



## **Richmond Jets Minor Hockey Association**

### **PLAYER MOVEMENT POLICY**



This policy pertains to RJMHA players seeking to play hockey at a higher or lower Division than their age group. This RJMHA player movement policy is in addition to PCAHA, BC Hockey and Hockey Canada rules and regulations applicable to player movements.

#### **A. Hockey 1, 2, 3, 4 Program:**

1. The intent of the Hockey 1, 2, 3 and 4 structure is to ensure that players of each age group (5, 6, 7 and 8 year olds) receive basic hockey development skills appropriate to their age group or peers. Within this structure is the provision to allow for limited movement of players up or down as deemed appropriate by RJMHA, in consultation with coaches and parents, based on skill level, and maturity. Player age is the primary determinant of placement, with only very strong or very weak players being moved.
2. Player movement is not to be interpreted as to permit the strengthening of teams at a particular level by excluding weaker players. Allowing for player movement is intended to permit RJMHA flexibility to move very strong players up a level and very weak players down a level, for the benefit of the player. It is not intended to allow the culling of age levels by skill to form homogenous skill groups.
3. All-star, rep or select teams of any kind are strictly prohibited.
4. Teams of one level shall not be allowed to move as a unit into a higher level.
5. RJMHA strongly encourages players to play at their age-appropriate level, noting that (i) being able to play with their friends is significant inducement to players remaining interested in the game, and (ii) specific skills in both individual play and team play are taught at each level. Missing a level means the loss of graduated development time to develop those specific skills.
6. It is recognized that for the exceptional player, movement up may be desired. However, it is noted that while on-ice skills may be advanced, off-ice attributes, such as the player's emotional and interpersonal skills, also need time to develop. The decision to move a player up should be based on the assessment of both on-ice skills and off-ice attributes.
7. Applications for player movement within the Hockey 1 – 4 groups is to be made to PCAHA by the applicable Division Director and President, following consultations with the affected players, parents, coaches and coaching coordinator.

#### **B. Hockey 4 to PeeWee**

1. Movement to a Higher Age Division: It is recognized that for the exceptional player, movement up may be desired. Determining an exceptional player should be based on the on-ice skills relative to other players of the same age. However, it is noted that while on-ice skills may be advanced, off-ice attributes, such as the player's emotional and interpersonal skills, also need time to develop. The decision to move a player up should be based on the assessment of both on-ice skills and off-ice attributes.

2. PCAHA rules state that “Member Associations may move exceptional Novice-aged (Hockey 3 and 4) players into the Atom Division to play at the level of their ability” and “A maximum of 3 Novice-aged players may be registered with any one Atom team.” Practically speaking, within the Hockey 1-4 Program, this is interpreted as Hockey 4 players moving to Atom.
3. There are no specific PCAHA rules applying to players moving into a higher division above Atom. RJMHA supports the limited movement of exceptional players to a level one Division higher than the player’s own age category or one Division lower than the player’s own age category.
4. For player movement to a higher category, it is recognized that there is significant overlap in the skills between age divisions. Therefore, only the very exceptional player(s) will be granted the ability to move. As a guiding principle the maximum number of players that will be allowed to move is contingent upon space availability in the Division above. RJMHA also reserves the right to invite player(s) to move to a division higher, based on team composition requirements. For example, a shortage of goaltenders at one level, with an excess at the level below, may result in an RJMHA invitation to play at a higher level.
5. Where movement results from the request of the parents or guardians of a player, the fees charged will be that of the higher division. Where movement results from the request of the RJMHA Board, the fee charged will be that of the players original division.

#### **6. Movement to a Lower Age Division:**

- 6.1 RJMHA strongly encourages players to play at the age- appropriate level, noting that specific skills in both individual play and team play are taught at each level. Missing a level means the loss of graduated development time to develop those specific skills. It is also noted that learning with one’s peers may be preferred, particularly for the older players who want to play with their friends. For these reasons, movement down is discouraged, unless absolutely necessary.
- 6.2 PCAHA rules state that “Special permission may be granted for Minor “C” teams to register “C” caliber player(s) of the next age division up in cases where, because of small size or weak ability, a player would be unable to compete in his or her normal age division. Such permission in writing shall be obtained from the responsible “C” Managing Director prior to the registration of the overage player.”
- 6.2 For player movement to a lower category, it is recognized that there is significant overlap in the skills between age divisions. Consideration for movement will be given primarily to players in their first or second year of hockey, with the exception of Juvenile aged players wishing to play in Midget “C”. As a guiding principle, the maximum number of players shall be contingent upon space availability in the division below.

#### **6.3 Objectives:**

- 6.3.1. To provide players with an opportunity to play where their demonstrated skills (including on-ice and off-ice attributes) are most suited.
- 6.3.2. To provide balance and protect the competitive levels of teams within each age division.

#### **6.4 Selection Criteria:**

Selection criteria includes, but is not limited to the following:

- 6.4.1. On-Ice Skill Level
- 6.4.2. Attitude/Social Maturity
- 6.4.3. Motivation/Desire
- 6.4.4. Dependability/Commitment
- 6.4.5. Physical Maturity
- 6.4.6. Experience
- 6.4.7. Team Needs
- 6.4.8. Parental Support

6.5 It is noted that on-ice skill level is the primary determinant, with all other selection criteria considered as secondary determinants.

#### **C. Bantam and Above**

1. There will be no requests accepted for transfers from the PeeWee Division to Bantam Division or Bantam to Midget Divisions. RJMHA strongly encourages players to play at the age- appropriate level, noting that specific skills in both individual play and team play are taught at each level. Missing a level means the loss of graduated development time to develop those specific skills. It is also noted that learning with one's peers may be preferred, particularly for the older players who want to play with their friends. For these reasons, movement down is discouraged, unless absolutely necessary.
2. PCAHA rules state that "Special permission may be granted for Minor "C" teams to register "C" caliber player(s) of the next age division up in cases where, because of small size or weak ability, a player would be unable to compete in his or her normal age division. Such permission in writing shall be obtained from the responsible "C" Managing Director prior to the registration of the overage player."
3. For player movement to a lower category, it is recognized that there is significant overlap in the skills between age divisions. Consideration for movement will be given primarily to players in their first or second year of hockey, with the exception of Juvenile aged players wishing to play in Midget "C". As a guiding principle, the maximum number of players shall be contingent upon space availability in the division below

#### **D. Procedure for Hockey 1, 2, 3 and 4:**

##### **1.Application:**

1.1 For Hockey 1, 2, and 3: The applicable Division Manager may, no later than Sept. 30th of the current season, request that a player move to a higher division, considering the following key items:

- 1.1.1. ice hockey experience and skill level including activities outside of RJMHA

- 1.1.2. experience and skill level for sports other than ice hockey
- 1.1.3. physical attributes including height and weight
- 1.1.4. attitude/social maturity
- 1.1.5. motivation/desire/dependability/commitment

1.2 Players who have participated in Hockey 1 as an underage player (Player was not five years of age as of the December 31st of the Hockey 1 season) can either repeat Hockey 1 or spend two years in Hockey 2 until matched with their peers in the age appropriate level. The preference is for a player who has mastered the basic skating skills in Hockey 1 to spend two seasons in Hockey 2 rather than to repeat Hockey 1.

1.3 For Hockey 2, 3 and 4: Requests for movement to a lower division must be made by the parents or guardians in a written letter to the applicable Division Director or RJMHA President no later than Sept. 30th of the current season.

NOTE 1: An exception to the above dates will only be made for players registering after the deadline dates noted above, or at the discretion of the Board, if team composition requires it.

NOTE 2: Players requested by RJMHA to move divisions will not be required to submit a written application or resume.

NOTE 3: The application must be completed in full and to the RJMHA Executive Board's satisfaction, and the fee must be paid, if applicable, prior to any evaluation. Failure to complete the application process shall result in the application being denied.

## **2. Fees:**

2.1 There is no fee for application for player movement to a lower division. A player moving to a lower division must request a refund of the difference of the registration fees between those divisions.

## **3. Number of Players:**

3.1 Based on the total registration at each level, the RJMHA Board will determine a maximum number of players who can move up or down. Of note, the primary determinants in setting this number shall be the total number of players registered at each level, the number of teams to be fielded, and the RJMHA Board determined number of players per team. This number shall not exceed the number of players needed to field a team, in accordance with the PCAHA Rules and Regulations. As a guiding principle the maximum number of players moving from one division to a higher division shall be three players, contingent upon space availability in the division.

3.2 The final decision of which players move up or down will be based on the number of spaces for players at each level and the results of the evaluations.

NOTE: Because the philosophy is to deal with these issues in as timely a fashion as possible, it must be noted that waiting until the final deadline for application could result in all available spaces within a Division being filled prior to the application deadline.

## **E. Hockey 4 to PeeWee:**

### **1. Application:**

1.1 Requests for movement to a higher division must be made by the parents or guardians in a written letter to the applicable Division Director or RJMHA President no later than August 15 of the current season. In addition, a brief player resume must be submitted, which should include the following key items:

- 1.1.1. ice hockey experience and skill level including activities outside of RJMHA
- 1.1.2. experience and skill level for sports other than ice hockey
- 1.1.3. physical attributes including height and weight
- 1.1.4. attitude/social maturity
- 1.1.5. motivation/desire/dependability/commitment
- 1.1.6. body checking clinic completion certificate, if applicable

1.2 Requests for movement to a lower division must be made by the parents or guardians in a written letter to the applicable Division Director or RJMHA President (or by completing the PCAHA Overage Request Form) no later than Sept. 30th of the current season.

NOTE 1: An exception to the above dates will only be made for players registering after the deadline dates noted above, or at the discretion of the Board, if team composition requires it.

NOTE 2: Players requested to move divisions by RJMHA will not be required to submit a written application or resume.

NOTE 3: The application must be completed in full and to the RJMHA Executive Board's satisfaction, and the fee must be paid, if applicable, prior to any evaluation. Failure to complete the application process shall result in the application being denied.

### **2. Fees:**

2.1 Player movement applications to a higher division must be accompanied by a non-refundable \$50.00 fee, payable to RJMHA and dated no later than August 15 of the current season. This fee is in addition to any rep tryout fees. A player approved to move to a higher division is required to pay the registration fee of the higher division. This registration fee difference is due no later than Sept. 30th of the current season. Failure to pay these fees shall result in the application being denied or the approval withdrawn.

2.2 There is no fee for applications to move to a lower division. A player moving to a lower division must request a refund of the difference of the registration fees between those divisions.

### **3. Number of Players:**

3.1 Based on the total registration at each level, the RJMHA Board will determine a maximum number of players who can move up or down. Of note, the primary determinants in setting this number shall be the total number of players registered at each level, the number of teams to be fielded, and the RJMHA Board determined number of players per team. This number shall not exceed the number of players needed to field a team, in accordance with the PCAHA Rules and Regulations. As a guiding principle the maximum number of players shall be no more than three players, contingent upon space availability in the division.

3.2 The final decision of which players move up or down will be based on the number of spaces for players at each level and the results of the evaluations. No underage player shall take that place of a regulation aged player on a carded team.

#### **4.Evaluation Process:**

4.1 Evaluations will be completed by an independent evaluation committee, which will consist of a minimum of 3 evaluators. None of the evaluators shall be coaches within either the division that the player is currently placed, or the division that the player would like to move to.

#### **5.Selection Process:**

5.1 For player movement requests conducted as part of the Rep Tryout Process, if players are ranked “relatively equal”, selection preference shall be given to players in the age category. This decision is based on the cumulative rankings and is the responsibility of the evaluation committee.

5.2 The following selection policy will apply:

5.2.1. For any underage skaters ranked in the top five players of the A1 group trying out for Rep: evaluation committee decision.

5.2.2 Any underage goalie must make the A1 team or return to their original Division.

5.2.3. For any underage skater ranked sixth or lower: No underage players will be selected. The decision regarding placement of the underage player in Rep in the higher division must be made by the completion of round 2. If the player has not been selected for a Rep Team based on the above criteria, then the player will be returned to the Rep Pool at the peer level.

NOTE 1: For Hockey 4 players trying out at the Rep level in Atom, the requirement to be evaluated at the peer level shall be waived, if the player is selected to the Rep team. The applicable RJMHA Division Manager will provide a list of all evaluation scores to the RJMHA Board. It will be the responsibility of the RJMHA Board to approve the final player movement requests.

NOTE 2: In addition to this policy, the Rep Tryout Policy shall also be in effect, except appeals, which is subject to # 7 below.

#### **6. Final Decision Date:**

6.1 The final decision regarding player movement shall be communicated to the parents or guardians, by the applicable RJMHA Director, no later than Sept. 30th of the current season. Once the parent or guardian has accepted player movement, the move shall be final, with the exception of team balancing.

**7. Appeals:**

7.1 No appeals shall be entertained.

