

**NMAHA 12U Play up Application (Early & Mid-Season timeframe – before February)**

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Player Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Player Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_



I, \_\_\_\_\_, parent of \_\_\_\_\_ (Current level: 12U), give my permission for him/her to play up with the **NEXT LEVEL UP: 14U** team.

I understand the rules for commitment to the NEXT LEVEL UP team (HC evaluation/approvals, cost difference paid). I also understand the risks that are associated with the age and higher skill of the Bantam level of hockey and that this is the first **CHECKING** level in youth hockey. I certify that my son/daughter has met all the requirements, including both CURRENT Head Coach & NEXT-LEVEL Head Coach approvals (neither can be the parent of the said participant), and NMAHA Coach-in-Chief Approval (pending results of NEXT level evaluation).

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

I, \_\_\_\_\_, Head Coach of the **NMAHA 12U Pee wee team (player's CURRENT level)**, give my permission for \_\_\_\_\_ to play up with the **NMAHA 14U** team (**NEXT LEVEL UP**) for the remainder of the season after an in-practice skills evaluation completed on:

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

I, \_\_\_\_\_, **Head Coach of the NMAHA 14U Bantam team**, give my permission for \_\_\_\_\_ to play up with my team for the remainder of the season after an in-practice skills evaluation completed on: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

I, \_\_\_\_\_, **Coach-in-Chief of NMAHA**, verify that the participant has passed the NEXT LEVEL UP level skills test to play in an upper level, **CHECKING** division. I therefore give my permission for \_\_\_\_\_ to skate up with the **NMAHA 14U Bantam** team for the remainder of the season.

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

## PLAYING IN UPPER DIVISION

Pursuant to USA Hockey all players in each USA Hockey division must initially play in their appropriate age group. If a player demonstrates the ability, desire, motivation and maturity to play up in an older age division for personal advancement and improvement, increased competition and experience, then permission can be granted by the NMAHA BOD if the following is achieved:

1. The player must attend all practices and games in his/her appropriate age group at the start of the season while the Play-Up application is in progress. This allows that player to still practice on the ice, mentor the less experienced players, and grow with their age-appropriate team in case the play-up process is not approved.
2. A player must be evaluated to be within the top 10% of players within their appropriate age category. This is to maintain age category integrity, comply with USA Hockey insurance requirements and provide a safe developmental environment for both the individual player and the players of both teams concerned.
3. Parents will initiate a request via BOTH team managers (12U & 14U) to begin the process of assessing the playing up possibility of said player. The age-appropriate head coach (12U) and the head coach at the higher level (14U) would both have to verbally agree that playing up is likely appropriate for the player and their teams.

Further, if the roster of the upper division (14U) has more than 15 players, then it is not necessary to add additional, non-division, players to the roster. The only exceptions to this rule are:

- There are enough 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Bantams playing with JV to potentially drop their players below 13 ~OR~
- The player is a goalie. If, however, the 14U team has a player that is interested in developing skills as a goalie, the 14U player always has priority over the 12U player requesting to play in an upper division.

4. If the above conditions are met, the NMAHA Coach-in-Chief, after consulting with the two coaches, the parent(s) of the player and the player, can grant permission for that child to partake in an on-ice evaluation (proficiency testing to demonstrate competency of said age division skills requirements). Upon successful completion of the evaluation, submission of the application, AND approval of the NMAHA Board of Directors, the player will practice and play for the 14U team. This situation is not to be taken lightly but is a privilege granted by the trained adult coaches and organization.

5. It must be understood by all parties that there are a great many reasons why this situation may help the player and respective teams, and a great many reasons why it might not be good for the player or teams, and sound judgment must be exercised by all, and reviewed periodically. In all cases the judgment of the NMAHA coaches will be the deciding factor.

6. Once permission is granted, it may also be revoked if a situation develops that was determined to be harmful to the player or not in the best interest of NMAHA.