

Player requests for movement to a HIGHER division: Exceptional Player Policy.

In order for an athlete to be considered for **exceptional status** they must be in a division eligible to move and must meet the following criteria to move up an age division at HCL:

1. AGE - only players in their final season of their current age division are eligible to move up to the next age division.
2. SKILL - the athlete must be determined to be clearly ahead of their age-matched peers, and have the advanced skill to succeed and flourish in the target age division. During pre season evaluations the athlete must evaluate in the top 10% of the age division appropriate for their birth. For **competitive** divisions they must be in the top 5 players of the target age division they wish to play in. For **recreational** divisions they would be in the top 25% of the target age division. Goaltenders will be considered on a case -by-case basis.
3. EMOTIONAL & SOCIAL MATURITY - the athlete must be determined to possess the emotional and social maturity to thrive in the older age division. This will be determined through discussion with the parents/guardians of the athlete, as well as with previous coaches and involved association members as necessary. If there are any concerns then the athlete will not be permitted to move up an age division.

**Effect on Divisions:**

After an athlete is determined to have the appropriate skill and emotional/social maturity, the final consideration is to ensure that the player movement does not change either the appropriate age division or the target age division to the point of adversely affecting other athletes.

E. In cases involving a conflict, the interests of the older age group take precedence.