

RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING PLAYERS PARTICIPATING IN AN OLDER AGE GROUP

SAHA fully supports the policy of USA Hockey that all players should play at their age appropriate level. USA Hockey and SAHA also recognize that from time to time there are situations or circumstance under which it may be appropriate to permit a player to play at a level above that which he or she is age qualified for. Exceptions of this nature should be handled on a case-by-case basis by the Member Association and should be reported to the SAHA Board.

- a. All players should play at their age appropriate level. Exceptions to this rule may be granted on a case-by-case basis by the Member Association and must be reported to the SAHA Board.
- b. In granting exceptions, the Association should at a minimum consider the physical, emotional and social maturity of the player relative to those he or she would be playing with; the skill level of the player; the number of years the player has been playing; the benefit to the player of playing at his age appropriate level; the need of the player to play with older children to fill a reasonable roster.
- c. In no circumstance, should an exception allow a player to play-up more than one age group.
- d. A completed *Play-Up Request & Acknowledgement of Risk and Liability Form* for all players in a play up situation must be submitted with the team roster to receive roster approval from the Associate Registrar.
- e. No exceptions are permitted for 8U players playing in older age groups except:
 - i. 8U players that were permitted to participate on a 10U team in 2016-2017 are permitted to play-up in 2017-2018.
- f) Rising players of all ages may participate at their next playing level for spring/summer programs. Spring/summer house league programs may begin may begin after the conclusion of the regular fall/winter house league. Spring/summer travel or tournament teams, including tryouts for those teams, may begin after the conclusion of the USA Hockey Youth National Tournaments.

EXAMPLE 1 – A player classified as an 8-year-old in the current playing season may participate as a 9-year-old in a spring or summer house league program that begins after the conclusion of the regular fall/winter house league program.

EXAMPLE 2 - A player classified as an 8-year-old in the current playing season may participate as a 9-year-old in a spring or summer Travel/Tournament Team that begins after the conclusion of the USA Hockey Youth National Tournaments.

EXAMPLE 3 - A player classified as a 7-year-old in the current playing season may participate as an 8-year-old in a spring or summer program, but may not participate as a 9-year-old in any spring or summer program.