



MOUND WESTONKA HOCKEY ASSOCIATION PLAYER MOVE UP AND PLACEMENT POLICY

- 1) **Age eligibility:** In almost all cases, players will be placed on teams according to the USA Hockey Annual Guide and/or the Minnesota Hockey Handbook, Age Division Guidelines published in August, prior to the upcoming season. **These divisions are: Bantam/15U, Peewee/12U, Squirt/10U, Mite/8U, Mini-Mite/ 6U.**
- 2) **Grade Level move up:** Based on the number of eligible players for any given level, the Mound Westonka Hockey Association Coaches Board may allow a child to play up with his/her grade if they wish to do so. All players requesting a Grade Level move up must be members of the Association in good standing and registered for the current season. Players may not have any unpaid balances from previous seasons. All grade level move ups will be approved unless team configurations are negatively created at affected levels, as determined by (i) a below.

Players will be allowed to move up, will try out and be fully eligible for consideration all teams at that level and may not reverse their decision based upon dissatisfaction with which team the player is assigned. If a grade level move up is approved, no additional requests are required to be made by the family for that player for the remainder of his/her playing career at Mound Westonka Hockey Association. It is important to note that if a grade level approval is granted, the family waives their ability to request a move-down for that player in future years.

- (i) The Hockey Operations Committee (HOC) will review the number of grade level move up requests received in relation to the number of registered players at the affected levels. "Grade Level Play" move ups will be allowed using the following criteria and process:
 - a. A grade level move up shall not take a team(s) at that level of play to greater than 15 skaters and 2 goalies nor should it leave the team/all teams at the level below with less than 11 skaters and 1 goalie. However, the Coaches Board may make a recommendation outside these guidelines that the Board may approve based on extraordinary circumstances.
 - b. The HOC will determine if an exception exists to this policy for Goaltending Need or Coaching Need (see Section C below).
 - c. In the event the number of "Grade Level Play" eligible players exceed the number of openings, at the next higher level, players will be moved up first to the player in the higher school grade and, second, proceeding in strict order of birth date until the openings have been filled.



- (ii) Players who wish to be eligible for “Grade Level Play” move up, must complete the following procedure:
 - a. Declare their intention to play at the higher level in writing, based upon “Grade Level Play” policy to the Board of Directors President, Board Secretary and the Ace Coordinator a minimum of 10 days prior to the beginning of tryouts of the level which the player seeks to move to.
 - b. Present written documentation from their school stating the current grade of the player, to the Board of Directors President, Board Secretary and the Ace Coordinator (appropriateness of documentation to be determined by the discretion of the Board President) a minimum of 10 days prior to the beginning of tryouts of the level which the player seeks to move to.

- (iii) Players meeting all criteria and fulfilling the procedures stated above will be moved up, provided all team roster configurations at the higher level and minimum roster configurations at that players current level meet the guidelines noted in i(a) above, as determined by the Coaches Board and approved by the Board of Directors. The Coaches Board may make a recommendation outside these guidelines that the Board may affirm based on extraordinary circumstances. Grade Level move ups will not be final until accepted by the District 3 Director at the appropriate roster certification meeting.

3) Player placement based on association need: This policy is designed to optimize personal development by achieving the most beneficial team sizes at each division. The association has determined that the minimum team size will include ten (10) skaters and one (1) goalie, and the maximum team size cannot exceed Minnesota Hockey Guidelines.

- (i) Following the close of traveling team registration, the HOC and Board will review the registered player numbers at each division and determine the number of potential move up slots per level.

- (ii) If there is a need, an email will go out all eligible players, as determined by the USA Hockey Age Guidelines, inviting players to sign up to participate in a 2-day tryout to be held the first 2 days of pre-tryout clinics.

- (iii) Players must be registered at their current age division and be a member in good standing. Players may not have any unpaid balances.

- (iv) Players will be ranked based on tryout score to determine which player(s) will be awarded the open slot(s). These tryouts will be held at Pre-Tryout clinics conducted by the High School Coach. There will be 3 evaluators that will



determine which players have the skills required to move up and play at the next level.

- (v) Players will try out and be fully eligible for consideration for all teams at that level and will be placed on the appropriate team based on their ranking after tryouts.

Players may not reverse their decision to move up based upon dissatisfaction with which team the player is assigned.

- (vi) The Board is not obligated to award any or all of the open slots if the move-up player(s) are physically and/or emotionally unprepared to play at the next division. If the player is not awarded an open slot, he/she will try out again at their current USA Hockey/Minnesota Hockey Age Division
- (vii) The Parents / Guardians agree that they are responsible for all registration rate cost . Payment is due immediately following the team placement.
- (viii) A move-up player cannot displace an older child that has no other option to play. MOVE-UP TRYOUTS WILL NOT BE APPROVED IF SLOTS ARE NOT REQUIRED AT THE NEXT DIVISION. The Board of Directors and HOC reserves the right to add or subtract open slots as needed.
- (ix) All players moved up a division through this special player placement process will be expected to play three years at move-up division and will move to the next division per Minnesota Hockey Age Division guidelines.

4) Skills-based move-up: In extremely rare instances, a player's coach from the current or previous year may petition the HOC, for Board of Directors consideration, for a player move-up regardless of the above policies due to overwhelming skill. To be considered by the Board, the move-up must meet the following requirements:

- (i) The player must be registered, in good standing, for the current season and the request is made, in writing a minimum of 10 days, prior to try-outs of the given year.
- (ii) At least two current division coaches (non-parent) submit written letters, to the HOC, with a recommendation for the move.
- (iii) The HOC recommends the move-up to the Board of Directors and the Board approves the recommendation.



- (iv) If the move up player ranks in the top 7 skaters or number 1 goalie after tryouts he or she will be eligible for the top team. If the move up player scores outside of the top 7 skaters or top goalie they will be assigned to the level and team in which the player played the previous season.
- (v) The move-up will not be detrimental to other players at that level.
- (vii) The player and parents agree to the move-up and fully understand the financial, social and interpersonal dynamics of the higher age and grade division teammates.