

CLA Player Transfer Process

Section 18.4 CLA Operations Manual

CLA Inter-Member or Association Member Transfers

Section 18.4 – CLA Operations Manual

- ❖ The CLA recognizes that all players wishing to play lacrosse in Canada have the privilege to do so providing certain conditions are met. This policy only applies to post-Bantam (i.e. Midget and higher) aged players and above.
- ❖ These conditions are not meant to completely restrict the movement of players between Member Associations/Associate Member Associations (MA/AMA) however the CLA recognizes that restrictions are necessary to help with the development of players within Members/Associate Members Associations. This policy strikes a balance between complete restriction and the free movement of players.
- ❖ This policy only governs movement of players between MA/AMA's. The CLA maintains no authority for player movement within an MA/AMA with the exception of rules related to the CLA Negotiation List.

- ❖ **Transfers will only be permitted between the first Wednesday of March and must be completed by 11:59pm July 1st of any given calendar year.**
- ❖ A transfer is not complete until the transfer process as outlined in Section 18.4 of the CLA Operations Manual has been completed.
- ❖ Once a player's transfer is complete, all rights associated with said player belong to the receiving MA or AMA with the following exception:
 - The player can only play at the level at which he was traded/released for the remainder of the season (ie. No playing up or down) unless the upper level of lacrosse is not available in the jurisdiction he is transferring from. After the season is complete, the player can move freely within the MA/AMA subject to the member/associate member's association's policies.
- ❖ No MA/AMA or team personnel shall permit a player from another MA/AMA to play a league or playoff game within its jurisdiction unless the player has obtained a complete transfer in accordance with these rules. Any MA/AMA or team personnel that violate this rule are subject to a fine of \$5,000 and the suspension of the player until dealt with by the CLA Discipline Committee. The General Manager and/or the Head Coach as determined by the CLA VP Domestic Competition in consultation with the Box Sector Chairperson will also be suspended until dealt with by the CLA Discipline Committee. Each subsequent occurrence will result in an additional \$5,000 and will be forwarded to the CLA Discipline Committee for further discipline.

- ❖ A participant may move from one MA/AMA's jurisdiction to another and be eligible to play under the following circumstances:
 - The player is not on a negotiation list as defined in Section 18.4.8 of the policy manual) and is a member in good standing within his current MA/AMA – ie: free agent. The player must have his/her previous Member Association/Associate member sign a transfer Form confirming that the player is in good standing.
 - An agreement to release the player has been reached between the team holding the rights to the individual as indicated on a negotiation list as defined in Section 18.4, of the Operation Manual, and the team wishing to acquire those rights.
 - A player who has signed a playing card for the current season must receive a release from the team to which he was signed.
 - The player changes his residence from one MA's or AMA's jurisdiction to another prior to December 31 where the primary purpose or reason for the move is not to play lacrosse.
 - Players may be required to provide confirmation of the purpose or reason for the move. This proof may be requested anytime during the course of the season. This proof must be supplied within 7 days of request by the Transfer Review Committee as defined in 18.4 of the CLA Operations Manual. Should it be deemed that the move was not legitimate, the player will be suspended for the balance of the season and the incident will be referred to the CLA Discipline Committee.
 - Any additional circumstances must be submitted to the Transfer Review Committee as defined in Section 18.4, of the CLA Operations Manual, for review and approval. The player must have his or her MA or AMA sign a transfer Form indicating they are a member in good standing.
 - Players under the age of 18 must have a document signed by their parent or guardian granting permission for the player to move, if said player's parent/guardian is not also moving.

Conditional Releases:

- ❖ Player transfers that contain conditions such as but not limited to one (1) year releases are considered to have been met or completed by September 30th of the final season that the condition applies to.
- ❖ As of October 1st, if the conditions are met and the player is in good standing within the MA or AMA who he was registered with for the season, his playing rights revert back to his previous MA or AMA.

Negotiation Lists:

- ❖ Each MA or AMA must file annually with the CLA Head Office, a list of its players requiring negotiated releases in the format as defined in Section 18.4 of the CLA Operations Manual. **The deadline for the submission of this list will be the last Friday of February of a calendar year.** A Master List will be created and forwarded to all MAs or AMAs by the appropriate deadline.
- ❖ No player can appear on more than one negotiation list at a time, regardless of level.
- ❖ Only players who signed playing cards within a MA or AMA the season prior to the submission of the negotiated list can be protected by a team within the same MA or AMA.
- ❖ A player who is on a negotiation list who does not sign a playing card for the current season within an MA or AMA and does not play summer lacrosse in any other jurisdiction, either inside the CLA or outside in leagues, such as, but not limited to, the summer professional field league, is free to move without negotiation the following year provided he is a member in good standing within the previous MA or AMA.
- ❖ For the purpose of the transfer policy, a refusal to sign a playing card is deemed not to be a valid reason for a suspension outside of the MA or AMA.

- ❖ For Senior A, a team's negotiation list shall not exceed twenty five (25) individuals plus 10 holdouts.
 - Holdouts are defined as players who are eligible to play within their respective MA or AMA, drafted players from within the MA or AMA who refuse to sign a playing card for the current season, injured players and a maximum of 2 graduating Juniors as defined as players in their last year of Junior eligibility who were transferred out of their respective MA or AMA after having signed a playing card in the previous season.
- ❖ For Senior B, a team's negotiation list shall not exceed twenty five (25) individuals.
- ❖ For Senior C, a team's negotiation list shall not exceed twenty five (25) individuals.
- ❖ For Junior A, a team's negotiation list shall not exceed twenty five (25) individuals.
- ❖ For Junior B, a team's negotiation list shall not exceed twenty five (25) individuals.
- ❖ The MA's or AMA's negotiation lists will be submitted electronically in Microsoft Excel, in table format with the following fields completed:
 - Last Name, First Name, Protected By, Contact Info (email of who to enquire about release of player), Member Association, Level (Sr. A/B/C or Jr.A/B and Holdout (Sr. A only)
- ❖ Failure of an MA or AMA to submit a negotiation list by the deadline will result in players being considered free agents able to move without negotiation. Said player(s) must have his/her previous MA/AMA sign a transfer Form confirming their good standing.

Limit on Imports in Junior

- ❖ No team shall have on its negotiation list or its 25 player roster more than five (5) players in total who have been acquired by an inter-member association or associated member transfer with the following exceptions:
 - Where a player moves to another MA or AMA's jurisdiction to play at a higher level or category which does not exist in the first MA or AMA, they will not count towards the total number of imports.
 - Where a player who has been transferred is an import in one playing season but, without signing a playing card in a subsequent season in the MA/AMA to which he was transferred, is transferred back to the original MA/AMA, that player will not be classified as an import in that original MA/AMA.
 - If a team wishes to have the status of a player reclassified from an import to non-import, in advance of a challenge from another team or MA/AMA, an application to the Transfer Review Committee along with a cheque for \$250.00 for each player, must be submitted to the CLA Head Office.
 - The Committee will review and respond to all requests within seven (7) business days upon receipt in the CLA Office. The decision of the committee may be appealed following the CLA appeals policy as defined in the CLA Operations Manual.
- ❖ When a club has exercised their 5 import team limit on the negotiation list they may not drop one of these players to add a 6th player.
- ❖ Teams caught with more than 5 imports on their negotiation list or roster will face the following sanctions:
 - \$1,500 fine per game that the team played;
 - Suspension of all import player(s), head coach and or general manager until such time as they comply with the policy.
 - Further discipline as determined by the CLA Discipline Committee, such as, but not limited to:
 - Forfeiture of the right to participate in CLA National Championships.

Tampering

- ❖ Prior to the submissions of the negotiation lists, no team or agent of the team from any MA or AMA may communicate with or allow to tryout or participate in its training camp, practises, intra-squad games or exhibition game, a player from another MA or AMA without first having received written permission by either email or fax from the team or league commissioner with which said player was last registered, prior to that player's participation.
- ❖ After the submission of the negotiation lists, no team or agent of the team from any MA or AMA may communicate with or allow to tryout/participate in its training camp, practises, intra-squad games or exhibition game, a player from another MA or AMA negotiation list without first having received written permission by email or fax from the team or league commissioner with which said player was last registered as per the negotiation list, prior to that player's participation.
- ❖ Failure to comply with this policy will result in:
 - An automatic fine of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1500.00) to the offending team, payable to the CLA within 30 days of notification by the CLA Office. The CLA will then forward the fine to the offended team; and
 - Further disciplinary action or sanctions as determined by the CLA Disciplinary Committee. These sanctions may include one or more of the following:
 - An additional fine;
 - A ten (10) game suspension to the head coach of the offending team;
 - A suspension for a period of up to one (1) year to the responsible team officials of the offending team
- ❖ The charge of tampering must be filed by the offended team within 7 days of the offended team discovering the occurrence of the tampering to the CLA in accordance with the CLA Disciplinary procedure. The burden of proof is with the team filing the tampering charge.

- ❖ Any charge of tampering deemed to be frivolous by the CLA Disciplinary Committee will result in a penalty being assessed as per the discipline policy.

Transfer Review Committee

- ❖ Will review and resolve all disputes as directed by the transfer policy. The Transfer Review Committee will not be used for hearing any discipline related issues. However, the committee may forward on its findings to the CLA for further action if the committee deems it appropriate.
- ❖ Will consist of the following individuals:
 - Box Sector Chair (Chair of the Committee)
 - CLA VP Domestic Competition
 - CLA Past President
 - Should any of the CLA members not be able to sit on the committee, replacements will be appointed by the CLA President.
- ❖ All interested parties are entitled to notice of the meeting and may participate in said meeting. The Presidents of each MA or AMA involved are entitled to be represented.
- ❖ All submissions to the committee must be accompanied with a cheque of Five Hundred dollars (\$500). Should the Transfer Review Committee rule in favour of the applicant, a refund of Five Hundred dollars (\$500) will be made to the applicant and Two Hundred and Fifty dollars (\$25) will be billed to the MA or AMA who originally denied the transfer.
- ❖ The committee will review and respond to all requests within seven (7) business days upon receipt at the CLA Head Office.
- ❖ The decision of the committee may be appealed following the CLA Appeals policy as defined in the CLA Operations Manual.

Right of Appeal of a Denied Transfer

- ❖ Should a team or player believe there are exceptional circumstances regarding the denial of a transfer, they can apply to the Transfer Review Committee, as defined in the CLA Operations Manual, stating the exceptional circumstances. Grounds for permitting the transfer under the exceptional circumstance clause include but are not limited to the following:
 - Player wants to play at a higher level of lacrosse than what is available within their current MA/AMA or is on a negotiation list of a team but wants to move to a team in another MA/AMA which is at a higher level;
 - Health reasons;
 - Compassionate reasons
- ❖ The Transfer Review Committee will not determine matters of compensation unless a transfer is granted under the Right of Appeal of a Denied Transfer in this Section and the determination of compensation is warranted.
- ❖ All applications and fees must be received by the CLA Head Office within seven (7) business days of the occurrence of denial.

PLAYER TRANSFER PROCESS

Player fills out SECTION 1 of the Player Transfer Form and MUST submit it to the CLA Head Office to start the process



Upon receipt of the transfer, the CLA Head Office will forward via email the information to the MAs or AMA's Office – PROVINCIAL OFFICE – who currently owns his playing rights. This will be done within 24 hours from transfers submitted from Sunday to Thursday. Transfers received Friday and Saturday may take 48 hours to begin



The MA or AMA (Provincial) owning his rights will complete SECTION 2 of the transfer form and submit it back to the CLA Head Office. The MA or AMA must submit the form to the CLA Head Office within 10 business days of receipt. If not submitted, it will be assumed that there are no issues and the player is free to move to the other MA or AMA.



Upon receipt of the form or the 10 business days have expired, the CLA Head Office will send the form to the MA or AMA the player wishes to transfer too within 24 hours to complete SECTION 3.



The receiving MA or AMA will have 10 business days to complete SECTION 3 and return it to the CLA Head Office. If the form is not returned, it will be assumed that the transfer is not accepted and the player will remain the property of the team he is protected by.



The CLA Head Office will review the transfer form and confirm that the proper process has been completed and will sign off on the transfer. The receiving MA or AMA will be informed by email of the completed transfer and be invoiced the transfer fee.

SCENARIOS THAT DO NOT FOLLOW THE TRANSFER POLICY

SCENARIO 1

- ❖ Can a player play in a "new" MA/AMA if his transfer has not been approved by the CLA?
- ❖ Example: Player Smith has initiated his transfer. He has obtained his release from his former team; his releasing MA/AMA, however, has not finalized the verification of his status and has not signed his transfer; there are six days left in the transfer process. But the team he is going to, in the other MA/AMA, badly needs him as a goaltender that night. Can they play him that night with the understanding that "the paper work is on its way"?

SCENARIO 2

- ❖ Can team managers of different MAs agree on a transfer if the transfer has not gone through the CLA process?
- ❖ Example: Player Smith has asked for a release from his former team in order to play with his new team in another MA/AMA. The manager of the releasing team has contacted the manager of the new team and they have agreed, in good faith, on a financial compensation for the transfer of player Smith. They have signed the financial documents pertaining to the compensation. Player Smith, however, has not presented the CLA with his transfer request. Can the new team now play player Smith under the understanding that both managers have agreed on the transfer and on the compensations and that the paper work will follow?

SCENARIO 3

- ❖ Can a team play a player if they feel the compensation asked for is exaggerated?
- ❖ Example: Player Smith has asked for his release and has started his transfer process with the CLA. His intent is to return to his original MA/AMA. The releasing team has contacted the new team and is asking for 5000\$ compensation. The new team assesses the situation and feels that the compensation asked for is incredible and irrational. After all player Smith is "returning" to his original MA/AMA. Can the new team play player Smith because the compensation asked for is irrational and intends to appeal the amount?

SCENARIO 4

- ❖ Can a Senior team from one MA/AMA play, on a one game release, a junior player, residing in the same city as the Senior team, but signed to another MA/AMA?
- ❖ Example: Player Smith lives in Kahnawake and plays for the Kahnawake Junior Hunters of the OLA; can he be brought up to play senior lacrosse for Kahnawake of the QSL (Québec Federation)

SCENARIO 5

- ❖ Can an MA/AMA play a player if the releasing MA/AMA has not signed the transfer documents?
- ❖ Example: Player Smith has sent his transfer requests to the CLA; the paper work is under way. The MA/AMA from whom the player is being transferred is holding their annual meeting that day and the signing officer is absent from his desk that day. Can the receiving MA/AMA play the player, that day, even if the transfer papers are not signed, but would have been if the signing officer had been at his desk that day?