

# **QMJHL Education Policy**

Adopted by the Commissioner of the QMJHL, on May 9, 2005, in force on June 1<sup>st</sup> 2005, modified in September 2007, August 2009 (article 4) and June 2011.

## **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 statement of principle 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 education mandate**

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 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 QMJHL 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 player's parents must support and encourage him to continue his studies. The player must take his responsibilities toward his education obligations such as to give his homework on time, to communicate with his teachers and to assure the follow-up of his student file.
- 2.4** All educational follow-up expenses, school expenses, travel expenses, lodging expenses, textbook and school material expenses are to be paid by the team. 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. The terms of reimbursement to the player are established by the team.
- 2.5** The player must be enrolled in a program from the province (or state) where he usually lives in order to obtain a diploma in his own province (or state). If there are exceptions to this rule, the player's parents must fill out and sign a form, the team must explain them the consequences which it can contain. Afterward, the form must be sent to the LHJMQ and be approved by the Commissioner.
- 2.6** The player taking distance education courses must be provided with appropriate supervision by his team such as a place to work while being supervised, the necessary equipment to study and make his work and one or more competent tutors to support him in his work.
- 2.7** The player's progress in school must correspond to approximately:
- Secondary / High School : Full load (regular curriculum)  
Cégep : 4 courses  
Cégep@distance: 2 courses  
University : 2 courses
- 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** All players, except the European players, must take courses leading to a secondary (high school), CEGEP (college) or university diploma; the QMJHL must be informed of any exception to this rule by a form filled out by the player and approved by parental authority. The European players must take alternative courses (second language, computer knowledge, etc.).
- 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. This file must be accessible to the QMJHL and available when a trade occurs.
- 2.13** The QMJHL will provide guidelines at any time for the implementation of the present policy.

### **Article 3      The school advisor**

The team is responsible for providing education to its new players. The school advisor, 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 an advisor 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;
- Collaborate with the school educational establishments, get involved in the process of the player's registration and act as an advisor 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 an advisor 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 and keep their parents informed;
- 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;
- Write and submit on time all reports requested by the QMJHL;
- 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 succeeded in each session, the courses outlined in the normal curriculum attributed to full time students ;
  - At CEGEP, he must have succeeded at least two(2) courses per session ;
  - At Cégep@distance, he must have succeeded at least one(1) course per session;
  - For a High School or Cégep diploma holder, he must have succeeded in at least one (1) university course 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.

The player who would have initiated his major junior hockey career at the age of nineteen (19) or twenty (20) remains eligible to the current grant program even if the number of academic sessions during which he significantly pursued his studies is less than four (4).

- 4.1.4 The player must have started his courses no later 1 year 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 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 end of his first session 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 career. After the deadline, grants requested can not be given retroactively.
- 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 major 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;
- 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 amendments to the Education Policy established in August 2009 and 2011 are not applicable retroactively to any player who would have ended his major junior career before September 2011.

### **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 must take effective means during the playoffs to make sure that their school term will not be disrupted.