



RIVER LAKES STARS WAIVER POLICY

It is River Lakes Stars Hockey Association's policy that players should play on teams as defined by Minnesota Hockey age groups and classifications. While some players may be more advanced at a particular age than others, the RLSHA agrees with the USA Hockey that overall development of the player emotionally and physically is best served by having him or her progress normally through age levels and team classifications. The RLSHA does recognize exceptions could arise beyond the normal scope of this policy.

1. **Peer Waiver:** a waiver requested to keep a skater with his grade in school
2. **Numbers:** Players are needed at an older level to complete a team
3. **Exceptional player:** *In rare instances*, a player cannot find comparable competition at his or her age level and the move would not adversely affect the numbers of either team involved.

If one of the preceding exceptions occurs, than the following process will be implemented:

1. Waiver requests must be filled out completely and turned into the Registrar or ACE coordinator prior to September 1.
2. Mites to Squirt waivers that are granted will result in the player moving up to the lowest level of Squirt team. (All other exceptional player waivers that are granted will give the player the opportunity to try-out for any team that is offered at the Pee Wee or Bantam level – A, B, or C)
3. All players will begin the season skating with their age-eligible team until notified of their pending waiver request.
4. Waivers will be discussed at the September Player Development Committee meeting and forwarded to the RLS Board for approval.
5. Once players are approved for a play-up waiver they will be notified by the ACE coordinator and RLS Board prior to the tryout process beginning.
6. A player's acceptance to the team will be based on PDC determination that his or her maturity and abilities to succeed at that level.
7. Careful consideration will be given to insure that each player matches the appropriate skill and maturity levels for maximum development, safety and enjoyment of the game.

8. The Parents/Guardians will be responsible for any increase in dues or fundraising responsibilities required as a part of their player joining the team.

Peer Waivers:

RLSHA enforces a policy of placing all participating skaters in the level of play associated with their age/birth date. However, RLSHA also supports giving players the opportunity to play with their “peer grade” when appropriate. This policy affects skaters who are young relative to their grade in school, as follows:

Player not eligible (per birth date) for:	But entering
Squirts/U-10 Girls	4 th Grade
Pee Wees/U-12 Girls	6 th Grade
Bantams/U-14 Girls	8 th Grade

These players will have the opportunity to request a Peer Waiver. All waivers will need to be completed and sent to the registrar or ACE coordinator prior to September 1. The player will then try out for that level and be assigned to a team. Additionally, a skater electing to move up via peer group status will only be allowed 2 years at each level for the Squirt/U10 level and the Pee wee/U12 level. In other words, this is a one time decision and that skater will remain with their peer group until completing the Pee wee/U12 level and entering the Bantam/U14 level. Once the skater has entered the Bantam/U14 level, he or she may petition to play the potential third year (10th grade) if desired.