

**Minnesota Hockey**  
**Girls Hockey Age Level Pilot Program**  
**Approved at the June 25, 2022 Board Meeting**

The following proposal for age-level exceptions was approved at the June 25, 2022 Minnesota Hockey Board Meeting. Note that Associations hosting or part of a coop hosting 15U and/or 19U options will not be able to participate in the pilot program.

**Suggested Two-Year Pilot Program for the 2022-23 season:**

**Part One – 13-Year Olds (Birthdates of June 1, 2008-May 31, 2009):**

Using the current age classifications of (8U, 10U, 12U, 15U and 19U) offer exceptions for those associations or coops not offering a 15U program. The exception would allow 13-year-olds to play down at the 12U level with these requirements:

- The team would follow the 2/3 -1/3 age-appropriate rule. No more than 1/3 of the team could be comprised of 13-year-old players.
- All teams with 13-year-old players must participate at the 12U-A level.
  - An exception can be made to this guideline which would require the approval of the District Director and the Maroon and Gold VP's (two of three votes).
- Suspend the rule prohibiting teams with age related play downs from participating in Post Season play.
- Play down letters would be required for each player affected.

This pilot offers an option to 13-year-old players not yet ready to go to high school hockey but lacking a 15U program option.

**Part Two – 16-year-olds (Birthdates of June 1, 2005-May 31, 2006):**

Using the current age classifications of (8U, 10U, 12U, 15U and 19U) offer exceptions for those associations or coops not offering a 19U program. The exception would allow 16-year-olds to play down at the 15U level with these requirements:

- The team would follow the 2/3 -1/3 age-appropriate rule. No more than 1/3 of the team could be comprised of 16-year-old players.
- All teams with 16-year-old players must participate at the 15U-A level.
  - An exception can be made to this guideline which would require the approval of the District Director and the Maroon and Gold VP's (two of three votes).
- Suspend the rule prohibiting teams with age related play downs from participating in Post Season play.
- Play down letters would be required for each player affected.

While this 16-year-old option provides a non-high school option for the 16-year-old players, the committee recognizes it may not offer an option for 17/18-year-old players who wish to play non-high school hockey and no 19U program option is available.