



# Hamden Youth Hockey Association

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## Play Up Policy

It is the policy of the Hamden Youth Hockey Association (HYHA) that players will play and be registered in their age brackets as set forth by USA Hockey rules. However, HYHA hockey recognizes it can be appropriate and even beneficial to a participant's development for him or her to play-up to the next age classification. A fine balance needs to be struck, however, to avoid placing the desire of a participant above the legitimate opportunity for that participant to be successful in an older age classification. To that end individual requests to play up shall be considered by the HYHA Board of Directors and reviewed on a case by case basis.

The HYHA Board of Directors, its coaches & other board appointed persons will evaluate each request. Criteria for allowing a person to play-up will be based on the evaluation of the participant's skill and ability to contribute to the older team, the participant's maturity level compared to the older team's participants, physical size and number of players at each level. The move up participant should be projected to be among the top participants on the move up team. If the participant is not projected to be one of the top participants on the team, then it is highly questionable whether the move up is truly in the best interest of that participant. Allowing participants to move from a non-checking division to a checking division represents the greatest risk and will receive the greatest scrutiny.

The HYHA Board of Directors will make the final decision on allowing a participant to play-up based on the recommendations of its coaches & other board appointed persons.

**IMPORTANT:** there is an increased risk of injury for participants playing outside of their designated age classification. However, USA Hockey allows the movement in certain situations if specific guidelines are followed. You should carefully consider the increased risks involved and follow the guidelines below when making a request to move a participant into an older age classification.



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## Play Up Guidelines

- A participant will not be permitted to move up more than one year in age, except in rare and specific cases. For example, a first year Squirt cannot be moved to the PeeWee level. A second year Squirt may advance to PeeWee. This will apply at Mite, Squirt, PeeWee & Bantam levels.
- Requests to play up must be submitted by the players legal guardian(s) and must be submitted at least 14 days prior to the try-outs.
- A player requesting an opportunity to play-up must try-out, and register, for their actual age level team, and for the higher level team they wish to play up on. Failure to do this may result in a player not being registered for either team.
- Per Connecticut Hockey Conference Rules, **once a player has participated on a team at a higher USA Hockey age level, the player is not permitted to play for a team at his actual USA Hockey age level for the remainder of the season** (Play-up; stay up rule).
- If a play up request is granted, the player's legal guardian must complete the HYHA Play Up Acknowledgement and Liability Waiver acknowledging the risks associated with playing outside of a participant's proper age classification.



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### HYHA Play Up Acknowledgement and Liability Waiver

Name of Player:	
Birth Date:	
USA Hockey Age Level:	
Desired Age Level:	

As the legal guardian(s) of the player shown above, request that he/she be permitted to play-up to the next age division as defined by USA Hockey. I have read and understand the HYHA Play-Up Policy and agree to all the terms, conditions and eligibility requirements that apply.

I understand that if my child is allowed to play-up to the next age division as defined by USA Hockey, that per Connecticut Hockey Conference Rules, he will not be allowed to play back down in his actual age division as defined by USA Hockey for the remainder of the season.

I understand that HYHA recommends that players stay in the age groupings defined by USA Hockey as appropriate for their birth year. I understand and appreciate that in playing up, the risk of injury may be greater and that the risk of injury from hockey is significant, including the potential for permanent paralysis and death, and while particular rules and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious injury does exist.

By my child's participation, I knowingly assume all such risks, both known and unknown. Further, I agree to indemnify and hold HYHA, its officers, Connecticut Hockey Conference and USA Hockey, Inc., harmless from any and all liability, loss, expense, attorney's fees, or claims for injury or damages caused as a result of my request.

Legal Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Guardian Name (Print): \_\_\_\_\_