Player Movement

Policy: It is the policy of CO-OP Committee to maintain fair and consistent player movement practices in an effort to optimize team success and enhance the skill development of all skaters. It is the policy of CO-OP Committee that each registered player will play in her age group as set forth by USA Hockey rules. The CO-OP Committee recognizes it can be appropriate and even beneficial to a participant’s development for her to play-up to the next age classification. Additionally, due to numbers of players at each level, it may be beneficial for players to play-up to the next age classification. It is also beneficial for players to play with players of like ability. A fine balance needs to be struck between the player’s desire to play at an advanced level and her ability to succeed at the older age classification.

Procedure:

**A**. Team Numbers: Movement of players to facilitate team numbers will be recommended and approved by the CO-OP Committee at their discretion. If such a realignment of players occurs, players will be asked based on their birth date (oldest birth year). All players have right of refusal. If a player is asked to move to another level of play and she accepts, she will be assessed the difference between registration fees paid and actual fees for the new level (based on each association). Goaltender movement will be case by case basis.

**B**. Consideration for player movement will not be given where such 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 for 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 will not allow player movement. If the team or level to which such a player moves up to does not have adequate players then movement up would be looked upon more favorably

**C**. CO-OP Committee, after registration and well before placement practices, shall recommend the number of players who are needed to move up to the next level based upon needs and abilities. No parent/coach requests shall be considered.

**D**. If try outs are needed the Co-Op Committee will assign evaluators.

**E**. It may be determined after an initial play up approval; that it is in the best interest of the player to move back down to their original age division. These situations will be handled on a case by case basis and involve coaches at both levels and the board. The CO-OP Committee specifically reserves the right to reverse any decision allowing a player to play-up at any time. If a player that has moved up is experiencing difficulty, as determined by the CO-OP Committee and/or the player’s coach, may reverse the decision that allowed the player to play up. In this case, every attempt will be made to place the player on a similar level team within the player’s proper age classification.

**F**. The decision of the Co-Op Committee is final. No appeals will be allowed.