

(Learn to Play (LTP)) Play Up Policy

The goal of OYHA is to keep players of the same age, physical and emotional maturity together and to protect the integrity of each age division within OYHA. As a general rule, players will not be allowed to play outside the age division he/she is classified within as determined by his/her birthdates and USA Hockey policies.

While it is rare, OYHA recognizes that there may be circumstances that would suggest a player to play in an age division above his/her USA Hockey classification and permission to “play up” could be granted only after the application process has been followed and evaluation has occurred.

Ensuring that our youngest players, have the opportunity to play with like skilled players is a key focus of the 6U (LTP) program.

Step 1) The parent(s) must submit a written letter explaining their reasons for the request, what they expect to gain from the move, acknowledge that the transfer is in the best interest of the player, including but not limited to intellectual maturity in a locker room setting and that there is also the possibility of an increased risk to injury. All 6U (LTP) Play Up requests this season must be submitted to the HDC (Hockey Development Committee) OYHAHDC@gmail.com These requests must be submitted in writing no later than **30 days before the start of the LTP season.**

Step 2) The player will be eligible for consideration if ALL the following conditions are met:

- a. The player must be currently registered to play at OYHA.
- b. Player development for both the 6U (LTP) and 8U (Mite) would not be adversely affected.
- c. The player is within 1 year of advancing to the 8U (Mite) division.

Step 3) The HDC will confirm that the movement of the player up will not adversely affect the teams or team/player ratio in either division, player development or any other team related items. The HDC reserves the right to not allow the player to be evaluated for the level above based on adversely affecting teams at either level.

Step 4) The players requesting to play up to 8U (Mites) will be evaluated by current or previous 6U (LTP) coaches, HDC Members, and 8U (Mite) coaches. This evaluation may take place during either the 8(U) Mite evaluation sessions, 6U (LTP) practice or an 8U (Mite) practice. These evaluations will take place no later than October, prior to the 8U (Mite) team placements. Parents will be notified by the HDC as to when the evaluation session(s) will take place.

Step 5) The HDC, Mite Director, and LTP Director will determine based on the evaluation criteria and team/player ratios if the 6U (LTP) player will be allowed to play up. The family and players will be notified. 6U (LTP) players who choose to “play up” will be required to pay the higher 8U (Mite) fees.

Alternate Evaluation Period: An alternate evaluation period may take place in January if the 6U (LTP) Director, 8U (Mite) Director and HDC have players that have progressed quickly in the 6U (LTP) program and may benefit from the opportunity to play up in the 8U (Mite) program. Players identified by the 6U (LTP) Director, 6U (LTP) Coaches, and HDC will be invited to a 8U (Mite) practice for evaluation. The determination to move a player will again be made on player or team development and team size not being adversely affected. 6U (LTP) players who choose to “play up” will be required to play the higher 8U (Mite) fees.