

## **Spring Lake Park Youth Hockey Association Play-Up Policy**

Spring Lake Park Youth Hockey Association adheres to the age brackets set by Minnesota Hockey and strives to support the development and enhance the skills and abilities of all of its players (over just a few). However, SLPYHA has adopted this play-up policy in recognition of those players who desire to tryout to play at the level above their age eligibility. Only players who played at the highest level offered of Squirts or Peewees during the previous season may tryout for a team above their Minnesota Hockey age bracket in accordance with the requirements set forth below.

The player/parent must submit a “Play-Up Application” to the SLPYHA Board of Directors.

### **Mite Move-Up Policy:**

*Standard Mite Move-Up Policy:* If a Mite, the player must make the top (A) pool after the first round of Squirt tryouts. If the player fails to make the top (A) pool, they will return to the Mite level tryout process for team placement.

- A player who makes the top (A) pool during Squirt tryouts is not guaranteed placement on the top team.

*Annual Circumstantial Discretionary Mite Move-Up Policy:* At the discretion of the Board, based on the number of desired squirt teams, the move-up offer may be extended to any 3rd grader who played Mites last year regardless of the team they played on prior. Prior to registration the estimated number of open spots will be communicated with the final number of spots determined once registration is closed. Parents will have the opportunity to withdraw once the final number is communicated up to a week prior to tryouts.

If we have more players wanting to move up than available spots, we will stack rank the players using the independent judges scores. Those that fall below the move up number set after registration will be sent back to Mites. There will be no refund of the tryout fee for anyone that wants to attempt the move-up.

Under this policy all players will be subject to the following:

- All move-ups will pay the non-refundable tryout fee and must tryout at the schedule squirt times.
- All move-ups will pay the respective fees for the traveling team they are rostered on.
- Mites that are not rostered on a squirt team will return to the mite group for evaluations as schedule for mites.

**Squirt players wishing to try-out for a PeeWee team must adhere to the following requirements:**

If a Squirt, the player is required to complete the judged portion of the PeeWee tryout as well as the judged portion of the Squirt tryout. If, after the judged portion, the player is ranked in the top (15) of the PeeWee pool, that player is eligible to continue through the callback pool portion of the PeeWee level. The player will continue through the callback pool process at both the Squirt and PeeWee levels. If, after the completion of the PeeWee callback process, the player is not named to the top PeeWee team, the player returns to the Squirt level for team selection. A player who makes the top (15) skaters is not guaranteed placement on the PeeWee team.

The Board of Directors may choose to waive the requirement to try out at the Squirt level for players on a case-by-case basis if the player's evaluation and team selection history indicate an extremely high likelihood of selection to the top Squirt team.

**PeeWee players looking to “Play-Up” will be reviewed by the Board of Directors on a case-by-case basis.**

A player's placement on a team in accordance with this policy is final for the current season and cannot be appealed. The SLPYHA Board of Directors reserves the right to place a player who makes the top (A) pool during Squirt tryouts on a Mite team, or a Squirt player who ranks in the top ten (10) during PeeWee tryouts on a Squirt team for the purpose of keeping Squirt/PeeWee rosters at a manageable number.

Tryouts for SLPYHA traveling teams are designed to be as fair and equitable as possible. Skaters are assigned a numbered jersey the first day of tryouts, are required to wear association issued socks (white with blue and red stripes), and asked to remove any helmet stickers to ensure anonymity. Additionally, the judges scoring the skaters are not affiliated with SLPYHA; nor do they know, or have knowledge of, any of the skaters.

The judges are typically high school coaches from surrounding communities and are paid for their time and efforts. During the first two days of tryouts skaters are scored by the judges on their skills demonstrated during drills, and their play demonstrated during scrimmages. After the first two days of tryouts, the judge's scores are tabulated by the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors (comprised of the Association President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary). The skaters are then ranked according to their scores.