

## **POLICY REGARDING PLAYER MOVEMENT:**

TYH has adopted and follows the USA Hockey and WAHA age definitions for determining the proper levels in which each skater should skate. In accordance with that definition, TYH has adopted clear and concise guidelines for player requests to “play-up” above his/her appropriate age level. When considering these requests, the objectives are to provide the best skill development opportunities for the player and the best team strength for the association. TYH will honor ideal team sizes and continue to evaluate player movement primarily based on this. The following procedures shall therefore be followed when there is a desire to place a skater in a higher level.

### **Playing at a Higher Level**

It is the policy of TYH that each registered skater will play in his/her age level as set forth by USA Hockey rules. Returning skaters/goalies must initially register at the proper age level. However, there will be from time to time, requests for a player to play up an age level. These requests to play up will be an exception to the norm and will be evaluated by the TYH Board of Directors on a case-by-case basis. It is TYH Policy not to allow playing up at parent/skater request given our alignment with USA Hockey player development model. The Association’s needs (i.e. teams) shall take precedence over individual desires. For example, there may be a need to fill a roster of a higher age level team in order to field a team at that level and there may be a few players who would be prepared to play up for a season to assist the Association’s/Team’s needs.

Should the board approve a request to play up, the requirements of playing up are as follows:

**Association Requested** – If the number of players at a certain age level warrant, the Association may request skaters to play at a level higher than their current age level in order to accommodate reasonable team sizes. The request of players to play up will be made after registration when the number of players at any given age level is known. The player’s placement will be based upon the criteria set in the player requested policy below. Final decision(s) as to which players play-up will be made based upon the player evaluation process. Association requests are on a voluntary basis and require approval by the Coaching Committee, Board of Directors, the player, and the parent(s) or guardian(s). **If the player changes age levels and plays up at the request of the Association, they ARE NOT responsible for the difference in registration fees.**

**Player Requested** – For 10U and up: A player and his/her parents may seek permission for their child to “play-up” by written request to the TYH Board of Directors prior to the beginning of the try-out season but no later than September 1. If approved, a player would then try-out for both his/her “age-appropriate” level and the level he/she wishes to “play-up” on. The player wanting to skate-up would then compete for an A team position at the upper level and must be selected for that team as one of its “Top 3 Ranked Players”. This will formally be known as the “Top 3 Rule”. If the player is not

ranked through the try-out process as one of the “Top 3” players for the A team on the upper level, then he/she must remain as a participant at the age-appropriate level. The ranking will be shared with the Tryout Committee via the Tryout Evaluators and subsequently granted or denied by the committee. Players wishing to play up are also subject to WAHA Rules and Policies. Goalies are excluded from this requirement. **TYH player WILL be responsible for the increased fees of the level at which he or she is playing if a player requested move is granted.**

**8U—For 8U requests to play up:** The USA Hockey American Development Model (ADM) supports small teams at the 10U Squirt Level. Under certain circumstances, associations may move players from 8U to 10U with the approval by regional directors and 8U section director:

1. Association needs skaters to fill a 14 player 10U roster to make a first, second or third team.
2. A need for goalie at 10U to be filled by an 8U goalie.
3. Other needs identified by association.

*Per WAHA Eligibility and General Rules, 50% of players on an approved roster must be the age of the registered team. (WAHA Rules & Regulations, ARTICLE 1-REGISTRATION, ELIGIBILITY, GENERAL RULES, paragraph K).*

- NO 7-year-old (i.e. two birth years under 10U) will be approved to play up to 10U.
- Players moving up under category #1 must be placed on the lowest level team the association offers at the 10U level.
- For associations that wish to allow an exceptionally talented player to skate at the 10U level, the player must be ranked in the top 1/3 of the players on the top-level team. Association must provide proof to region directors and 8U section director that the player did, in fact, rank in the top 1/3 of the skaters on the top team following team evaluation tryouts.
- 8U Girls wanting to play on 10U Girls Team
- WAHA Region Directors and 8U Section Director make all final approval decisions for ALL skaters playing up from 8U to 10U.

The form to request is found online from WAHA: “8U PLAYER REQUEST TO MOVE UP TO 10U”, which must be submitted to the TYH Board prior to the season start.

### **Playing down**

WAHA has ruled there will be no exceptions to playing down unless approved by WAHA for disability.

### **Changing Teams**

Skaters are typically not allowed to move up to a higher ranked team within a level once rosters are selected following tryouts. This includes situations when permanent vacancies arise, because roster sizes will often cover these infrequent situations. Examples of permanent vacancies include:

- Skaters moving out of the area

- Skaters discontinuing hockey play
- Skaters injured and out for the season

However, the Executive Board with a recommendation from the Coaching Committee can grant a variance from this policy if circumstances justify a reconsideration of team(s) rosters. Items for reconsideration by the board include the following:

- A response to multiple roster changes.
- Multiple roster depletions for a team.
- Clear player misplacements identified and substantiated by the head coach.
- New Skaters Adjustments
  - Players who move into the district after try-outs are immediately placed on the lowest age-appropriate leveled team. After a couple of weeks of evaluation, the head coach may request that the player be moved to a higher skill level team within that age bracket.

In any event, there will always be multiple factors involved with moving a player after tryouts and therefore, careful consideration must be given to all aspects. Additionally, any such player move shall never result in moving a player “down” a level.

### **Double Rostering**

While in general skaters are not allowed to change teams, it may be appropriate to allow a skater to double roster for purposes of team strength and the good of the organization. It should be noted that double rostering will only occur in rare circumstances and only with the approval of the Executive Board.

In the case of requests for double rostering,

- A coach must make a written request to the Executive Board and the coach at the level below requesting player(s) for double rostering.
- If approved by the Executive Board, both the coach requesting the player(s) for double rostering and the coach from the level which player(s) are requested will approach the player(s) to discuss the request.
- At no time will a coach approach a player regarding this subject without the other coach being present.
- Also, neither coach may make an argument for nor against double rostering; they may only make the request and be present asking for players.
- The final decision to double roster ultimately rests with the parent(s) of the player(s).
- The parent(s) decision will be final in regards to allowing their player to play-up.

Additional rules for double rostered players:

1. The player(s) responsibilities are with the team he tried-out for and ultimately was placed on. In other words, his first team will always be the age-appropriate team he was placed on.
2. A double rostered player must make all of his/her team’s practices and games (except in the case of documented illness or injury); after meeting that commitment, he/she will then be allowed to play-up for the other team.
3. Injuries on the player(s) original team may dictate that a player no longer be allowed

to double roster. In this event, the head coach of the team with the injured player(s) may make a written request to the executive board to remove player(s) who are currently double rostered. The decision to remove a player from double rostering lies with the Executive Board and not the parents or coaches. Ultimately, the Executive Board will make the decision on what is best for the organization.

#### **4.) Release/Transfer Policy**

It is the goal of Tornado Youth Hockey to provide a quality youth hockey experience for skaters that reside in the Onalaska, Holmen and G-E-T communities. Our intention is not to release any player from our association to another association OR accept another player from a neighboring association except under the most unusual of circumstances. Requests for transfer-in after the season starts will not be accepted. Requests for release/transfer must be submitted in writing to the Executive Board after the end of the previous season and before registration closes for the upcoming season. Request forms are found online on WAHA website titled "TIER 2 PLAYER RELEASE" or "INTERSTATE PLAYER RELEASE."

The President has the authority to automatically release any players wishing to play closer to their home (i.e. Fountain City players wishing to play in Winona) or wishing to play an extended season, after our season is over, with local organizations (such as mite level players wishing to continue in Winona). Any players residing in Onalaska, Holmen, and GET area are not eligible for automatic release and will be reviewed with the Executive board.

To be granted a release/transfer, the release request must be voted (approved) by  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the Executive Board excluding the President. In the case of tie vote the President will vote to break the tie. All voting will be done in closed session at the Executive Board meeting prior to the season. The board's decision will be communicated to the family requesting the release within 48 hours of the decision. Any approved releases, per WAHA policy, must be reviewed each year and may not be renewed. A request for release after registration is closed may not be considered, unless in rare circumstances such as a sudden distant move where it is not feasible to continue playing locally.

**Ultimately, the Executive Board will always have the final say in player movement. It is up to the Executive Board to act in the best interest of the organization first and individual players second.**