

CITY OF LAKES YOUTH HOCKEY PLAY UP POLICY

COLYH's Board affirms USA Hockey's Skill Progression program that all players in the association learn at their Minnesota Hockey age group except in very rare circumstances when a player has achieved all the skills necessary for success at the next age level. Although a player may be at the "top of their class" in some areas at the C level, this alone is not an indication they have learned all the skills that will be needed at the next level. It is COLYH's intention to graduate "complete" hockey players with skills that will allow them to find success in their hockey careers as they move to older age groups.

COLYH's Board understands the need and desire for a higher level of competition with players in their size and age bracket. These progressions are typically provided by the B and A levels, however, District 1 does not currently support these levels. In lieu of moving younger players to a higher age bracket, COLYH is committed to making intermediate skill levels available to provide continued growth within their age bracket as follows:

- When numbers of players in an age bracket allow for 2 teams at a given level, COL will skate both a B-level and C-level team. The intention is that all players within that age bracket would remain in that bracket without players advancing to the next age bracket. Selection of these teams will be by tryouts with independent evaluators designated by the Board.
- COLYH will build a relationship with the District which will allow the B-level team(s) to either play a district schedule with another district or otherwise find competition outside District 1.

Procedure for Evaluation of Playing Up

1. Definition - the term playing up refers to a player playing up from his/her Minnesota Hockey age group.
2. Should it be determined that a B-level team is not feasible in any given year, consideration of advancing players to the next age bracket in order to provide a more competitive environment will be made.
3. Requests to move up must be submitted by the player's parent or guardian in writing to COLYH at the time of registration. Submittal must state the reason for the request to play at the higher level.
 - a. Players will be required to register at their actual age level, but will pay the fee for the age bracket on which they eventually play, regardless of their actual age.
4. The decision to allow a player to play for a team in a higher age bracket will be made after evaluation of the player's skill by an impartial evaluation team designated by the Board. Parents will not be consulted. The parents' opinion is implicit in them having made the request.
 - a. COLYH utilizes the *Hockey Skills Challenge* manuals published by Minnesota Hockey and *Skill Progressions Handbook* published by USA Hockey for general guidelines to the skill progression that should be taught and learned at each age level.

- b. The Board may opt to forego formal evaluation if enough prior knowledge of a skater's ability is available.
- 5. Additional considerations:
 - a. Players moving up should be elite players.
 - b. Players' knowledge of hockey rules and team play will be part of the consideration.
 - c. Players' maturity (both physical and mental) will be part of the consideration.
 - d. A "play-up" player should never displace an age-eligible player.
 - e. The Board may express a need to advance players in order to fill the roster of a higher team. The decision must be in the best interest of the player, and the parents may refuse to allow the advancement.
- 6. COLYH Board will make the final decision by October 15, and all decisions will be final.