



Bashaw Minor Hockey Association

Policy on Underage Player Evaluations

Purpose

This policy establishes the process for evaluating underage players who request to play in a higher age division, or when higher divisions require players to supplement rosters. The goal is to ensure fairness, consistency, and player safety while supporting development opportunities.

1. Underage Application

- Parents/guardians wishing to have their child considered for a higher division must submit an underage application to the association by September 15th. (Application on the last page)
- Applications will be reviewed by the Player Movement Director and brought forward to the board of directors.
- If the roster in the higher division is already full, the application will be denied and the player will remain in their age-appropriate division. The same decision will apply if removing the player from their age-appropriate division will affect the viability of the team.
- Only if roster space is available will the evaluation process proceed. Roster space will be determined at the discretion of the Board.

Coaches are not permitted to request underage players. All underage movement must be initiated by the player's parent/guardian through the Player Movement Director, and will only be considered in accordance with Hockey Alberta regulations and the association's Underage player Evaluations policy.

2. Evaluation

- If roster space exists in the higher division:
 - An outside evaluator will be selected by the Player Movement Director and must be approved by the board of directors.
 - The evaluation will take place during 2 regular practice sessions with the higher age division.
 - The player's abilities will be assessed in comparison to the players in the higher age group. The player must demonstrate exceptional skill.
 - The results of the evaluation will be brought to the coaches to review.
- The coaches and evaluator's recommendation will be brought to the board to review.
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3. Filling Roster Gaps in Higher Divisions

- If a higher division requires additional players to supplement the roster, the following process will apply:

- A communication will be sent to the parents/guardians of 2nd year players in the division below. Parents/guardians will have the option to indicate whether they would like their child to be considered for evaluation to move up a division. Choosing to participate is voluntary, and families may respond “yes” or “no” to the opportunity.

Players whose parents indicate “yes” with a reply to the email will skate in the first 4 higher division ice sessions.

- During these skates, the outside evaluator will conduct their evaluation of each player.
 - Evaluations will focus on whether the player(s) can safely and competitively participate at the higher level.
 - The number of underage players moved up will be limited to the minimum required to fill the roster and if they meet the evaluation criteria.
 - All evaluations will then be submitted to the Player Movement Director, who will compile and present them to the board of directors for review to determine whether the player will move up a division or remain in their age appropriate division.
 - The parent/guardian indicating “yes” to evaluation does not guarantee the player will be moving up. If not approved, the player will return to the U9 division for the season.
 - If approved, the difference in registration fees will be due. The player will then continue in the higher division evaluation process for team formations.

4. Evaluation Criteria

Evaluations will be based on:

- Skill level relative to the higher division.
- Skating ability and game awareness.
- Physical readiness and safety considerations.
- Coach-ability and attitude.
- Maturity – including emotional readiness, focus, and ability to participate appropriately with older players.

5. Final Decision

- The Player Movement Director will bring forward the evaluator’s recommendations to the Board.
- Player movement will be approved or denied by the board.
- Families will be notified of the outcome by email.

All members are expected to respect and abide by these decisions. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.

Guiding Principles

- **Player Safety First** – No player will be moved up if it poses a risk to their safety or well-being.
- **Development Opportunity** – Underage movement will only occur if the player demonstrates the ability to compete at the higher level.

- **Roster Needs** – Underage movement will not be considered if the higher division roster is already full.
- **Transparency** – Parents and coaches will be informed of the process and decisions in a timely manner.

Underage Application Form

Underage requests must be submitted by September 15th of the upcoming hockey season

Please refer to BMHA Policies, Section 4. e. for additional details

Date of Submission

Name of Player

Date of Birth

Past Hockey Team

Division they would like to move up to

Reason:

Name of parent(s) making the request

Email Address

Contact Phone Number