

Early Advancement Request Form

Use this form to request permission for a player to participate one age classification above the player's normal age-eligible level. Submission of this form does not guarantee approval or placement at the requested level.

PLAYER AND FAMILY INFORMATION

Player Name:	Player Birthdate:
Normal Age-Eligible Level:	Requested Older Level:
School Grade:	2026-27 USA Hockey Number:
Parent/Guardian Name:	Phone / Email:

BASIS FOR REQUEST

Written reason for the request:

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HOCKEY OPERATIONS REVIEW

Date Request Received:	Received by Regular Registration Deadline: ☐ Yes ☐ No
Approved to Enter Evaluation Process: ☐ Yes ☐ No	Grade-Level Exception / Tracking Form Required: ☐ Yes ☐ No
Final Decision: ☐ Approved at Older Level ☐ Return to Age-Eligible Level	Decision Date:

Hockey Operations Director Signature: _____ Date: _____

Early Advancement Request Form

EARLY ADVANCEMENT WITHIN MAHA - HANDBOOK POLICY

The Early Advancement Policy applies when a player requests permission to participate one age classification above the player's normal age-eligible level. Early advancement is an exception to MAHA's normal placement structure and is not guaranteed.

Request Requirements

- A parent or guardian must submit a written request to the Hockey Operations Director no later than the regular MAHA registration deadline.
- A late-registration deadline does not extend the deadline for submitting an early-advancement request.
- Requests received after the regular registration deadline will not ordinarily be considered unless Hockey Operations recognizes exceptional circumstances.

A player may be considered for early advancement when one or more of the following conditions apply:

1. Evaluation results demonstrate that the player is projected to perform within the top half of the highest-level team at the requested age classification, considering physical ability, hockey skill, and maturity;
2. Additional players are needed at the older age level to create appropriately sized and competitively viable teams; or
3. The request is based on the player's school grade and is permitted by applicable Minnesota Hockey and District 9 policies.

The Hockey Operations Director may also consider what is best for the overall development, safety, and competitive experience of the players involved. A grade-level exception that is automatic under the applicable governing-body rules must still be documented through the required waiver or tracking form.

Evaluation Process

Except when a governing-body grade-level rule provides otherwise, an approved player must participate in at least the first two evaluation sessions at both:

- The player's normal age-eligible level; and
- The requested older age level.

Participation at both levels allows evaluators to compare the player with age-eligible peers and players at the requested level. After the initial sessions:

1. A player who is not projected within the top half of the highest-level team at the requested age classification will return to the normal age-eligible placement process.
2. A player initially projected within the top half of the highest-level team may continue through the placement process at the requested level.
3. A player who does not remain within the qualifying range after the complete evaluation process will return to the normal age-eligible level.
4. A player approved for advancement must demonstrate the physical ability, hockey maturity, emotional readiness, and safety awareness necessary to participate at the older level.

Final decisions are made by the Hockey Operations Director with input from placement evaluators and the Hockey Development Committee. A request involving a girl participating in a youth classification must also be reviewed under current Minnesota Hockey, District 9, and MAHA requirements.

Parent/Guardian and Player Acknowledgment

By signing below, we confirm that we have read the Early Advancement Policy, understand that participation in the evaluation process does not guarantee advancement, and agree to follow the placement and decision process described above.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Player Signature: _____

Date: _____

This form applies to early advancement within MAHA. High school hockey tryout and return-to-MAHA situations are governed by a separate handbook policy.