

Level of Play and Move-Up Policy

All participants will be required to register at the appropriate age level as outlined by MN Hockey birthdate guidelines. Generally, NHA discourages move-ups and supports USA Hockey and MN Hockey development program encouraging players to play with their peers. NHA's move-up policy is designed to support this belief.

Players must indicate their interest to move-up during registration. Once a player receives approval to move-up, the player will be charged for the additional move-up registration fees by invoice.

Grade Level Exception: MN Hockey policy states that any player with a summer birthdate (June 1st – August 31st) that requests to move-up so they will play with their school grade level must be approved by the association.

NHA will authorize all grade-level move-ups provided that:

- The player has a birthday in June, July or August following the cutoff date for that level
- Be in the grade on par with the older age level
- Receive approval from the NHA registrar

PLAYERS WHO ARE NOT ELIGIBLE PER BIRTHDATE	BUT ARE ENTERING
Mini Mite/U6	Minimum age must be met – no exceptions
Sr. Mite/U8	2 nd grade
Squirt/U10	4 th grade
Peewee/U12	6 th grade
Bantam/U15	8 th grade

The “Grade Level Exception” is good for one season and the player must request to play with their grade level at each yearly registration.

Level Move-Up Request: All other move-up requests are to be handled on a case-by-case basis after review by the Hockey Operations Committee. The decision will be communicated to the family and if allowed, the player will skate with the move-up level through the initial start of the season practices and through tryouts. The move-up request player must also participate in tryouts at their appropriate level during the process.

The move-up request player will be evaluated against the players at the move-up level through the initial practices and tryout session and will include observations of the maturity level of the player. The final determination for move-up will be made by the Hockey Operations Committee. If the move-up candidate is the child of a person on the Hockey Operations Committee, they will not be able to vote or decide on the move-up and will be removed from the process.

The criteria used to determine whether the player move-up is approved will be:

- The player must possess the social and emotional maturity to integrate into the move-up level
- The player must be able to safely compete at the move-up level – physical size and type of play will be considered.

The “Level Move-Up Request” is good for one season and the player must demonstrate the above criteria each season to move up levels each year.

Exceptions to these guidelines can be made when a move will be beneficial to both the NHA and the player as determined by the Hockey Operations Committee. Circumstances considered for exceptions will include player numbers at both the move-up level and the level the player would be leaving. The Hockey Operations Committee may also make special considerations for move-up requests from Sr. Mites to Squirts as there is not as large of a discrepancy in player ability and physicality between those levels.