



## Hay River Minor Hockey Association Player Movement Policy

---

Any consideration for player movement requests, as per the 3 categories identified below, must consider the best interest of the player in question. In addition, and equally important, consideration must be given to the best interests of all other players affected by such movement.

### **A. Permanent and full-time promotion of players**

The following process will be followed by Hay River Minor Hockey Association for a player to be permanently moved to a higher age level for the remainder of the season:

Procedure:

1. A written request for movement, signed by a parent or guardian, will be submitted to the President or designate. Such a request must outline in detail specific reasons for this player movement.
2. Upon receipt of the written request for player movement, HRMHA will acknowledge receiving the request in writing within 24 hours.
3. HRMHA will instruct the Coach and Director of each division affected to review the request. This review is accomplished by having the player attend a minimum of two practices in the higher division and being assessed by a committee made up of three independent knowledgeable hockey representatives along with the coaches from each division. The committee will report their findings and recommendations to HRMHA immediately following their decision making.
4. Formation of the evaluation committee:
  - a. At the beginning of the year, HRMHA will confirm a list of 5 to 10 independent knowledgeable hockey representatives that Directors and Coaches can call upon to evaluate players as and when needed.
  - b. Coaches and Directors will take care to form an evaluation committee that is absent of bias or previous conflicting situations.
5. HRMHA will communicate the recommendations to the parent/player within fourteen days of receipt of the written request.
6. Any appeals of such decisions must then follow designated section 8 of HRMHA's Bylaws. Appeal requests must be received no later than 48 hours following notification of the decision.

Consideration when reviewing a request for a player to move up:

- a. First consideration must be given to ensuring the player is playing at the level which is best suited to her or him. The criteria used in determining the best placement for the player are skill development, physical size and social development. A player must possess outstanding development levels in each of the noted areas and if it is the wish of the parents that she or he be moved to a higher level, the above process must be followed in all cases. HRMHA will not approve any requests for player movement unless all criteria are met. Only the most **exceptional player** will fit the above noted criteria. The player will need to be in the top 25% of the division she is he is requesting to be moved to.
- b. Exceptional circumstances will also be considered for movement of players that are evaluated in the top 50%, if the evaluation committee determines that it would be in the betterment of the player and both divisions involved.
- c. Full time and permanent movement will not be approved where such a movement would be detrimental to any team in terms of player numbers. In other words, if such movement would leave a team less than adequate player numbers, no consideration will be given to player movement in that instance. Furthermore, if the team or level to which such a player would move up to already has adequate player numbers and an additional player would result in players already on the team not being given their fair allotment of playing time, once again HRMHA will not allow player movement.
- d. Priority is given to second year player movement requests. In some circumstances, 1<sup>st</sup> year player movement requests may be considered if it is in the best interest of the players and teams involved.

## **B. Part time and/or temporary promotion (including affiliate players):**

HRMHA Executive recognizes the need and advantage of “calling up” players to fill out rosters or give players opportunities to better develop their skills.

Similarly, the Executive recognizes that players can sometimes “move down” divisions temporarily to participate in a game, special activity or even for a practice that would benefit skill development.

Guidelines for temporary player movement:

1. The main purpose of calling players up or down should be for HRMHA team staff to give additional opportunities for players to fill out rosters for games (inter-squad, exhibition, or tournament) or when a particular type of practice requires a minimum number of players.
2. Skill and player development is recognized as an additional goal and valuable advantage of player movement (up or down).
3. Coaches, directors, and the player’s parent(s) should all be involved in decisions regarding part time or temporary player movement.
4. Parent informal requests will be considered but the initiative and decision for this type of movement will be based on assessments and requests of team staff.
5. Parents will be consulted, and they will ultimately get the final say in their child being moved up or down part-time or temporarily.
6. The safety of all players involved should be considered when discussing player movement, recognizing that there is inherent risk in a sport like hockey.

- a. There is a risk-reward balance to be considered when giving a player opportunity for further development, at the risk of playing with bigger and faster skaters.
7. Communication:
  - a. Requesting coach lets her/his director know they would like to call up/down player(s);
  - b. Interdivision communication: coach speaks to coach and director speaks to director to discuss potential call up/down of player(s);
  - c. Only directors should speak to parents and, as much as possible, they should only speak to parents of their own division (some exceptions can occur for call up/down on short notice);
  - d. Requesting coach and director should not enter other teams dressing room or speak directly to potential call up players – because adults get the final say.
  - e. Requests should be made as early as possible, though HRMHA recognizes that late and accelerated requests can occur due to unforeseen circumstances (i.e. late or no notice of absence given by parents or players). In these circumstances, Coaches and Directors should ensure appropriate communications to team staff, parents, and players as soon and as efficiently as possible.
8. The temporary player movement guidelines and communications above only apply when players are participating out of division occasionally.
9. Temporary player movement does not affect a player's ability to continue to play in her/his age group.
10. Regular or permanent movement of a player to another age division requires a written request from the parents which is then evaluated as per HRMHA's Player Movement Policy as per Section A of this policy.

### **C. Players Moving Down**

#### Procedure:

The same procedure will be used as under "Permanent and Full-time Promotion", however the two coaches from the affected divisions may decide that they do not require the player to be assessed by a committee made up of three independent knowledgeable hockey representatives.

#### Considerations when reviewing a request for a player to move down:

- a. Consideration for player movement down to a lower age category must originate from either parent or guardian of the player or from concerns expressed by the Coach with regards to the well-being of the player. If the player lacks necessary skill development to play at a level to which she or he is suited by age, and if the player also lacks the sufficient physical size to be able to play without concern for their safety, that player would be given consideration for movement down to a younger age level.

- b. If the request is for a female player to move down, HRMHA will give additional priority and make efforts to accelerate the movement down, particularly for U15 and U18 female players.
- c. All players moving down must still register in their proper age division.

### **NOTE**

The Director of the player that has moved down must inform tournament organizers of the player movement down when registering for a tournament. Tournament organizers may refuse overage players which will require communication to coaches and parents.

### **D. External Player Movement within Hockey NWT/Hockey Canada Associations:**

Hockey Canada Regulation No. F29 stipulates that a player may not register and play under a second registration in the same season unless properly released from the initial registration in accordance with regulation H.

The authorities responsible for approving player movements are as follows:

- Between our Branch (Hockey North) and another Branch: Hockey Canada
- Between associations within our Branch (Hockey North): Hockey North
- Between teams within the Association: Executive Committee (or delegated officer)

Hockey North recognizes that some NWT communities do not have sufficient players to establish a division or an age-appropriate team within a specific division.

Hockey North endorses the *ad hoc* (case-by-case) movement of players between communities where there are insufficient players in the host community to form a team.

HRMHA players may be 'shared' to play in temporary situations such as the occasional practice, tournament, and exhibition games with another Hockey North association if the following process and criteria has been met:

1. A written request from the team's coach to HRMHA requesting a player be shared to play with a team citing the reasons for this request.
2. HRMHA will forward the request to the Director of the division in question. The coach and director will review the request and approve or refuse the request citing their reasons for the approval or disapproval. A player's priority is with his or her own team.
3. If the coach approves, and if it is the wish of the parent that this player be granted a temporary movement to play with a different team, HRMHA will proceed to have this player shared with the requesting team through the proper procedures handled through HRMHA Registrar. Please allow adequate time to complete this process.