

PLAYING UP A BIRTH YEAR

Information from LJJ Hockey Directors

It is highly recommended that your skater plays for the proper birth year, especially at/over the Peewee level. Playing above your birth year will need approval from the organization. The organization will only approve a skater to play above their birth year as certain situations permit. These situations will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Many aspects are to be contemplated by the parents, coaches, and the skater. We recommend you consider if your player is physically, mentally, and socially ready for the move. There is more than the player's skill to take into consideration.

Questions to ask yourself:

- Will the skater be a comparable size to his/her teammates?
- Will the skater be ready to assimilate into an all new group of players?
- Will the skater take a hit to his/her confidence by going from a game where they got a lot of playtime to one that is more challenging?

Cons:

Playing your skater up may mean less puck touches, less scoring chances, a greater risk of injury, increased pressure to perform and exposure to more mature language and actions. This can lead to a lack of confidence and change the type of player your skater was meant to be. The reason your skater is meant to play the game of hockey, is to have fun. The added pressure and taking on a new role on their team may lead to hockey feeling like more of a job.

Pros:

There is a plus side to playing above your birth year. Older birth year could mean better competition for your skater, not just in games but also during practices. Throughout the season the focus points are on

higher hockey IQ. If it is determined your player can play a similar role in the above age group, and all factors are determined in a case-by-case basis there may be grounds for approval.