



## Playing Down Policy

### Policy:

Players must play within their defined age group. The procedure at the bottom of this policy must be followed in its entirety when submitting a playing down request.

The decision of the Central District Registrar is the final decision. There is no appeal process.

Any individual who is approved for playing down must be willing to play at the lowest level of competition offered by the player's association.

### Background:

The "playing down" policy is established to accommodate a player that has documented physical or mental conditions and who, upon the written recommendation of their physician, would be subjected to abnormal risk physically or otherwise is physically incapable of playing at the proper age division. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is the basis for permitting this practice to occur.

Typically, only players with a severe disability will be allowed to play down. **Being small in size, a first-year player or an otherwise inexperienced player will not, in itself, qualify as a justification for moving a player down.**

Requests to move a player down will not be considered if it is clear that such a move is for convenience of the player rather than physical necessity. Also requests that are based on achieving a more dominant competitive advantage for the player involved will not be approved.

### Procedure:

Because of the nature of "playing down" requests, the following procedure is applicable for all requests:

- A parent/guardian must initiate the request.

- The request must be accompanied by a written statement from a licensed physician and approval in writing by the local association.
- The request must include the following documentation:
  - A written description of the medical condition from the Physician that is caring for the subject player which would include an opinion of the risks of having the player participate with others at his/her proper age division and the reason for requesting permission to play down. This document must also state that, in the opinion of the Physician, there are no abnormal risks associated with permitting the player to participate in a contact sport such as ice hockey.
  - A document specifying the birth date, the current height and the weight of the player and the reason for the request.
  - A letter from the Association President approving the request. The president of the local association should sign the request. The approval from the local association must be on association letterhead and must specify the lowest competitive playing classification available within the association.
- The request letter with all of the supporting documentation, in hard copy form, shall be sent to the Wisconsin Amateur Hockey Association Region Directors. If the Region Directors approve the request, the documentation package is forwarded to the Central District Registrar for final approval.
- The documentation must be in original hard copy form, with signatures.

Approved playing down requests require that the player participate at the lowest competitive level.