



Player Movement and Participation Policy

Updated: April 13, 2022

SECTION 1:

1. Annually HHA defines teams that they will field. It is the belief of the HHA that the players should play on the HHA teams as defined by the MN Hockey age group Divisions. The HHA Board retains the right to adjust movement guidelines based on specific situations but in general will adhere to the following guidelines.
2. HHA has identified (6) plausible situations in which a player may request or be requested to move up a Division. Players are not allowed to move down a competitive Division.
 - a. **Player is invited to try out for a High School team**
 - i. Players with HHA eligibility remaining may try out for High School JV/Varsity teams if invited by the High School coach. Any player not rostered to the JV/Varsity team will be asked to return to their respective HHA team.
 - b. **Player with June/July/August birthday to play with classmates**
 - i. The Hutchinson Hockey Association enforces the policy of placing all participating skaters in the level of play associated with their age/birth date.
 - ii. Players with a June, July, or August birthday can “peer up” and participate with their classmates if they desire.
 - iii. Peer move ups are eligible for the normal try-out process.
 - iv. Players should always register for their age group Division.
 - v. All peer move up players are required to sign a waiver.
 - vi. All players who move-up are required to pay any adjustments in registration and team fees at their new level of play.
 - c. **Players who are developing ahead of their peer group**
 - i. HHA will follow MN Hockey age group guidelines and will not move players up a Division based on skill level.
 - ii. Every effort will be made to continue to challenge and develop these exceptional players within their age group Division.
 - d. **Team size doesn't meet minimum or exceeds maximum**
 - i. There may be instances where the number of Division registrants exceeds the maximum recommended number of players per team but does not meet the minimum number of players for an additional team.
 - ii. The HHA Board will have the discretion to move younger Division players up to meet the minimum number of recommended player requirements; (Minimum of 10+1 and Maximum of 16+2)
 - iii. If deemed necessary, the HHA Board will invite all age-eligible players to try out
 - i. Players will be asked up to the next Division according to their tryout rankings starting with number 1.
 - ii. The individual players and Parents must approve the move.
 - iii. If an invited player declines, the Board will move on to the next ranked player until the appropriate team size is reached.

- iv. Any skater moving from Mites to 10U/Squirt level will automatically be placed at the lowest level of play defined by HHA and in accordance with District 5. Players moving up to the PeeWee and Bantam levels are eligible for the normal try-out process.
 - iv. The HHA Board will also complete an assessment on the potential impact of the program at the lower Division.
- e. **Lack of Goaltenders to field all teams**
 - i. The possibility exists that Divisions do not have enough goaltenders to field the appropriate number of teams and/or competition level. HHA will allow Goaltender movement to address these situations. If after exhausting all possibilities to field a Goaltender within the Division, the Division coaches may submit a written petition to the HHA board for the upward movement of the Goaltender. All parties including coaches, parents, player, and HHA Board must agree on the move. HHA board will ensure adequate goaltending at each level.
 - ii. HHA board should make every attempt to identify the need prior to tryouts so that all the eligible Goaltenders can be assessed accordingly. A Goaltender that is moved up a Division is eligible for any competition level within that Division.
 - iii. Goaltenders will have an opportunity to participate in a special tryout process.
- f. **Eligible siblings to play on the same team**
 - i. There may be instances where siblings within the same Division are placed on different competition level teams.
 - ii. The HHA Board will allow a Parent to submit a written petition to the HHA Board to move their players within the Division. A player will only be allowed to move down a competition level. (A player to B, B to C)

SECTION 2:

1. Player movement within the same Division

- a. Once having been selected to a HHA team, a player may be moved only for extreme reasons. Both head coaches involved, the player and parent, and the HHA Board must all agree to the move. If any member of the group is a parent, he or she is not eligible to participate in the decision.
 - i. Players should always register for their age group Division.
 - ii. All move-up requests are subject to final approval by the HHA Board of Directors.
 - iii. All players who are approved to move-up are required to pay any adjustments in registration and team fees at their new level of play.
 - iv. All players who are approved to move-up are required to sign a waiver.

SECTION 3:

1. PW Goaltender to Bantams: tryout process

- a. Bantam head coaches petition the HHA Board for upward movement of a PW Goaltender. The HHA Board approves the Bantam coaches' petition.
- b. All eligible Pee Wee Goaltenders will be asked if they are interested in participating in the Bantam tryout. The tryout process will be explained at this time.
- c. "Special tryout process for PW to Bantam movement"
- d. The tryout process will complete two evaluations:
 - i. Comparison of all Bantam candidate Goaltenders in the Bantam environment.

- ii. Comparison of all Pee Wee Goaltenders in the Pee Wee environment.
- e. This will ensure that the Goaltenders will be properly evaluated within their true age division and with their potential playing division.
- f. All PW Goaltenders trying out for the Bantams, will participate with the Bantams during their skills session. They will not skate with the Pee Wees.
- g. All PW Goaltenders trying out for the Bantams, will participate with the Bantams and the Pee Wees for scrimmages.
- h. Evaluators will rank all Bantam Goalie candidates amongst each other and all Pee Wee goaltenders against their Pee Wee peers