

GNH WARRIORS YOUTH HOCKEY PLAY-UP POLICY

It is the policy of Greater New Haven (GNH) Warriors that each registered player will play in his/her age group as set forth by USA Hockey rules. However, individual requests to play up shall be considered by the GNH Warriors Board of Directors and reviewed on a case by case basis. The Board of Directors recognizes it can be appropriate and even beneficial to a participant's development for him or her to play-up to the next age classification. A fine balance needs to be struck, however, to avoid placing the desire of a participant above the legitimate opportunity for that participant to be successful in an older age classification.

There is an increased risk of injury for participants playing outside of their designated age classification. However, USA Hockey allows the movement in certain situations if specific guidelines are followed. You should carefully consider the increased risks involved and follow the guidelines below when making a request to move a participant into an older age classification.

- A participant will not be permitted to move up more than one year in age, except in rare and specific cases. For example, a first year Squirt cannot be moved to the PeeWee level. A second year Squirt may advance to PeeWee. This will apply at Mite, Squirt, PeeWee & Bantam levels.
- Only requests submitted in writing by the participant's parents or legal guardians will be considered. This request must be submitted at least 14 days prior to the try-out skate.
- A player requesting to play-up must be selected to play for the Top older level team only. This guideline applies to skaters only. Goalies may play up on lower level teams based on organizational need. A player requesting an opportunity to play-up must try-out and pay to register for their actual age level team, AND try-out and pay to register for the older level team.
- The GNH Warriors board, coaches or other board appointed persons will evaluate each request. Criteria for allowing a person to play-up will be based on the evaluation of the participant's skill and ability to contribute to the older team, the participant's maturity level compared to the older team's participants, physical size and number of players at each level. The move up participant should be projected to be among the top participants on the move up team. If the participant is not projected to be one of the top participants on the team, then it is highly questionable whether the move up is truly in the best interest of that participant. Allowing participants to move from a non-checking division to a checking division represents the greatest risk and will receive the greatest scrutiny.
- The GNH Warriors Executive Board of Directors will make the final decision on allowing a participant to play-up based on the recommendations from the Coaches, Evaluators and Coaching Coordinator.
- Per Connecticut Hockey Conference Rules, once a player has participated on a team at a higher USA Hockey age level, the player is not permitted to play for a team at his actual USA Hockey age level for the remainder of the season (Play-up; stay up rule).
- Upon request, the participant's parent(s)/guardian must sign a specific Risk Acknowledgement and Liability Waiver, in a form acceptable to the GNH Warriors Board, acknowledging the risks associated with playing outside of a participant's proper age classification.

Youth Hockey Risk Acknowledgment and Liability Waiver For Players Requesting Play-Up

Print Name of Participant: _____ **Birth date:** _____

USA Hockey Age Level: _____ **Desired Play-Up Level:** _____

I/We _____, parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of

_____ request that he/she be permitted to play-up to the next age division as defined by USA Hockey. I have read and understand the Greater New Haven (GNH) Warriors Play-Up Policy and agree to all the terms, conditions and eligibility requirements that apply.

I understand that requesting a play up does not guarantee approval and understand that nothing in USA Hockey's rules requires an association to allow any player(s) to play-up.

I understand that if my child is allowed to play-up to the next age division as defined by USA Hockey, that per Connecticut Hockey Conference Rules, he will not be allowed to play back down in his actual age division as defined by USA Hockey for the remainder of the season.

I understand that Greater New Haven (GNH) Warriors recommends that players stay in the age groupings defined by USA Hockey and stipulated in the USA Hockey Annual Guide as appropriate for their birth year. I understand and appreciate that in playing up, the risk of injury may be greater and that the risk of injury from hockey is significant, including the potential for permanent paralysis and death, and while particular rules and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious injury does exist.

By my child's participating, I KNOWINGLY ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, both known and unknown. Further, I agree to indemnify and hold Greater New Haven (GNH) Warriors, its officers, Connecticut Hockey Conference and USA Hockey, Inc., harmless from any and all liability, loss, expense, attorney's fees, or claims for injury or damages caused as a result of my request.

I understand and agree to accept these conditions of participation.

Participant Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian Name (print): _____