



Player Move Up Guideline

1.1 The Kansas City Youth Hockey Association (KCYHA) Board of Directors recognizes that in rare and specific cases it can be appropriate and even beneficial to a player's development for him or her to play up in the next age classification. A fine balance needs to be struck, however, to avoid placing the desire of a player above the legitimate opportunity for that participant to be successful in an older age classification. In some cases, based on the skill, size and maturity of a player, it may be desirable to utilize this option; in other cases, it may be best for the player to remain in their appropriate age classification.

1.2 All players, male and female, requesting to play up during the USA Hockey season in a Club must have played for that Club during the previous Fall/Winter season. For example, a Jr Mavs player requesting to play up during the 2017-2018 USA Hockey season must have played for the Jr Mavs during the 2016-2017 Fall/Winter season. Players that register in a new Club are restricted to playing in their appropriate age classification during their first season with that Club. The Fall/Winter season shall be defined as September 1 – March 15.

1.3 Players and parents should acknowledge that approval to play up in a specific season does not necessitate the need to continue in a play up situation or guarantee approval to play up in future seasons. The player or goaltender requesting a play up must meet the criteria for each year of eligibility. At some point it may be necessary to play three years in one age classification if the player's past youth participation did not align with USA Hockey age classifications.

1.4 There is increased risk of injury for players playing outside of their designated age classification. However, KCYHA allows movement in certain situations if specific conditions are met. You should carefully consider the increased risks involved and follow the criteria below when making a request to move a player into an older age classification.

Players may request to play up in an older age classification under the following criteria:

- A. A player will not be permitted to move up more than one age classification. For example, an 8U player cannot be moved to the 12U (Pewee) age classification, however, could advance to 10U (Squirt) if the criteria is met. This shall apply to 8U (Mite), 10U (Squirt) and 14U (Bantam) age classifications.
- B. 12U (Pewees) - Allowing players to move from a non-body checking age classification into a body checking age classification represents the greatest risk and is discouraged. However, special cases may be allowed with approval.
- C. An impartial evaluation of the player's skills, the ability to contribute to the older team as well as the player's maturity level compared to players in the older age classification may be made by the Hockey Director before a decision is approved to grant the play up request.
- D. The move up player or goaltender should be projected to be among the top 25% of all players or goaltenders on the next age classification team.

1.5 Consideration should be given as to how the play up will impact the two teams involved. The number of players within each age classification should be considered. The request should be

denied if the play up will displace an age appropriate player that would otherwise have played as determined by the team selection process.

1.6 Based on USA Hockey recommendations, each team should strive to include two goaltenders. Unfortunately, there is often a shortage or surplus of goaltenders at a particular age classification. The possibility exists that an age classification may not have enough goaltenders to field a team. KCYHA will allow goaltender movement to address these situations. If after exhausting all possibilities to obtain a goaltender from within the age classification, a goaltender from a lower age classification may be moved up provided the age appropriate team is not left without an experienced goaltender.

1.7 In Clubs with low registered players, it may be necessary to consolidate age classifications in order to create teams. If and when that occurs, upon notification to the KCYHA Registrar, the team will carry the name of the oldest age classification.

1.8 The Member Club must specifically reserve the right to reverse any decision allowing a player to play up at any time. If a player that has moved up is experiencing difficulty, as determined by the Club and/or the player's coach, the Club may reverse the decision allowing the participant to play up. In this case every attempt should be made to place the player on a similar team within the player's proper age classification. Parents and players should carefully consider this outcome prior to making a request to play up.

1.9 Nothing in USA Hockey's or KCYHA rules requires a Club to allow any player(s) to play up.

1.10 KCYHA will not accept or consider requests for waivers or exceptions to this Play Up Policy.

1.11 Request for player move up should first be made in writing to the Clubs Hockey Director. The Hockey Director will then forward the request on to the KCYHA Registrar with a written statement about the particular player and the team situation.

Adopted by the KCYHA Board of Directors 2017