

DCYH **Boys** Move up and Play Down Policy

Purpose:

To provide clear guidance to DCYH members of the move up policy and play down policy in accordance with recommendations by USA Hockey and Minnesota Hockey.

Team Composition:

Ideal team make up will follow USA Hockey's American Development model as a guide: refer to player development model.

- o Bantam: 15 skaters and 2 goalies
- o Pee wee: 12-14 skaters and 2 goalies
- o Squirts: 10-12 skaters and 1 goalie
- o Mites/8U: 9-12 skaters with no full-time goalie

Any player/goalie that moved up for the 2022-2023 season will stay up in their current level of play (will not be moved down)

Move up Policy:

DCYH will **not** accept applications to voluntarily move up given DCYH offers multiple levels of play for each boys age group.

See MN Hockey website for current year's youth age classification. Starting with the 2020-2021 season, age classification moved to June 1, XXXX – May 31, XXXX

Grade Level Exception:

To allow players to stay with their grade peers, those players falling outside the age requirements may move up to stay with his/her grade.

Low Team Numbers Exception:

A player move up will be considered should a level require additional player(s) to complete a minimum full team roster as indicated on team size above.

The decision to allow a player to move up will be made by the HOC in coordination with the players' parents, try out evaluators and coaches at the levels involved.

Factors considered are listed in order of influence:

1. The best interests of the DCYH organization.
 - How does moving the player up or down affect the number of players in each age group?

- This factor could allow a player to move up if there is a shortage of numbers at that level. Numbers could also just as easily keep a player with their age level.
2. The decision is in the best interests of the player.
- Is the player not being challenged at the current level?
 - Is the player mature enough physically to compete with and mentally to fraternize with older players?
 - Is the player an advanced caliber player?

Supermite Move-ups:

- Should Squirt team sizes be such that Supermites (8u) are necessary to fulfill minimum Squirt team sizes as indicated on team size above. A special Supermites (8u) move up tryout/evaluation will be conducted before the Squirt tryouts. This will allow for those Supermites (8U) selected to tryout with the age eligible Squirts and be placed at their appropriate level of play.
- If a player is selected for a Squirt team, they will remain a Squirt the next season.

High School tryouts:

- A player that was placed on a DCYH team can try out for their respected high school team as they wish.
- To maintain their position on their DCYH team during the high school tryout process, the player must remain an active member of their youth team. This includes attending on-ice practices, dry land training, team meetings, scrimmages, and games.
- Any final decision on returning player placement will be reviewed/approved by the DCYH Oversight Committee and the DOH.

Move Down Policy:

DCYH follows Minnesota Hockey's "Play Down Request" policy

- In special circumstances, an athlete with disabilities may be granted permission to play down
- A parent/guardian must initiate the request in writing to the DCYH Director of Hockey
- The request must include a written statement from a licensed medical provider that includes the following: Written description of the disability which include opinion of risks to player should they participate at his/her proper age division,

written opinion statement that player would have no abnormal risks associated with participating in a contact sport

- A Document stating player birth date, current height, and current weight
- Any approved play-down request would require the player to participate at the lowest competitive level
- If approved by DCYH Director of Hockey/Hockey Oversight Committee, the request and all hard copy documentation would then be sent to District 9 Director for approval.
- If approved by District 9, documentation would then be sent to USA Hockey Minnesota District Registrar for final approval.