POLICY: Player Movement and Acceleration

DATE: March 9 2021

PURPOSE: To establish a policy for the movement of players registered in one division who may wish to play in another division.

1. PLAYING BELOW AGE APPROPRIATE LEVEL (OVERAGE) Player movement below the child’s own age appropriate division is considered to be an overage application. A letter must be submitted to WMHA for this request and authorized by the executive. If approved at the WMHA level, it will then be forwarded for league approval and Hockey Alberta approval. Any player who wishes to remove themselves from one team and join another will be required to make such a request in writing to the WMHA executive.

2. PLAYING ABOVE AGE APPROPRIATE LEVEL (UNDERAGE) Player movement above the child’s age appropriate division will only be considered based on “EXCEPTIONAL HOCKEY DEVELOPMENT”. A parent applying for player movement on this basis must submit a letter and a coach’s recommendation in support of this application 2 WEEKS PRIOR TO EVALUATIONS. A player must pay the league fees in the division they are playing. All player movement will be evaluated on a case by case basis by the player movement committee. All paperwork needs to be submitted to the division director as well as responsible VP for that division.

3. The Player Movement Committee is responsible for reviewing all applications for player movement and will report their recommendations for player movement to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is responsible for the final decision on all player movements.

4. Prior to approval of any player movement the Player Movement Committee will review the number of players in each division and the effect any player movement may have on the number of teams already established or proposed to be established in each division.

5. The Player Movement Committee may recommend the movement of players to a higher division subject to the following conditions:

1. From U7 to U9 for players who appear to be mature enough and have skating and technical skills judged to be in the top 10 of the players selected for the highest level team in the higher division. We are looking to have a maximum of 60 players in the U9 program, open positions will be filled based on the evaluation process for underaged players.
2. From U9 to U11, U11 to U13, U13 to U15 or U15 to U18 for players who appear to be mature enough and have technical skills judged to be in the top 10 of the players selected for the highest level team in the higher division. **THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE TRAC TEAMS THEY ARE UNDER THE HOCKEY ALBERTA PLAYER MOVEMENT** **MODEL.**
3. Please remember that anytime a player is moving up they will be playing against older and higher skilled players but also a more physical style of play. This is especially true when coming from U11 to U13 and more so U13 to U15 where full body contact becomes part of the game. The player movement committee will be taking this into account when coming to a decision.
4. For a goaltender who may not meet the above criteria, but where there are more than two goaltenders per team in the lower division and less than two goaltenders per team in the higher division and the movement of a goaltender to a higher division would facilitate playing time for goaltenders in the lower division and the availability of goaltenders in the higher division.
5. Any player that does not meet the above requirements would have the option to stay at the older age group and play on the lowest tiered team or move back to their appropriate age group.

6. Once the selection of the top 10 has been completed and the player has met the above requirements on the ice. The parents and player will be required to meet with the player movement committee and player development committee. After all the information has been reviewed the committee would vote for the player movement and make the recommendation to the executive committee.

PLAYER MOVEMENT AS A RESULT OF CONFLICT In the event the request is being made as a result of a conflict, the following steps must be taken.

1. Conflict resolution between player/parent and team.

2. If unresolved, then written request to be released must be forwarded to the division director.

3. The division director will then assist in any clarification or resolution of the request ensuring that both sides of the issue have documented their concerns.

4. The division director will then forward all documentation to the executive.

5. All parties involved will meet with the executive to attempt resolution of the conflict. It will be decided if the conflict can be resolved or if the player will be released from the current team.

6. After the player is released the executive will then meet with the evaluation coordinator to decide player placement based on his/her evaluation.

7. Once placement is decided the player will be carded with the new team.

8. Player compensation, fundraising money and budget changes for the team losing the player will be addressed on an individual basis.

9. Hockey Alberta has a deadline for carding players, which is January 10th. All requests to be released must be completed before the deadline.

The Executive of Whitecourt Minor Hockey Association has the final decision in all matters related to the movement of players. Any decision made can be appealed as per WMH appeal policy.