

Green Bay Area Youth Hockey Association (GBAYHA) Underage Player Movement Guideline

This Guideline applies, on a per season basis, to players requesting assignment to a division above their specific age division as set forth by USA Hockey Rules.

- The GBAYHA Board recognizes that it may occasionally be appropriate to a player's development to play-up to the next age division.
- Only requests to play up one year early will be considered.
- Underage player movement takes team spots from players who are of age. Movement should only be considered when an underage player is clearly an impact player.
- Participants and their guardians must be aware of an increased risk of injury associated with playing outside their designated age classification. Allowing participants to move from a nonchecking division to a checking division represents the greatest risk and will receive additional consideration.
- For co-ed youth teams the player must be selected to the A team after GBAYHA Board approval to try out for that age-level.
- ALL Parents and skaters must petition the GBAYHA board at or prior to the August Board Meeting to be considered for movement. Petition will involve 1) the reason for the play up request and 2) a recommendation from a prior season's coach. The GBAYHA Board/Coaching Committee will also consult the player's prior coach(es).
- All requests to be considered for movement will be provided to the GBAYHA Coaching Committee for consideration and a recommendation to the GBAYHA Board.
- The GBAYHA Board/Coaching Committee will consider the impact to the affected teams or age classifications as part of the decision. The GBAYHA Board/Coaching Committee will take into consideration whether multiple players per team or age-classification are requesting to play up during the same season. Therefore some approvals to try out or be evaluated may be delayed in order to take into consideration the total number of players requesting a movement.
- Approval of player movement will not be given where such movement would be detrimental to any team in terms of player numbers, either too small or too large. USA Hockey team size recommendations will be considered.
- For co-ed youth teams, after GBAYHA Board approval to tryout at the older age-level, the normal tryout process for that age-level's A team, performed by the A team coach and tryout committee will determine if a player is selected for the A team of the age-level being requested.
- The GBAYHA board will rule on player movements requests as timely as possible, but players may not receive notification until shortly before Tryouts. The decision of the GBAYHA Board is final. The GBAYHA Board reserves the right to reverse any decision allowing a player to play-up at any time.
- The GBAYHA Board may initiate the movement of players to older age divisions, usually with the recommendation of the GBAYHA Coaching Committee, in order to solve team size issues that would be detrimental to the teams if no action were taken. The GBAYHA Board may also approve a rotating movement solution, with dual-rostered players, developed by the team coaches if appropriate.

- Rules pertaining to making an “A” team or being ranked in the top 1/3 of team can be waived at the discretion of the board and coaching committee to solve team size issues.

Guidelines Specific to Player Movement from 8U to 10U

- Underage player movement from 8U Mites to 10U/Squirts could deprive the moving player from opportunities and benefits of cross-ice games and age-appropriate rink sizes and puck weights.
- The player must be evaluated in the top third of players of the desired age classification after GBAYHA Board approval to be evaluated for an older age level..
- An 8U Mite player desiring to try out for the co-ed youth Squirt age-level must have been a Red division 8U Mite player for at least 1 full season to be considered by the GBAYHA Board.
- If more than four (4) 8U Mite players are approved by the GBAYHA Board to try out for the coed Squirt A team, a pre-tryout evaluation will be performed by the Squirt A team head coach and at least 2 additional coaches in order to evaluate the players and select the top 4 among the 8U Mite age players approved. These 4 players will be allowed to continue to the A-team tryout.
- An 8U Mite player desiring to play up to a 10U Girls team will follow the same process as all Girls’ teams described in this policy.

Guidelines Specific to Player Movement on Girl’s Teams:

- The Girl player must be evaluated in the top third of players of the desired age classification after GBAYHA Board approval to be evaluated for an older age level. For Girls’ teams, an Evaluation (TBD by Girls Team Coaches) for players will be conducted to determine if the player is in the top third of evaluation rankings of the age-level being requested. If multiple players are requesting to play up to an age-level, the GBAYHA Board may approve the coaches to select a number of girls at or below the number requesting a movement (for example, the GBAYHA Board could approve the coaches to move no more than 2 players after performing the evaluation, even if 3 or more requested movement.)