



Vermont State Amateur Hockey Association

www.vermonthockey.org

Play Up Policy

VSAHA remains firmly committed to the American Development Model guideline that all participants play within their age classification and most particularly at the 8U level. However, VSAHA understands that due to unique and sometimes unpredictable challenges, having flexibility with this guideline allows for a practical and reasonable resolution to these difficulties.

Waiver Request

A Play Up Waiver must be submitted by the Member Association President or State Rep for **ALL** players looking to play outside of the USA Hockey defined age classifications. Requests must be approved by the Member Association Board of Directors prior to submission. The deadline to submit is November 1st of the current season via the online form on the VSAHA website. Deadline exceptions can be granted by the Play Up Committee.

The Play Up Committee will review and make a ruling on the waiver with the support of the Executive Board when necessary. All Play Up Committee decisions are final and not appealable.

8U Play Up Requirements

- Player must currently be 8 years old and have played at least two (2) seasons of 8U hockey; and
- Player(s) are needed to make 10 skaters and 1 goalie at the 10U level for the association to provide a team at the 10U level; or
- Player(s) are needed to make 2 teams when there are 18 or more 10U players

A Member Association may move one (1) 8yr old player to the 10U level regardless of numbers at the 10U level. A waiver **MUST** still be submitted.

12U Play Up Requirements

- Player must currently be 12 years old
- Cannot play up to a Tier I or Tier II team (USAH National Rule for teams with a National Bound path)

Violations of Policy

Any violations of this policy may result in any or all the following disciplinary actions:

- Player and/or player's team rendered ineligible for State/District/National Tournament(s)
- Member Association and/or teams Head Coach subject to a disciplinary hearing with the VSAHA Rules Committee.

Approved: April 14th, 2026