

# **CHIPPEWA YOUTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION (CYHA)**

## **Underage Player Movement Policy**

This Policy applies (on a per season basis) to those Players requesting assignment to a division above their age specific division.

### **Movement of Underage Players**

It is the policy of CYHA that each registered player will play in his/her age group as set forth by USA Hockey rules. From time to time, however, player movement is recommended by the CYHA Player Development Committee (PDC). The CYHA Board of Directors recognizes it can be appropriate and even beneficial to a participant's development for him or her to play-up to the next age classification. Additionally, due to numbers of players at each level, it may be beneficial for players to play-up to the next age classification. It is also beneficial for players to play with players of like ability. A fine balance needs to be struck between the player's desire to play at an advanced level and his ability to succeed at the older age classification.

There is an increased risk of injury for participants playing outside of their designated age classification. However, USA Hockey allows the movement in certain situations if specific guidelines are followed. Parents who are approached by the PDC about the move up should carefully consider the increased risks involved and follow the guidelines below when making a request to move a participant into an older age classification.

It is also a concern that whenever a player is moved up, in effect a spot on the team may be taken from a player of age. Only when an underage player is clearly an impact player on the team of the higher division, should he or she be considered to play up, or a significant need is otherwise demonstrated. In addition, the PDC will look to see if a play up is in the best interest of the Association such as optimizing team sizes at the respective levels.

- A participant will not be permitted to move up more than one year in age. For example, a first year Squirt cannot be moved to the Pee Wee level. A second year Squirt may advance to a Pee Wee team, as determined by the PDC in the placement process. This will apply at Mite, Squirt & Pee Wee levels regarding moving to the next higher level of play.
- Consideration for player movement will not be given where such movement would be detrimental to any team in terms of player numbers. In other words, if such movement would leave a team less than adequate player numbers, no consideration will be given for player movement in that instance. Furthermore if the team or level to which such a player would move up to already has adequate player numbers and an additional player would result in players already on the team not being given their fair allotment of playing time, once

again CYHA will not allow player movement. If the team or level to which such a player moves up to does not have adequate players then movement up would be looked upon more favorably. USA Hockey recommends team levels based upon skaters playing with similar skaters in ability. Shorter benches are recommended in lower age levels as is recommended in the USA Hockey Long Term Athlete Development plans. (See USA Hockey Long Term Development PDF).

- Instead of parents requesting that their skater be considered for movement to the next age group as in the past, the PDC, after registration and well before placement practices, shall recommend to the Board the number of players who are needed to move up to the next level based upon needs and abilities. No parent requests shall be considered.
- The PDC shall then be tasked with rating the top players at each level of play who could be eligible for movement to the next level. This evaluation will be based upon the CYHA Comprehensive Ice Hockey Curriculum, past years coaches input and other hockey factors including the participant's skill and ability to contribute to the older team, the participant's maturity level compared to the older team's participants, physical size and number of players at each level.
- Allowing participants to move from a non-checking division to a checking division represents the greatest risk and will receive the greatest scrutiny.
- The PDC will make a recommendation to the CYHA Board of Directors, based upon the above criteria, by the September CYHA Board Meeting. The CYHA Board of Directors will make the final decision on allowing a participant to play-up based on the PDC recommendations. Parents will then be approached about their player being moved to the next level. If the parents decline, then the parents of the next player ranked at that level shall be approached about their player moving up. If the parents accept, then the player will be invited to participate in player placement for the move up level so they will be placed based upon skill level and abilities.
- It may be determined after an initial play up approval, that it is in the best interest of the player to move back down to their original age division. These situations will be handled on a case by case basis and involve coaches at both levels and the board.
- The decision of the CYHA Board of Directors is final. No appeals will be allowed.
- The CYHA Board specifically reserves the right to reverse any decision allowing a player to play-up at any time. If a player that has moved up is experiencing difficulty, as determined by the CYHA Board and/or the player's coach, the

board may reverse the decision that allowed the player to play up. In this case, every attempt will be made to place the player on a similar level team within the player's proper age classification. There are no guarantees that the player will be placed on another team.

Adopted: July 13, 2014

Amended: May 18, 2016