

Petoskey Area Hockey Association “Move-up” Policy

It is the policy of Petoskey Area Hockey Association that each registered player will play in his/her age group as set forth by USA Hockey Rules. This is what is deemed best for the player and the Association. There are no rules within the USA Handbook requiring an association to allow any player to be granted a Move-up.

However, in rare and special circumstances, based on skill, size, maturity, and player availability, a player may benefit from participating in a higher age group. These special circumstances will be reviewed by a committee to evaluate and determine at what level a specific player should play. The purpose of this policy is to provide a consistent decision making process for whether a player should be granted a Move-up or not.

Move-up: the advancement of a player playing ‘house’ hockey to the next age group before a player’s age requires advancement.

Move-up Committee: Group of people assigned to discuss the move up of a player and then make a recommendation to the Petoskey Area Hockey Association (PAHA) Board, the player, and the player’s parents.

Move-up Committee Members:

- PAHA Coaching Director
- Head or Assistant Coach of High School Hockey Team
- Age Appropriate Coach
- Coach of Next Level Team
- One outside source chosen by PAHA Coaching Director

Factors that must be taken into consideration to move a player to the next level include:

- **Ability:** Because the player is so skilled compared to his/her peers at that level that the player’s experience and the experience of the teammates and opponents is adversely affected by his/her presence at that level.
- **Numbers:** The makeup of the age appropriate team and the next level team could be factors. Specifically goalies because of the lack thereof.

Process to Apply for Move-up

Failure to follow the procedure may result in the application being denied.

- Only players in House divisions are eligible for a Move-up request. Criteria to play in a Travel division are established during the Travel 'try out' at the beginning of each season.
- Player must apply for the Move-up and have a written application turned in to the PAHA Board President by September 15th in order to be considered.
 - This date may vary under special circumstances, such as players who move to or out of the area, injuries that occur on a team, etc.
- Application must have the approval of the parent or guardian.
- The Coaching Director of PAHA will initially determine whether or not to address the Move-up request. If the Coaching Director decides that the situation does not warrant further consideration beyond him/her than he/she will deny the request and the process will end at that point.
- No specific timeline is given for the Move-up process to be completed after application is submitted or meeting is held. The timeline will be based on the Coaching Director's opinion regarding urgency and the legitimacy of the request.
- If the Coaching Director chooses to move further into the process to Move-up the player, a meeting will be scheduled. The meeting will consist of the player's parents, the Move-up Committee and at least two members of the PAHA board.
 - Representatives of the PAHA Board should monitor the process not the merit of the decision itself. The actual decision and discussions of the readiness of the player or appropriateness of the situation will be made entirely by the Move-up Committee.
 - The player's parents should provide input and discuss the reasons they feel the player should be granted the Move-up in this meeting
 - Each coach, age appropriate as well as next level coach, can take a moment and explain in detail their thoughts on the Move-up of the specific player.
 - After the meeting, the Move-up Committee should discuss amongst themselves a recommendation for the player.
 - The committee may request extra time to make an on ice evaluation of the player at his/her age appropriate level and/or the level up.
 - Minutes of this meeting should be taken by the PAHA board for future reference.
- The decision of the Move-up Committee is final.
- If the Move-up is granted, a Risk & Liability Form must be completed by parent/guardian stating they understand and accept the risk of playing at a higher age level. This must be submitted in order to have roster approval.
- The Move-up Committee has the right to specifically reverse any decision allowing a player to play up at any time. Example: if the player is experiencing difficulty at the next level.

Items to Consider

- Each case will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Past, current, or future decisions can't be used to discuss or motivate a decision.
- Every decision has a domino effect. Serving one person's needs without affecting others is often impossible. This format will not guarantee 100% success in pleasing all people.
- There is an increased risk of injury for players playing outside of their designated age classification.
- Family circumstances can't be used as a factor in the decision to accelerate a player.
- The position of a player's parent(s) as a board member, coach, or any other member of the Association should not factor into the process in anyway.
- A fine balance needs to be struck to avoid placing the desire of a player above the legitimate opportunity for that player to be successful in an older age classification.
- Players and parents should acknowledge that approval to play up in a specific season does not mean the player will continue in a play up situation or guarantee approval to play up in future seasons.
- A player's ice time may be diminished after the Move-up compared to their role on their age specific team.

Reasons to Move-up a player

- A player is physically able to participate at the next age level.
- A player has a maturity level to be at the next level.
 - Emotionally
 - Mentally
- A player has the desire to play at the next level.
- A player is part of the peer group of the next level.
- A void must to be filled on a specific team, provided that all above criteria are met.

Reasons not to Move-up a player

- Physically unable to compete due to size and ability.
- Not mature enough emotionally and mentally to handle an older age group of peers.
- Player does not want to move up.
- Player does not stand out above the competition in practice or games.

Petoskey Area Hockey Association Risk Acknowledgement & Liability Waiver

Must be completed by all players requesting Move-up

Name of Participant: _____

Birthdate of Participant: _____

USA Hockey Age Level: _____

Desired Move-up Level: _____

I, _____ request that
_____ be permitted to Move-up to the next age division as defined by USA Hockey. I have read and understand Petoskey Area Hockey Associations (PAHA) Move-up policy and agree to all the terms, conditions and eligibility requirements that apply.

I understand that requesting a Move-up does not guarantee approval and understand that nothing is USA Hockey's rules requires an association to allow any player(s) to Move-up.

I understand that PAHA recommends that players stay in the age groups defined by USA Hockey and stipulated in the USA Hockey Annual Guide as appropriate for their birth year. I understand and appreciate that in the Move-up, the risk of injury may be greater and that the risk of injury from hockey is significant, including the potential for permanent injury, death, and while particular rules and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious injury does exist.

By my child's participating, I knowingly assume all such risks, both known and unknown.

Further, I agree to indemnify and hold PAHA, its Board Members, Griffin Arena, and USA Hockey harmless from any and all liability, loss, expense, attorney's fees, or claims for injury or damages caused as a result of my request.

I understand and agree to accept these conditions of participation.

Participant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Print): _____

