

	Title	Acceleration Policy
	Policy #	Operational – 8.12
	Draft Date	May 23, 2019
	Approved Date	March 31, 2020
	Revised Date	July 20, 2021
		July 15, 2022
	Owned By	Operational Director/Executive Committee

1.0 OVERVIEW

To provide the opportunity for a hockey player who has demonstrated exceptional ability in the past, to play above their normal age level. To maximize the development of their abilities by advancing the player to the division which best enhances their development as a hockey player. AMHA will align this policy with the Hockey Alberta Bylaws and Regulations with respect to Acceleration. In all cases a league policy will supersede the AMHA policy.

Hockey Alberta Bylaw and Regulations Appendix II – Elite Female Hockey Model – Player Acceleration

One objective of the Elite Female Hockey Model is to develop players within their specific age group, and not to displace the players from their age Division by facilitating the movement of underage players. Underage players will only be considered as an exception if they are deemed to be an “Exceptional Player”.

Members hosting U18 AA: Teams are provided one (1) underage Player allotment, provided the Player meets the following criteria:

- a) Player must be a second year U15 Player (14-year-old), no exceptions;*
- b) Player resides with the MHA’s Elite Recruitment area;*
- c) Player has been endorsed by the MHA to tryout at the higher Division of play;*
- d) Player completes the tryout process and is selected for the Team;*
- e) No underage Players will be granted a second tryout at the accelerated Division.*

Hockey Alberta Bylaw and Regulations Appendix III – Elite Male Hockey Model – Player Acceleration

One of the objectives of the Elite Male Hockey Model is to develop players within their specific age group, and not to displace the players from their age Division by facilitating the movement of underage players.

- a) Each U18 AAA Team is permitted to register only one (1) “Underage Player” at any one time during the season. Only second year U15 aged players will be considered for acceleration to U18 AAA;*
- b) There will be no acceleration for U15 aged players to U16 or U17;*
- c) Each U15 AAA Team is permitted to register only one (1) “Underage Player” at any one time during the season. Only second year U13 aged players will be considered for acceleration to U15 AAA.*

d) In addition to Hockey Alberta's Bylaws and Regulations above, AMHA will also permit the U13 AA team to register only one (1) "Underage Player" at any one time during the season. Only second year U11 aged players will be considered for acceleration to the U13 AA team.

2.0 POLICY

This policy will apply to U11, U13 and U15 second year players and the U15 second year female players within AMHA. The policy must be applied to all instances of player acceleration, without exception. The same procedure will apply with regards to assessment, including the division's ability/need to have additional players and the players' ability. These assessments will be made by the Acceleration Committee and the outcome and decision will be presented to the Executive Committee (EC).

3.0 ACCELERATION COMMITTEE

The acceleration committee will be appointed each season as required by the Executive Committee and will consist of 5 to 7 members. The members should include one member of the EC, up to two (2) Directors (including the High-Performance Director and/or Competitive Director, if possible). For the AAA teams at least one member of the Airdrie Cochrane Athletic Association (ACAA) Committee must be on the Acceleration Committee to evaluate that player.

The remaining members can be appointed as per the EC from members, former members, directors, or coordinators, or whomever the EC deems appropriate. EC and Directors, and others, should excuse themselves from the Acceleration Committee if there is a conflict of interest regarding the player being assessed (i.e., committee members cannot assess or advise on their own child).

Committee members must commit to attend **all** the applicable evaluation sessions.

This committee shall be empowered to consider and submit recommendations for the realignment of the hockey player. The committee shall also be empowered to draw upon any resources available to assist in the recommendation.

A different committee may be set up for each separate acceleration request.

4.0 ELIGIBILITY

To be considered for player acceleration, in U11, U13 or U15, a player must demonstrate "extraordinary attributes" compared to their peer hockey group and be able to make the highest-level team in the higher division.

For all players aged U11, U13 and U15 being considered under the Acceleration Policy, the committee will assess:

- Hockey Skills
- Physical Maturity
- Psychological and Emotional Maturity
- Attitude
- Desire

5.0 ACCELERATION PROCESS (U11, U13, U15 or U15 Female)

5.1 Players register in their proper division.

5.2 Written Request to the Executive Committee by **August 1st**.

Underage players must inform the EC and AMHA staff in writing if they wish to be assessed to play in a higher division prior to August 1st. The written request must include:

- Rationale for the assessment
- A written letter of recommendation from the previous seasons Head Coach and Division Coordinator
- Available statistics
- Indication if the player will stay with AMHA even if they don't make the higher team
- Application fee of \$350 must also be included

A fillable Player Acceleration Application is available on the AMHA website under Forms.

5.3 Evaluations

5.3.1 U11

5.3.1.1 A U11 skater must evaluate as a top 3 forward or top 2 defense on the top team in the next higher age category U13 AA, otherwise the player will be returned to their appropriate age category.

5.3.1.2 A goalie must evaluate as number 1 in the next higher age category U13 AA, otherwise the goalie will be returned to their appropriate age category.

5.3.2 U13

5.3.2.1 A U13 skater must evaluate as a top 3 forward or top 2 defense on the top team in the next higher age category U15 AAA, otherwise the player will be returned to their appropriate age category.

5.3.2.2 A goalie must evaluate as number 1 in the next higher age category U15 AAA, otherwise the goalie will be returned to their appropriate age category.

5.3.3 U15

5.3.3.1 A U15 skater must evaluate as a top 3 forward or top 2 defense on the top team in the next higher age category U18 AAA, otherwise the player will be returned to their appropriate age category.

5.3.3.2 A goalie must evaluate as number 1 in the next higher age category U18 AAA, otherwise, the goalie will be returned to their appropriate age category.

5.3.4 U15 Female

5.3.4.1 A U15 female skater must evaluate as a top 3 forward or top 2 defense on the top team U18 AA Elite Female, otherwise the player will be returned to their appropriate age category.

5.3.4.2 A U15 female goalie must evaluate as number 1 in the next higher age category U18 AA Female Elite, otherwise the goalie will be returned to their appropriate age category.

6.0 OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES

If a player begins evaluations in their appropriate age category and an AMHA Executive Subcommittee determines it is appropriate to move the player into the next higher age category based on input from the evaluators the above application procedure will be waived.

The player may be returned to their appropriate age division anytime during the evaluation period.

In addition, the player MUST attend their age-appropriate ice times so AMHA can evaluate them in their age category as well, if they are not accelerated.

Additional registration costs due, to the advancement, are to be paid in full at the time of placement on a higher-level team.

The AMHA Executive Committee may waive this procedure if required to accommodate special circumstances, such as small registration numbers in a particular age category.

7.0 Decision

The recommendation for acceleration must be a unanimous decision from both the Acceleration committee and the Head Coach. If the decision is not unanimous, the player will be returned.

The AMHA EC and ACAA Chair will review the Acceleration Committee's recommendation for each player and decide regarding the player acceleration, considering the development of the player as well as the impact on the overall association.

If the player cannot make the highest team in the higher division, then they will have to go back to their division. For example: Trying out for U15 AAA as a U13 they would go back to U13 AA.