



# NHL STREET Defining Adult Participants, Minor Athletes and Exceptions Policy

This policy uses the term “Adult Participants” to refer to those adults (age of majority and older) to whom these policies apply. Adult Participants are required to follow all policies included in the Athlete Safety Policy.

Adult Participants is defined as adult (age of majority and older) who is an NHL Street:

1. Recreation Organization League Operator or NHL STREET Board Members, Officers, and Directors;
2. Recreation Organization League Operator or NHL STREET Employees and Independent Contractors;
3. Coaches and Trainers;
4. Team Managers and Club Administrators;
5. Recreation Organization League Operators and Administrators;
6. Tournament Directors;
7. Athletic Trainers;
8. Referees

This policy is issued to protect “Minor Athletes” who participate in NHL STREET. A Minor Athlete is an amateur athlete under the age of majority who participates in, or participated within the previous 12 months in, NHL STREET. Although this policy focuses in many areas on concerns unique to Minor Athletes, these may be applicable and are designed to protect participants of all ages.

Please note that a “Close in Age” Exception exists within the different components of this policy. This exception applies to certain policies and allows for “In-Program” contact between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete if:

- The Adult Participant has no authority over the Minor Athlete; and
- The Adult Participant is not more than four (4) years older than the Minor Athlete.

There are also exceptions for Adult Participant Personal Care Assistants (PCA) working with a Minor Athlete. A PCA is an individual who assists an athlete who requires help with the activities of daily living or in preparation for athletic participation. This support can be provided by a Guide for Blind or visually impaired athletes, or can include assistance with transfer, dressing, showering, medication administration, and using the restroom. When assisting a Minor Athlete PCAs must be authorized by the athlete’s parent/guardian. For a PCA to be considered an Adult Participant, the PCA must have Regular Contact with additional Minor Athlete(s) besides the Minor Athlete for whom they provide care. In these circumstances, the following requirements must be met before a PCA Exception will be granted:

1. The Minor Athlete’s parent/guardian must provide written consent to the NHL STREET Team or Recreation Organization League Operator for the PCA to provide care/work with their Minor Athlete; and
2. The PCA must complete all training required by NHL Street; and
3. The PCA must meet all Background Check requirements of NHL STREET

Further, Adult Participants with a dual role or relationship with a minor creates an exception to certain policies set forth within this document. A “Dual Relationship” exception exists when:



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- An Adult Participant has a dual role or relationship with a Minor Athlete. The exception requires written consent of the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian at least annually.
- Many of the exceptions require parent/guardian consent.
- Examples of a dual role relationship can include, but is not limited to:
  1. Adult Participant who is a Parent/Guardian of a minor athlete;
  2. Adult Participant who is an Aunt/Uncle of a minor athlete; or
  3. Adult Participant who is a family friend of a minor athlete.

"In Program Contact" includes NHL STREET events and facilities (including travel and lodging), but it also applies more broadly to sport-related interactions, and is defined as:

- Any contact (including communications, interactions, or activities) between an Adult Participant and any Minor Athlete(s) related to participation in NHL STREET.

Examples of in-program contact include, but are not limited to: competition, practices, camps/clinics, training/instructional sessions, pre/post game meals or outings, team travel, review of game film, team- or sport-related relationship building activities, celebrations, award ceremonies, banquets, team- or sport-related fundraising or community service, sport education, or competition site visits.

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