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NCL Rule 2.3.2 Exemption Request

On January 18th, 2019, Water Polo Canada received a request for an exemption to NCL rule 2.3.2, which states: "Athletes may only appear on one (1) NCL roster per year, per category".

The reasoning for this exemption request was due to the athletes in question's educational arrangements. The athletes in question entered a new school program within their city at the start of the year. The athletes signed up for their usual NCL team at the start of the year, but as the NCL season started, the travel needs required to get the athletes to both their school and their training pool proved to be extremely difficult. Understanding that it would likely be impossible to continue under their travel arrangements, the athletes moved to a different NCL club that, due to their location, eased the overall travel burden significantly.

This club change created a new challenge for the athletes in question, as according to rule 2.3.2, once they have played for one club in the NCL, they are not eligible to play for a different club that season. These athletes had already played several games for their original club, and therefore were now barred from playing for their new club in the NCL for the rest of the season.

It was at this point that an exemption request was submitted, and this request was signed by both the original and new clubs, as well as the Provincial Sport Organization.

The competition committee was convened to discuss whether an exemption should be allowed under these circumstances. The committee ruled that the new travel issues that resulted from the change in schools represented a legitimate claim for an exemption from rule 2.3.2; furthermore, the competition committee also agreed that registering and playing for their original club could not be held against the athletes, as the totality of the travel issues may not have been clear at the start of the season.

Given the above, and the fact that both clubs involved in the transfer, and the provincial sport organization, support this exemption request, the competition committee has **APPROVED** the exemption to rule 2.3.2.