



## LHA PLAY UP/DOWN POLICY

### PLAYING UP.

This policy outlines the conditions under which a Lakeland Hockey Association (LHA) player may advance to a higher age bracket (herein after referred to as “playing up”) than that associated with his or her USA Hockey specified age division. This policy also defines the mechanism by which a player can/will be allowed to “Play Up.”

The goal of LHA is to keep players of the same age, physical and emotional maturity together and to protect the integrity of each age division within LHA. As a general rule, players will not be allowed to play outside the age division he/she is classified within as determined by his/her birthdates and USA Hockey policies.

LHA recognizes that there are circumstances that would suggest a player to play in an age division above his/her USA Hockey classification and permission to “play up” could be granted only after the application process has been followed and evaluation has occurred.

Only those requests adhering to the process as defined by LHA will be considered. Application to “Play Up” begins with a written letter initiated by the player’s parent or legal guardian and submitted with the “Play-up” application to the VP of House no later than March 1<sup>st</sup> of the current season.

### **Player Movement Application Request process**

**Step 1.** The parent(s) of the player requesting to play up must discuss their intent with the players existing head coach. The parent(s) and coach **must** be in agreement that the move is in the player’s best interest.

**Step 2.** The parent(s) must submit a written letter explaining their reasons for the request, what they expect to gain from the move, acknowledge that the transfer is in the best interest of the player, and there is the possibility of an increase risk in injury. In addition the parent must complete and submit the “Play-up” application. These documents are submitted together to the VP of House by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Step 3.** The player will be eligible for consideration if **ALL** the following conditions are met:

- (a) the player must have a previous overall rating for the division in which they are currently playing in the top 10%. Goalies will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- (b) the player must be currently rostered on a LHA team.
- (c) the player’s current head coach agrees that the player would benefit from playing up (must sign the “Play-up” application).
- (d) older team player development would not be adversely affected.

(e) the player is within 1 year of advancing to that division

**Only those players meeting all the requirements in steps 1-3 will be considered eligible to proceed to step 4. All others will be declared ineligible for further consideration and request denied.**

**Step 4.** The player must participate in the March evaluation skate for the higher division. The player must receive an overall evaluation ranking in the top 1/3 of the higher division.

**Step 5.** The league registrar will confirm that the movement of the player up will not adversely affect the team / player ratio in either division.

The player is considered eligible for placement in the higher division once the player meets all the requirements defined in steps 1 - 5. Final determination will be made by the VP of House and communicated back to the player/parent of the decision no later than April 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **B. PLAYING DOWN.**

LHA has no options for a player playing down. USA Hockey, Inc. policy states that a player will not be allowed to play/skate down unless the player has a medical condition. The medical condition must be documented in the form of a written statement from the player's doctor describing the medical condition. The doctor's statement must be accompanied by a written statement from the player's parent(s) requesting a "play down" exclusion from LHA/USA Hockey, Inc. policy. These statements will be forwarded to the Michigan Amateur Hockey Association (MAHA) for review. MAHA will provide the final ruling.



# Lakeland Hockey Association

## Parent Play-Up Request

Due No Later than March 1<sup>st</sup>.

To be completed in full by parents

Player's name (please print):			
Parent(s) name (please print):			
Phone number:	(       )	Alternate Phone:	(       )
Email Address:			
USA Hockey Official Age Division:		Birth date:	
Requested Play Up Division:		Season Year:	20 ____ / 20 ____
<p>I/We _____, parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of _____ request that he/she be permitted to Play-Up to the next age division as defined by USA hockey. We understand that USA Hockey, Michigan Amateur Hockey Association (MAHA), and the Lakeland Hockey Association (LHA) do not encourage playing-up.</p> <p>We have read and understand the LHA's Play-Up policy and agree to all the terms, conditions and eligibility requirements that apply. We understand that there are no guarantees and that the decision by the LHA board is final.</p> <p>We are forfeiting all rights to any activities (games &amp; practices) at the current age division. We also understand and accept that Playing-Up to the next age division places my son/daughter at greater risk for injury.</p>			
Signature:		Date:	
Print Name:			

To be completed by Head Coach

Head Coach	I have spoken with _____ (player) and _____ (parents) about the benefits / detriments of playing up a division. I am in agreement with their request to allow player to play up.		
Coaches Signature:			Date:
Print Name:			

Official Use Only

Date Received:			Parent letter submitted:	Y	N
USA Age Division rating	Top 10%	Y	N	Higher division rating in top 1/3	Y N
Player / Team Ratio impacted in either division:		Y	N	Currently Rostered on an LHA team	Y N
Approved	Denied	House VP Signature:			

All completed applications are due into the House VP by March 1<sup>st</sup>.