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|  | <b>Title</b>         | Acceleration Policy                      |
|   | <b>Policy #</b>      | Operational – 8.12                       |
|   | <b>Draft Date</b>    | May 23, 2019                             |
|   | <b>Approved Date</b> | March 31, 2020                           |
|   | <b>Revised Date</b>  | July 20, 2021                            |
|   | <b>Owned By</b>      | 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;*

*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.*

## 2.0 POLICY

This policy will apply to the U13 (PeeWee) and U15 (Bantam) second year male players and the U15 (Bantam) 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 one of the members of 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** of 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

In order to be considered for player acceleration, in U13 (PeeWee) or U15 (Bantam), 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 (U13 to 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 (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
- Application fee of \$250 must also be included

5.3 Evaluations

5.3.1 U13 (PeeWee)

5.3.1.1 A U13 (PeeWee) skater must evaluate as a top 3 forward or top 2 defence on the top team in the next higher age category U15 Bantam AAA, 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 U15 Bantam AAA, otherwise the goalie will be returned to their appropriate age category.

5.3.2 U15 (Bantam)

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

5.3.3 U15 (Female Bantam)

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

5.3.3.2 A female goalie must evaluate as number 1 in the next higher age category U18 Midget 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 President will review the Acceleration Committee's recommendation for each player and make a determination 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 (Bantam) AAA as a U13 (PeeWee) they would go back to U13 (PeeWee) AA.