

Play up Policy

The Chippewa Youth Hockey Association (CYHA) 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 level. CYHA also recognizes the fact that allowing a player to participate as a play up may be detrimental to the player(s) development and that there are no rules that requires CYHA to allow any player(s) to ply up.

CYHA may, at its discretion, move player(s) upward in age classifications in order to achieve a balanced team population. Such requests must be made to the Board of Directors (CYHA) from the Player Development Committee (PDC) after player tryouts have been completed and prior to team rosters being set. As a guideline, the move up policy does not apply to teams that have adequate players to form a team. USA Hockey recommends team levels as follows,

- Mites / U8 9-13 players per team
- Squirt / U10 10-12 players per team
- Pee Wee / U12 11-14 players per team
- Bantam / U14 12-15 players per team

USA Hockey mandates that players cannot play below their age group. Exceptions can be made only in cases where disabilities prevent a player from participating at their age-appropriate level. Such requests will require recommendation from the player's physician and the PDC for the Board of Directors to consider.

CYHA requires any new player within the association (did not play at the association the previous season) to register and participate to play within their appropriate age level and shall not be considered to move up that first season. The term "participation" or "playing" shall be defined as all on-ice or off-ice hockey related activities within the association and/or team requirements. These requirements include but not limited to, tryouts, skill development sessions, practices, and /or games.

The exception to the "new player" clause is waived for female players that are moving from an association the only forms youth teams to CYHA that has formed a girls' team and/or Coop team with another association. This limited exception is intended to provide a female player that has participated in a youth association only the experience of playing on a girls' team. A play up in this situation must receive prior approval from the PDC and the CYHA board and shall not exceed one age level.

- CYHA offers a U10, U12 and U14 age level teams, move up policy applies
- CYHA offers a combined U12 and U14 team that will play at the U14 level, move up policy will not apply to the U10 level or "new player".

A participant will not be allowed to move up more than one year in age level and to the highest level of unless that is the only level.

- A first-year squirt cannot be moved to the Pee Wee level
- A second-year squirt may be placed on a lower Pee Wee level based on the recommendation of the PDC.
- If the Pee Wee level has two or more teams, the move up player would be placed on the B or C team and would not be considered for the A team.

- If the Pee Wee level only has one team, the move up player would play on that team.

A player in a play up situation may not participate in games above the next age level.

- 10-year-old player playing on the U12/Squirt team may participate in all practices and/or games at that level.
- 10-year-old player playing on the U12/Squirt team may not participate in any practices and/or games at next level (U14/Bantam).

Consideration should be given as to how the play up will impact the two (2) teams involved. The number of players within each age level should be considered so that if a play up will displace an age-appropriate player.

- Squirt level has 24 players, and the Pee Wee level has 28 players, a move up would not be required due to the Squirt and Pee Wee level having adequate number of players
- Squirt level has 28 players, and the Pee Wee level has 22 players, a move up would be appropriate to allow more playing time for the Squirt level and to more adequate number of players on the Pee Wee level. An appropriate level would be 26 Squirts and 24 Pee Wee if the PDC after try outs recommends a move up.
- Squirt level has 29 players and the PDC recommends that there are 4 mite players that could move up and create three (3) squirt teams of 11 players each.

Players and parents should acknowledge that approval to play up in a specific season does not compel the need to continue in a move up future season. The player move up must meet the required criteria for each year eligibility. At player may be required play three (3) years in one age level if the need for move up is not required.

CYHA recommendation is that each team should include at least one goaltender. When an age level does not have a goaltender to field a team, CYHA will allow goaltender movement to address these situations.

- All possibilities to obtain a goaltender from within the age level have been evaluated
- A goaltender from a lower age level may be recommended by the PDC to move up provided the age-appropriate team is not left without an experienced goaltender.
- A proposed growth proposal is developed to avoid goaltender shortages in the future

When within the association the number of registered players within an age level do not equal one team, it may be necessary to consolidate age levels to create a team(s) and/or create a coop with an association in the area. The CYHA board shall determine which direction will be best for the association. When that occurs and upon notification to the CYHA board to combine levels within the association, the team will carry the name of the oldest age level and those players that are part of the younger age level will be required to fill out a play up Request & Acknowledgement off Risk and Liability Form. This should be done solely to acknowledge the risk of playing with older players. If the CYHA board determines that a Coop is the best direction for the association, the Coop Guideline Policy should be followed.

A completed play up Request & Acknowledgement off Risk and Liability Form for all players in a ply up situation must be submitted with the team roster to receive roster approval from the associate registrar.

The CYHA board upon recommendation of the PDC 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 PDC and/or player's coach, the PDC may recommend to the CYHA board to place the player on a similar team within the player's proper age level.

The CYHA will not accept or consider request for waivers or exceptions to this ply up policy and the CYHA boards decision is final with no appeals being allowed

**Chippewa Youth Hockey Association
Risk Acknowledgment and Liability Waiver
For Players Requesting Play Up Print**

Name of Participant: _____

Birth date: _____

Desired Play-Up Age Classification/Team: _____

I/We _____, parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of _____ request that he/she be permitted to Play-Up to the next age division as defined by USA Hockey. I have read and understand the Chippewa Youth Hockey Association (CYHA) Participant Play-Up Policy and agree to all the terms, conditions and eligibility requirements that apply.

I understand that requesting a play up does not guarantee the ability to make a team and understand that even if a player makes an older age classification/team, CYHA reserves the right to reverse that decision for any reason at any time. I assume the risk that if the player is not chosen for the play up team or is subsequently removed from the team; he/she is potentially forfeiting the ability to play on a travel team for the current age division.

I understand that the CYHA recommends that players stay in the age groupings defined by USA Hockey and stipulated in the USA Hockey Annual Guide as appropriate for their birth year. I understand and appreciate that in playing up, the risk of injury may be greater and that the risk of injury from hockey is significant, including the potential for permanent paralysis and death, and while particular rules and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious injury does exist.

By my child's participating, I KNOWINGLY ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, both known and unknown. Further, I agree to indemnify and hold Owensboro Youth Hockey Association, its officers, coaches, managers, and members, Mid-Am Hockey and USA Hockey, Inc., harmless from any and all liability, loss, expense, attorney's fees, or claims for injury or damages caused as a result of my request. I understand and agree to accept these conditions of participation.

Participant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (print): _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (print): _____ Date: _____