

# The English Ice Hockey Association

## Players to be allowed special dispensation for development opportunity

The EIHA Board met recently and debated the increasing calls for allowing players to temporarily “guest” for other clubs where a development opportunity exists to help bring forward the player’s skill levels. A prime concern has been that opportunity should be available to those players who are showing promise but cannot develop within the confines of their own Club because the required level of play is not available at the Club. At the same time, the Board have been concerned that any new arrangements should not weaken the relationship between a player and his/her “home” club.

The following examples demonstrate situations which have been highlighted to the Board:

Firstly, an U19 player at Club “A” is showing promise and his/her coach believes that the player would benefit from experience gained in the English National League. The Club, however, either does not have a senior team or only has a Premier League team. The coach believes the step up to the Premier would be too great a challenge for the player. Dispensation might, therefore, be available to allow the player to guest for Club “B” in the National League only.

The second example is where an U19 player at Club “X” is showing promise within the Clubs U19s and National League teams. The coach believes that experience gained in the Premier League would benefit the player’s development and so dispensation might be given for the player to guest for team “Y” in that League.

In response, the EIHA will consider applications for special dispensation which will allow a player to guest at another Club. The rules governing this arrangement are quite straightforward and include the following provisions:

1. The home club (and all its relevant teams) will have first call over the player on any one day. A request to play outside the “home” club will rest upon a decision between coaches but those at the “home” club must always have the power to say “*no – you’re playing for us*”.
2. Dispensation will only be available for U19s. It does not extend to include juniors (U16s and below).
3. Dispensation will automatically end with the playing season.
4. Players icing with dispensation will not count towards any minimum squad strengths as required within EIHA or individual League rules and regulations.

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Application should be made to the League in which the player will ice for the “borrowing club”.

For the time being, applications relating to male players should be sent to:

*Rob Laidler, ENIHL/EPIHL,*

*c/o 15 Dawlish Close, Dalton Grange, Dalton-le-Dale, Co. Durham SR7 8DE*

while applications relating to female players should be sent to:

*Geoff Hemmerman, EIHA Ladies Section*

*c/o 11 Guy Garth, Hedon, Nr. Hull HU12 8NP*

Applications must be made in writing on the prescribed form (copy attached) and at least 7 days notice must be given prior to the first game for which dispensation would apply.