

# Orono Youth Hockey Association

## Move Up Policy & Move Down Requests

July 2011

The Orono Youth Hockey Association (“OYHA”) requires players to play at their level as determined under the age brackets set forth by Minnesota Hockey. Our belief in adhering to Minnesota Hockey’s age brackets is in part our belief that youth hockey, especially at the younger levels (ADM & Squirt/10U) is developmental, along with our OYHA Mission Statement supporting the development of all players and to enhance all players skills and abilities (over just a few). However, OYHA has adopted a move up policy recognizing it may be necessary to have such a policy due to our smaller organization. When short a sufficient number of players, OYHA needs to fill our travel teams at all levels and all genders, as well as avoid ‘bumping’ a player from the Orono program due to a level move up. OYHA also recognizes that players may wish to play up with their grade, which can be compromised if their birthdates fall into the gap created by the different birth date cutoffs for school and hockey. There are 4 situations where move-up to/within the travel level teams will be considered as follows:

- A. Grade Level
- B. Roster Need
- C. Goalie / Coaching Need
- D. Skill Based

All move-ups must also conform to the maximum # of players outside of the Minnesota Hockey age brackets allowed for any team.

The criteria for such move ups or allowances will be made as follows:

### **A. Grade Level**

Based on the number of eligible players for any given travel hockey level, the Orono Hockey Coaches Board (Coaches Board) may allow a child to play up with his/her grade if they wish to do so. All grade level move ups will be approved unless team configurations are negatively created at affected levels, as determined by (i)1 below.

Players will be allowed to move up and will try out and be fully eligible for consideration on an A, B or C team and may not reverse their decision based upon dissatisfaction with which team is made.

(i) Process\_ a. The Coaches Board will review the number of grade level move up requests received in relation to the number of registered players at the affected levels. “Grade Level Play” move ups will be allowed using the following criteria and process:

1. A grade level move up shall not take a team/all teams at such level of play to greater than 15 skaters and 2 goalies nor should it leave the team/all teams at the level below with less than 12 skaters and 1 goalie. However, the Coaches Board may make a recommendation outside these guidelines that the Booster Board may approve based on extraordinary circumstances.
2. The Coaches Board will determine if an exception exists to this policy for Goaltending Need or Coaching Need (see Section C below).
3. In the event the number of “Grade Level Play” eligible players exceeds the number of openings, as determined by the Coaches Board, at the next higher level, players will be moved up first to the player in the higher school grade and, second, proceeding in strict order of birth date until the openings have been filled.

b. Player’s who wish to be eligible for “Grade Level Play” move up, must complete the following procedure:

1. Declare their intention to play at the higher level in writing, based on the "Grade Level Play" policy, to the Booster Board President and the Coaches Board Chairman 10 days prior to the beginning of tryouts of the level which the player seeks to join, assuming the move up is granted.
2. Present written documentation from their school stating the current grade of the player, to the Booster Board President and the Coaches Board Chairman (appropriateness of documentation to be determined by the discretion of the Booster Board President and Coaches Board) 10 days prior to the beginning of tryouts of the level which the player seeks to join, assuming the move up is granted.

(ii) Player's meeting all criteria and fulfilling the procedure stated above will be moved up, provided all team roster configurations at the higher level and minimum roster configurations at that players current level meet the guidelines noted in A(i)1 above, as determined by the Coaches Board and approved by the Booster Board. The Coaches Board may make a recommendation outside these guidelines that the Booster Board may affirm based on extraordinary circumstances.

Grade Level move ups will not be final until approval by the Booster Board and accepted by the Director of our District at the appropriate roster certification meeting

### **B. Roster Need**

Based on the number of eligible players, after considering all "Grade Level" move ups (if any,), for any given level, the Coaches Board may determine that a need exists to move a player(s) up from the next lower level in order to fill out rosters.

- (i) Move Up from ADM to Squirt/10U In the event the Coaches Board makes such a determination that move ups are necessary to fulfill "Roster Need" to the Squirt/10U level, players will be moved up, first based upon Grade Level in strict order of birth date, starting with July 1<sup>st</sup> birthdates, provided that the player has the minimum required skill to play at the next higher level as determined by the Coaches Board and the Initiation Program Director. If additional players are still needed to fulfill "Roster Need", players will be moved up based upon birth date, starting with July 1<sup>st</sup> birthdates of the next lower grade, provided that the player has the minimum required skill to play at the next higher level as determined by the Coaches Board and the Initiation Program Director. These decisions will be made after all tryouts for all travel teams levels have been completed. These players will not go through any tryout process and will be assigned to the lowest configured team. Consistent with section (ii)1, below, these move-ups shall not take a team over 15 skaters/2 goalies at the Squirt/10U level
- (ii) Move Up to PeeWee/12U or Higher Level In the event the Coaches Board makes such a determination that move ups are necessary to fulfill "Roster Need" to the Pee Wee/12U and older levels, the following process will be followed:
  1. The Coaches Board will determine the number of move ups needed, which shall not take a team over 15 skaters nor leave a team at the level below with less than 12 skaters. (excluding goalies)
  2. The Coaches Board will determine if an exception exists to this policy for Goaltending Need or Coaching Need (see section C below).
  3. The Coaches Board will recommend potential move ups first based on grade level of those players who did not elect to request a Grade Level move-up as allowed for in section A above), then by birth date, starting with July 1<sup>st</sup> birthdates, listing any exceptions to this strict order (such as lacking basic skills to play at the next level, Goaltending Need, Coaching Need) to the Booster Board President by a date no later than 5 days prior to tryouts.

4. The Orono Hockey Booster Board President will contact the parents of each player recommended by the Coaches Board to offer their player the option to participate at the higher level.
5. If the player elects to participate at the higher level, the parents must provide written documentation of such election to the Booster Board President.
6. The Booster Board President will present the election of each player, starting with Goaltending Need and Coaching Need exceptions if any, then in strict order of birth date.
7. The player will proceed through the try out process and be eligible for an A, B, or C team.
8. Consideration of Roster Need move-ups to the PeeWee/12U level or higher will be determined by the Coaches Board and presented to the Booster Board for approval prior to the beginning of try-outs for the specific level of play.

No Roster Need move ups will be final until approval by the Orono Hockey Booster Board (Booster Board) and accepted by the Director of our District at the appropriate roster certification meeting.

### **C. Goaltending and Coaching Need**

In filling rosters with move ups using “Grade Level” or “Roster Need” basis, exceptions may be made for the following reasons:

(i) Goaltending Need – In the event desired team configurations present a need for additional goaltenders, which will be determined PRIOR to tryouts beginning for such level of play, a move up spot will first be filled by a qualified goalie, as determined by the Coaches Board. In the event one or more such goalies exist, priority will be given to the player in the highest grade first, then birth date. There will not be any goalie move ups to place 2 goalies on any team at any level unless there are a sufficient number of qualified goalies at the level below to ensure one goalie per team.

(ii) Coaching Need – In the event desired team configurations present a need for additional coaches, a move up spot will first be filled by a player whose parent is a certified and qualified youth hockey coach, as determined by the Coaches Board. In the event one or more such players exist, priority will be given to the player with the parent with the highest coaching credentials (Level 1, 2, 3, etc.). If both coaches have the same coaching certificate level, the coach whose child has the earlier birthday will be awarded the position.

Goaltending and coaching need move ups will not be final until approval by the Booster Board and accepted by the Director of our District at the appropriate roster certification meeting.

### **D. Skill Assessment**

Once team configurations and grade move up requests have been satisfied, lastly, under the recommendation from the Coach’s Board, a player who has been identified as a player with exceptional skill and who, the Coaches Board believes has a greater than 50% chance of finishing in the ‘top-10’ try-out scoring of all players at the level above where he or she would normally be age eligible for, he or she will be allowed to try out at that higher level. If he or she does not finish in the ‘top-10 of total try-out score’ of all players at the higher level, he or she will be assigned on the “A” team of which he or she would have been trying out for given his or her age. For a player who is at the ADM level (and thus trying out for Squirts/10U) – if the player does not meet the above noted criteria to move-up to Squirts/10U, they will continue at the ADM level and still eligible for Grade Level or Roster Need move-up as outlined in Section A. and B. above. Should the Coaches Board conclude that a player meets the criteria above for consideration of a skill level assessment move-up, and the parent and player desire to try out for the level above where he or she would normally play;

1. The parent and player should provide a signed statement to the Coaches Board affirming the above policy section D procedure

2. The player/parent will remit to OYHA a non-refundable skill assessment fee which has been set by the Booster Board for the current fiscal year along with their request for skill level assessment. For the 2011/2012 season, this fee is \$100. This is in part to cover the cost, effort and assessment of whether or not an individual should be considered for approval, and also covers incremental tryout ice time fees for ADM trying to move up. If the Coaches Board concludes that the player meets the above criteria for a skill assessment opportunity, the skill assessment fee will be retained and considered non-refundable only if the player does not make the higher level A team. If the player makes that team, the \$100 will be applied to the new registration fees required by the move to the next level.
3. Acknowledge in writing that the final 'try-out score' of the player and all players is confidential data that will not be shared with the parent or player in any detail. They will be notified whether or not they met the requirement of being in the 'top-10' try-out or not. They will not be provided the specific 'ranking' of their player's, or other players, try-out scores.

Finally, all move-up requests under A, B, C, and D above are all subject to validation that team configuration requirements noted within each section are adhered to. It is acknowledged by all parties that given the smaller size of our association, and the fact that players are eligible to register for their appropriate age level up to and thru tryouts, any move-ups approved in A, B, C, or D above that occur prior to try-outs are conditional upon completion of tryouts and verification of team configuration requirements and final approval of the Booster Board. After the try-out process is completed, assuming the team configurations are adhered to, the Booster Board shall not withhold approval of confirmation of previously conditional approved move-ups. Should team configurations be negatively affected, the Booster Board and Coaches Board will confirm the appropriate individuals for move-ups in order noted within A, B, C, and D above.

#### **Determination of Levels in ADM Program (Formerly Mites, 8-U, Mini-Mites, I-Mites)**

For beginner players, skating ability is the number one factor that differentiates one player from the next. OYHA follows USA Hockey guidelines for the ADM (American Development Model) that places young players into groups with like skill players regardless of age in an overall ADM group. The groups will be Red, White, and Blue in order of skill progression, and players will be placed in the appropriate group after an early season determination is made by the ADM coordinator and Coaches Board IP director. Players will automatically move levels throughout the year as they advance their skating ability and overall skills. Girl players at the 8 yearold level (formerly 8U) are girl players typically in 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, and they will be mixed into the ADM Red, White, & Blue groups for most sessions, but will have occasional girls only events with other District 3 Associations.

#### **Move Down Requests**

The OYHA does not have the authority to approve "move down" requests but will assist individuals making a move down request by petitioning District 3 and Minnesota Hockey for such a request, provided such move down is preliminarily approved by the Booster Board and based on the individual player's circumstances or OYHA's needs. Players seeking a move down must provide a written request to "move down" to the Booster Board President, highlighting the rationale for the request.