



Play Up Policy for Tryouts

All Play Up requests this season must be submitted to the Head of the Hockey Development Committee (HDC), Rob Haswell (rob@robhaswell.net). The HDC will review the request with the OYHA Committee.

This following policy outlines the conditions under which an Ozaukee Youth Hockey Association (OYHA) player may advance to a higher age bracket (hereinafter referred to as “playing up”) than that associated with his or her USA Hockey specified age division. This policy also defines the mechanism by which a player can/will be allowed to “Play Up.”

The goal of OYHA is to keep players of the same age, physical and emotional maturity together and to protect the integrity of each age division within OYHA. As a general rule, players will not be allowed to play outside the age division he/she is classified within as determined by his/her birthdates and USA Hockey policies.

While it is very rare, OYHA recognizes that there may be circumstances that would suggest a player to play in an age division above his/her USA Hockey classification and permission to “play up” could be granted only after the application process has been followed and evaluation has occurred.

OYHA employs the “Gretzky rule” which means that a player can only play up if the player makes the “A” team at the play up division level. The player attempting to “play up” must place in the top 30% of the high level “A” team in order to qualify. If a player does not make the “A” team at the play up division they will be placed on the A team of their rightful division based on birthdate in accordance with USA Hockey.

Only those requests adhering to the process as defined by OYHA will be considered.



Player Movement Application Request process

Step 1. The parent(s) of the player requesting to play up must discuss their intent with the player's last head coach from the previous season. The parent(s) and last coach **must** be in agreement that the move is in the player's best interest. If the player played in another district or any other club they need to provide a letter from that coach along with contact information where a member of the HDC can contact them to confirm their approval.

Step 2. The parent(s) must submit a written letter explaining their reasons for the request, what they expect to gain from the move, acknowledge that the transfer is in the best interest of the player, including but not limited to intellectual maturity in a locker room setting and that there is also the possibility of an increased risk to injury. This document should be submitted to the HDC representative of the play up division no later than one week before the tryouts begin.

Step 3. The player will be eligible for consideration if **ALL** the following conditions are met:

- a) The player must be currently registered to play at OYHA.
- b) Player development for both levels would not be adversely affected
- c) The player is within 1 year of advancing to that division

Step 4. The HDC will confirm that the movement of the player up will not adversely affect the teams or team/player ratio in either division, player development or any other team related items. The HDC reserves the right to not allow the player to Play Up and/or tryout for the level above based on adversely affecting teams at either level. This determination could also be reached after Step 5 below depending on the review of tryouts.

Only those players meeting all the requirements in steps 1-4 will be considered eligible to proceed to step 5. All others will be declared ineligible for further consideration and request denied.

Step 5. The player must participate in the tryout evaluation skate for the higher division. The player must receive an overall evaluation ranking the player in the top 30% of all skaters. ****The player cannot be a coaches' pick to make the Play Up "A" team.** At the time of tryouts Step 4 could be reviewed and determined that will adversely affect the teams at both levels.

The player is considered eligible for placement in the higher division once the player meets all the requirements defined in steps 1 - 5. Final determination will be made by the HDC and communicated back to the player/parent of the decision no later than the day after tryouts for the "A" team have concluded.



Girls Play Up Policy

The Play Up procedure is slightly different for our girls teams. Due to a smaller pool of players, female skaters & goalies can be asked to move up or tryout for a position based on need for players at a certain level as determined by the HDC, the OYHA Girls Coordinator and OYHA Committee.

Each season it is determined at the end of registration if there is a need for players to play up or double roster due to numbers. A tryout will be held for these players if warranted. Priority will be given to players with the older birth year over a younger birth year during tryouts. .

During this tryout, it will be determined which girls will be placed on the team's auxiliary roster or "double rostered". It will also be determined which among those girls will be the focus to qualify for play at the Regional Playdowns and State Tournament if warranted. This tryout may also be used to determine which player(s), will be rostered full time at the level above. The number of available spots (if any) will be determined by the HDC and the Girls Coordinator and approved by the OYHA Committee.

Goalie Movement Application Request process

Same process for both players and goalies as written above however, the goalie spots will be determined exclusively by the HDC based on evaluations and recommendations of the evaluators, the head coach and the OYHA goalie coaches attending tryouts on or off ice.