

HHA Play UP Policy - League Level

Player Move Up Policy

The following is for those players who desire to move from Squirt to PeeWee, PeeWee to Bantam, or Bantam to Youth JV/Varsity.

HHA discourages movement of players from their assigned age division. Although a player may be skilled enough to play up a division, the evaluation will require that they are capable of playing on the top 50% of the top team at the older age level. Additionally, there are legitimate concerns that the player may not be prepared mentally, or socially. These aspects should be considered by the coaching staff, player and family prior to completing the application to play up. Any move up request is for a single season only.

The player's skills, while more objective and an important indicator of the player's ability, is not the only criteria used to evaluate the request. The player must be capable of playing at the higher level, beyond hockey skills.

The request considers all of the following criteria:

1. Team numbers at both levels;
2. The player's skill level is advanced when compared to others in their age group and comparable to the level requested;
3. Games and practices from past years' performance will be considered as a measure of how the player reacts in team, and individual situations;
4. The player is in their second year of their current team division;
5. Movement is not to exceed one school grade level below fellow teammates; and
6. Attitude of the player towards their teammates, competitors, officials and coaches, as well as the players' enthusiasm at practice, and the player must have a firm team concept of the game;
7. Eighth grade players will not be considered for advancement to Youth JV/Varsity levels.
8. Requests that do not meet all criteria above will not be considered.

The procedure to initiate a request is permitted only to players in their second year of their USA Hockey assigned age level.

If initial acceptance is approved, the Advancement Process is as follows:

- Player may begin practice with the upper-level team.
- Player may withdraw request to move up prior to Try-outs and move back to age level.
- Prior to team roster submissions, Parent/Player/Coaches/Evaluators will consult as to viability of move up request and determine final approval or disapproval as per the process below.
- If approved and player is submitted on a roster, the player may NOT withdraw their request, and difference in registration fees are due to HHA.
- If denied by the Evaluation Committee, the decision can be appealed to the HHA board.
 - The HHA Board, among other considerations, will take player discipline report history into consideration.

Process:

The Player Move Up application form can be obtained from the Director of Hockey or Vice President.

The form must be completed by both the older and current age top level coach and parent(s)/guardian(s).

The form must be submitted before the first day of HHA team practices.

The upper level coach attends the lower level tryout to confirm the player may qualify.

The player participates in a minimum of 3 of both older and current level tryouts.

Evaluation committee will use the *HHA Player Move Up Evaluation Score Sheet* to confirm the player qualifies as top 50% of top level team at older age group.

Evaluation committee members must have no conflict of interest.

The Evaluation committee will consist of 5 members as follows:

- Boys & Girls Varsity Head Coaches*
- The older & current level top team head coach*
- The Director of Hockey or the Vice President*

*One member of the coaching staff will substitute for any conflict of interest or if the varsity level coach is already involved in the initiation.

4 out of 5 evaluators must approve in order to make the player move up effective.

- The parent(s)/guardian(s) reserves the right to withdraw from the move up process prior to the final rostering.

If the petition is denied, the player will be assigned to the appropriate age group as determined by his/her birthdate and USA Hockey age definition and placed on the team based on the tryout results.

Appendix

Fees:

If approved, the player will be responsible for any additional league fees and meeting the fundraising requirements for the age level in which he/she plays.

Move In:

Players new to HHA - In the case of a "move in" player, the petition to Play-Up must be made at the time of registration. In this instance, an attempt will be made to evaluate the player prior to the start of the season. However, in the event the player cannot be evaluated before the start of the season, the player will play at his/her appropriate age group. It is preferred that the player finishes the season at the same level that they played in the beginning of the season.

Notarization:

Director of Hockey to inform the coaches

Director of Hockey to inform the parent(s)/guardian(s)

Vice President to inform the board

Vice President to inform the Executive Secretary or Treasurer to issue registration fee amendment

Vice President to inform the Team Coordinator's to update team snap and DIBS coordinator

Registrar to update team rosters