

## ***Ely Blue Line Moving Up and Playing Up Policy***

Based on USA Hockey, rules permit a player to 'play up', but players should not generally 'play up' more than one age classification. For example, an 8-year-old player may 'play up' one age group, so he/she could play for the "10 and under" team, if the coach and the association will allow it to occur. In some cases, based on the skill or size of a player, it may be desirable to utilize this option; in other cases, it may be best for the player to remain in the lower age group, even though the child or his/her parents want them to 'play up.'

All such requests should be made in writing to the local association, by the parents or guardian, to help document any such requests and the parents/guardian's desire to have it granted. The written document can become important if the player becomes injured, as a result of the 'play up' request.

### ***The EBL requires the following for a request for a skater to "play up."***

- Letter of request by parent(s)/guardian, please include skaters current age, date of birth, grade level and level requesting to play in
- Impartial evaluation to be submitted by their most recent Coach & the Coaching Coordinator
- All papers to be submitted to a member of the Executive Board, Registrar or mailed to:

Ely Blue Line  
PO BOX 516  
Ely, MN 55731

The Ely Blue Line will then review the documentation provided and present a decision that is deemed in the best interest for the player & association.

The Parent or Guardian will be notified in a timely manner for the player's registration process to proceed.

**\*\*EXCEPTION:** Prior to December 31st when rosters are finalized, there may be times when a player (or players) is asked to skate up with a team one level above due to shortages of available players for a scheduled game/games. In these circumstances, it will be entirely up to the discretion of both team's coaches to decide who and when such player/players are needed. After a decision is made between the coaches regarding who will play up and when, parents/guardians will be asked for their consent to have their child skate up.

Revised EBL 02/2025

*Please direct all questions to an Ely Blue Line Board Member*