

Appendix 4

SECYH Policy on the Movement of Players Outside Their Age Group (either up or down)

This policy statement was developed to provide guidelines regarding movement of players outside their age group. It was not designed to be all-inclusive.

In general, movement of players outside their age group is discouraged. There are instances; however, when movement is in the best interest of the player (i.e. safety and development of player) and the league (i.e. legal liabilities). Each instance will be handled as an individual case because each instance will have its own peculiarities. The most preferred movement is upward and the least preferred is downward because of size and weight considerations along with skating mobility concerns. Upward movement must be carefully considered. If a player moves up an age group, even for one game, they can't return to the lower age group. Downward movement also requires permission form CHC.

Several items need to be considered regarding player movement. The following items are offered as a partial listing to be used as a guideline:

1. Ability of Player
 - a) Beginner
 - b) Below Average
 - c) Average
 - d) Above Average
 - e) Outstanding

2. Maturity of Player
 - a) Selfish - not a team player
 - b) Temper - does not handle setbacks well
 - c) Discipline problems
 - d) Average for age
 - e) Relates well to older players
 - f) Team player
 - g) Relates well to adults/authority figures

3. Psychological effects on player
 - a) Degrading - lowering self esteem
 - b) Embarrassment - larger or smaller than team mates
 - c) None observable
 - d) Inflated ego - exaggerated self-importance
 - e) Over bearing showoff

4. Size and weight of player
 - a) Small for age
 - b) Average for age
 - c) Large for age

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5. Effect on team being left (leaving)

- a) Resentment
- b) Devastation - if loss of only goalie
- c) May take a team out of contention
- d) More ice time for average or poor player
- e) Improve team performance (poor player going down)

6. Effect on team going to (arriving)

- a) May make team ineligible for state tournament play
- b) Resentment
- c) Less ice for average or poor player - top heavy
- d) Improve team performance
- e) Decrease team performance

7. Effect on League

- a) May produce mass movement of players
- b) Places emphasis on winning
- c) De-emphasize having fun and learning hockey
- d) Promotes chaos in league
- e) Promotes hard feelings
- f) Can lead to favoritism
- g) Promotes an advanced Clinic
- h) Places emphasis on safety
- i) Emphasis on having fun and learning hockey
- j) Produces harmony in league
- k) Promotes sense of ease

Movement of players can be initiated by parents/guardians, coaches or Division Directors and should begin with a letter to the Board of Directors.

It is the parents/guardians and coaches (old team and new team) who must assist the Board in its decision. They know the player best regarding ability, maturity, and temperament; and they can also assess the effect of the move on both the old and new teams. Division Directors (old and new) can also contribute with another less biased perspective regarding the above listed items.

To ensure that a potential player has the ability to move to the next level they will need to be evaluated by independent evaluators in a scrimmage situation, at the level they want to move to. In addition, the player's current coaches should provide the Board of Directors their evaluations of the player skills. This is to ensure that only players with the appropriate skill set are considered.

The following steps provide the sequenced mechanism of player movement:

1. A letter should be sent to the Board of Directors by either the Parents/Guardians, the Coach, or the Division Director.

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2. The Board of Directors will contact the parents/guardians, coaches, and Division Directors involved regarding the date and time when the formal presentation to the Board of Directors is to be made.
3. Following the presentation, the involved parties will be asked to leave while the Board of Directors discusses the proposed move.
4. Following the discussion of step three (3), a secret ballot will be taken regarding the particular case. A majority of quorum will carry the decision. The ballot will be secret because close friends and relatives may be involved and bad feelings could result.
5. The parents/guardians and coaches will be notified of the Boards' decision by the former Division Director, or by the President, in lieu of a Director, if none is available.
6. Certain moves can be made by the Division Directors and coaches prior to notification of the Board. These moves must be brought to the attention of the Board and do not necessarily require a vote by the Board. Examples of these moves are:
 - a) Newly registered older players being placed into a lower age classification
 - b) New league players who demonstrate beyond any doubt that they belong in a lower age grouping
 - c) House Team players who meet the skill requirements of upward movement.
7. Upward movement of players without any attempt to notify the Board of Directors by the applicable coaches and/or Division Director may result in: Replacement of the applicable coach and/or Division Director and moving of the affected player to the "B" team within his age group for the remainder of the year.