establishing the eligibility of players or their loss of eligibility. Each player who becomes ineligible and his educational consultant are informed at the beginning of each year.
- 4.1.3 Has submitted a grant request with its study plan to the Commissioner, before the date of August 10 immediately following the end of his junior career; for the purpose of this clause, the fact that a player aged nineteen or twenty is released from his training club indicates, if necessary, the end of his junior career;
- 4.1.4 Has provided, as soon as possible, the most recent school report giving the player the possibility to eventually be admitted to the school program he has chosen;
- 4.1.5 Has 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 Cegep to finish his pre-university college course;



4.1.6 Has started his courses no later than at the fall session following the end of his major junior career, is studying on a full time basis and without any interruption, and has succeeded in at least 75% of his courses (three courses per session or the equivalent, in the case of university studies).

4.2 Granting

4.2.1 When a request for a study grant meets the requirements of the QMJHL Grant Program, it is analysed by a committee appointed to this end by the Commissioner.

4.2.2 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.

4.2.3 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 analysed by the committee.

4.2.4 The student who must go to Cegep 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.

4.2.5 The committee will inform each grant requester of its decision as soon as possible and in writing.

4.3 Grant allocation

According to different situations, study grants given by the QMJHL are as follow:

- ✓ To complete a general college degree (DEC): \$500 per session, maximum of 2 sessions;
- ✓ University studies: \$3,500 per year, maximum of 3 years;
- ✓ Secondary professional program or post-secondary professional or technical program:



- if annual school fees * are less than \$500 per year: \$1,500 per year, for a maximum of 3 years;
- if annual school fees * are more than \$500 per year: \$1,000 per year plus school fees, for a maximum of \$2,500 per year, for a maximum of 2 years;
- ✓ A player cannot hold grants for more than \$10,500 if he played in the League for three years or more; he cannot hold grants for more than \$7,000 if he played in the League for two years.

* 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 on an annual basis in two payments, each payment at the end of each school session, upon receipt of school report.
- 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. A modification in the program does not in any way require the League to increase its obligations.
- 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.



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 Sport-Études School 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 criterias 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.

