

Siouxland Youth Hockey Association Play-Up Policy

It is the policy of the Siouxland Youth Hockey Association (SYHA) that each registered player will play in his/her age level as set forth by USA Hockey Rules. However, individual requests to play-up may be considered. SYHA recognizes that in certain situations it may be appropriate and/or beneficial to the organization's development to have a player double roster or play-up to the next age level. SYHA will also consider the balance between the best interest of a player requesting to play-up and SYHA teams and players in both their actual age level, as well as the older level.

There is an increased risk of injury for participants playing outside of their actual age classification. However, USA Hockey and SYHA allows the movement in certain situations if specific guidelines are followed:

Guidelines to be considered are:

- . The best interests of the program.
- . How does it affect numbers in each age group
- . The decision is in the best interest of the team.

A player 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 the Pee Wee level. This will apply at Mites, Squirts, PeeWees, Bantams and High School.

A player requesting an opportunity to play-up must also try-out for his/her actual age level team. For example, a Squirt level player who is requesting to play-up (Peewee's) must register and try-out for Squirt level teams and pay the try-out registration fee for Squirt, or they forgo the opportunity to play on a Peewee team.

The SYHA will evaluate each request individually. Criteria for allowing a player to play-up will be based on the evaluation of the player's skill and ability to contribute to the older team. The player's ability to play at the requested level compared to the older team's players, including physical size and the number of players at each level. The play-up player must be projected to be a dominant player on the older team. If the player is not projected to be a dominant player on the older team, then it is highly questionable whether playing up is truly in the best interest of the organization, the player or the team.

The SYHA Board of Directors supports USA Hockey's long-term athlete development principles and position of a player being developed and playing within their appropriate age classification. SYHA also recognizes the fact that allowing a player to participate as a play-up may be detrimental to the player's development.

Only requests submitted in writing by the participant's parents or legal guardians will be considered. This request must be submitted and received by the Board of Directors, siouxlandyouthhockey@gmail.com. SYHA will evaluate the play-up request after Try-Outs and will respond before the start of the season.

There will be no appeals to this process.