



Cloquet Amateur Hockey Association

Move-Up Policy

Effective Date: September 1, 2025 *(to be reviewed annually)*

Approved By: Cloquet Amateur Hockey Association (CAHA) Board of Directors

I. Purpose

To provide a clear and consistent framework for evaluating and approving requests for youth hockey players to "move up" and play at a higher participation level than their designated birth-year group. This policy ensures player safety, development, team balance, and organizational integrity.

II. Scope

This policy applies to all players, parents/guardians participating in the Cloquet hockey program.

III. Registration

Players must register at their age-appropriate (or grade appropriate if eligible as outlined below) participation level for the upcoming season. Minnesota Hockey guidelines dictate age appropriate levels of play and can be found here; Minnesota Hockey [Age Charts & Participation Levels](#). If a player is moved up, the player is responsible for the registration fee at the level he/she is playing.

IV. Eligibility

Players may be considered for movement to the next higher participation level under the following conditions:

1. **Skill Level:** The player demonstrates exceptional ability and dominance at their current age level and can compete safely and effectively at the higher level.
2. **Physical and Emotional Readiness:** The player shows sufficient size, strength, maturity, and emotional resilience to safely engage with older players.
3. **Developmental Benefit:** Moving up would provide a clear developmental benefit for the player that cannot be achieved at their current level.
4. **Grade Level Move-ups:** Players shall be allowed to move-up to play with those in their grade without regard to their birthdate. Such players are not considered an early move-up that would be subject to the remainder of this policy, including the "Lumberjack Rule" set forth below.

V. Move-Up Request Procedure:

To be considered for an early move-up, the following procedure must be followed.

1. Written Request:

- A written request for early move-up evaluation must be submitted to CAHA Coach and Player Development by a player's current age-level coordinator no later than June 30 each year. If the player's current age-level coordinator is their parent, the request must come from a non-parent coach at the player's current participation level.
- Parent requests will not be considered.
- Unless circumstances dictate otherwise, mite to squirt early move-up requests from Esko and Carlton Hockey Associations must be received in writing from their respective Board Presidents no later than June 30 each year to allow sufficient time for review. Such requests will be evaluated using the procedures set forth in this policy.

2. Evaluation:

- Upon receipt of a timely written request for early move-up evaluation, CPD shall promptly conduct an initial review of the request and consult with the level

coordinator to determine compliance with eligibility requirements. *A request may be denied or moved forward at this point at the discretion of CPD.*

- If CPD determines additional evaluation is warranted, CPD and the applicable level coordinators will evaluate level needs at both the age-appropriate participation level and the level the player would move up to. *A request may be denied or moved forward at this point at the discretion of CPD.*
- If the request moves forward, CPD will collect feedback from current and prospective coaches of the player.
- Players may be required to participate in on-ice evaluations to assess readiness.
- Upon receipt of coach feedback and conclusion of any on-ice assessments, CPD will review the request and either approve or deny the request.

3. Approval/Denial:

- Within 24 hours of a move-up decision, CPD will notify the player's family and the CAHA Board of Directors.
- If a player is approved for an early move-up by Coach and Player Development, that player must register and try out for the level of play in which he has been moved to.
- If a request for early move-up is denied, that decision is final unless appealed as set forth in the Appeals section.

VI. Tryout/Placement Policy:

"Lumberjack Rule": If a player is approved for an early move-up by CPD, they must rank in the top 5 skaters or as the top goaltender during the older participation level tryouts in order to be considered for the "A" team.

If the player does not measure in the top 5 skaters or top goalie, the player can elect to return to their age-appropriate participation level or accept placement on a team at the lowest competitive level for the level they moved up to.

VII. Limitations:

- **One-Year Rule:** Players may not move up more than one age group (e.g., a U10 player may try out for U12 but not U14). CPD can review each request on a case-by-case basis and divert/decide what is in the best interest for the player and the association.

- **Team Viability:** Players may not move up if doing so would prevent their birth-year team from fielding a full and competitive roster.

VIII. Appeal:

- Families may appeal a move-up determination issued by CPD to the CAHA Board of Directors.
- Appeals must be submitted to the Board President in writing within 3 days of receiving notice of the decision of CPD.
- Upon receipt of a timely appeal, the CAHA Board of Directors shall place the appeal on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled Board meeting and shall review the decision of CPD. After the appeal is heard, the Board may either affirm/reverse the decision of CPD.

****Special Circumstances:** The Board reserves the right to deviate from this policy to address unique player development needs (e.g., safety concerns, elite talent). All such deviations must be documented and approved by the Board.

This policy was presented to and approved by the CAHA Board of Directors on September 21, 2025, at its regular meeting. This policy will be reviewed annually prior to registration opening.

By: _____
Jeff Leno
President, CAHA Board of Directors

Date: 9-30-25