

Central Vermont Youth Hockey – PLAYER MOVEMENT PROCESS

The organization will follow a five-step process when determining if a player is eligible to be placed at a higher tiered level within their respective age bracket after the official start of the season. The five steps are defined below:

1. Eligibility Assessment

- a. **Skill Evaluation:** The player must demonstrate exceptional skill, performance, and readiness for the higher level. Coaches, evaluators, or a designated player development committee assess the player during practices, games, or a tryout period with the higher-level team.
- b. **Age and Experience:** The player must meet the age requirements for the higher-level team (e.g., within the appropriate age bracket, like 10U, 12U, etc.). Consideration is given to the player's experience level to ensure they can handle the increased competitiveness and physicality.
- c. **Behavioral Fit:** The player must exhibit coachability, teamwork, and a positive attitude, as assessed by current and prospective coaches.

2. Trial Period

- a. **Coach Recommendation:** The player's current coach submits a recommendation to the organization's Age Group Coaching Director (ex., 10U Coaching Director, 12U Coaching Director, etc.) or the Division Director (Coed Hockey Director or Girls Hockey Director) detailing the player's performance and readiness.
- b. **Temporary Assignment:** The player may be assigned to the higher-level team for a trial period (e.g., 2–4 weeks) to assess their ability to compete. This includes participating in practices and potentially games, subject to league rules on game eligibility.
- c. **Performance Monitoring:** Coaches from a higher age division evaluate the player's performance, focusing on skating, puck handling, game sense, and ability to integrate with the team. Feedback is provided to the player, parents, and hockey director.

3. Approval Process

- a. **Director Review:** The Director(s) reviews the recommendation, considering roster availability, team chemistry, and the player's potential impact.

- b. **Parent/Guardian Consent:** Parents or guardians must agree to the move, acknowledging increased time, financial, and travel commitments.
- c. **Financial Responsibility:**
 - i. Once the player has been officially moved to the higher-level team, they will be responsible for the full tuition amount associated with that team. Payment must be made in full or coordinated through a payment plan approved by the treasurer.
 - ii. **No player movements will be permitted after November 15**, except under extreme, board-approved circumstances.

4. **Roster and League Compliance**

- a. **Roster Limits:** The higher-level team must have an open roster spot or be within the league's roster size limits (e.g., USA Hockey allows 20 players, including goalkeepers).
- b. **League Approval:** The organization submits a roster change request to the governing body (e.g., USA Hockey or VSAHA) or league administrator, adhering to midseason transfer rules.
- c. **Release from Current Team:** The player is formally released from the lower-level team's roster, ensuring no overlap or conflict with team commitments. This would be completed after the Trial Period is completed.

5. **Impact on Teams**

- a. **Lower-Level Team Consideration:** The organization assesses the impact of removing the player from the lower-level team, ensuring it does not disrupt team dynamics or leave the team shorthanded.
- b. **Higher-Level Team Fit:** The higher-level team's coach ensures the player's addition does not negatively affect existing players' ice time or team chemistry. Ice time at higher levels is often performance-based, not guaranteed to be equal.

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains current and effective in guiding the organization's mission.