

INITIATION PLAYER MOVEMENT POLICY

Purpose

The intent of the Initiation Hockey Program (Under-6 through Under-9) structure is to ensure that players of each age group (5, 6, 7 and 8 year olds) receive basic hockey development skills appropriate to their age level. Within this structure is the provision to allow for limited movement of players up, as deemed appropriate by LMHA, in consultation with coaches and parents, based on skill level, and maturity. Player age is the primary determinant of placement, with only very strong players being approved to move.

The purpose of the Initiation Player Movement Policy (IPMP) is to ensure that each player and division in LMHA is provided with the best environment for hockey development possible. In situations where one player's hockey development and skills are deemed to be accelerated from that of their age group, the IPMP will be used to determine whether player movement into the age group above may be an appropriate solution to ensure the best development for the individual player.

Considerations

All considerations for player movement will take into account the best interest of the player in question. Furthermore, and equally as important, considerations will be given to the best interests of any and all other players affected by such movement. In any of the initiation divisions, there may be a maximum of 1 player per division each year that are approved to play in the next age group for the season as a result of the Initiation Player Movement Policy.

Criteria

The criteria will be used to determine the best placement for any player requesting movement will include;

1. Hockey Skills
2. Social/Emotional Adaptability

A player must possess outstanding development levels in each of the noted areas if they are to be considered for player movement into an older age group. LMHA will not approve any requests for player movement unless all criteria are met.

Process

The process that will be used to determine whether the criteria for player movement has been met is as follows:

1. **Application**
All families must submit an application for Initiation Player Movement. The application will be available for download off the LMHA website and must be emailed to the VP of Administration and cc'd to the C Division Director and appropriate Division Manager prior to 11:30pm August 31st of the year in question. Applications received after August 31st will not be considered. Applications must be re-submitted each season. This request will include a non-refundable \$200 assessment fee payable to Langley Minor Hockey Association.
2. **Letter of Reference**
Every application must be accompanied by a letter of reference from a credible source pertaining to the players' ability to handle moving into an older age group to play hockey. Appropriate references can include, but are not limited to, previous Minor Hockey Coach, Skill Development Coach etc.
3. **Processing**
Each application will be processed using a two-stage system. Stage one consists of the LMHA Board approving the application and stage two consists of the actual evaluation of the player requesting movement.

STAGE ONE – Application Approval

- Once an application for player movement has been received, a confirmation email will be sent out to the family within 48 hours, outlining how the process will proceed.
- A sub-committee made up of three board members will review the application and confirm references. The sub-committee may also refer back to previous year evaluations and coach surveys to gather more information. Determining the player's ability to socially handle moving up an age group will be important in this phase of process.
- The sub-committee will then determine if the applicant is an appropriate candidate for Initiation Player Movement and either approve the application to stage 2 of the evaluation or to deny the application, thus having the player remain in their current division.

STAGE TWO – Evaluation

- If approved for evaluation, the Division Manager will ensure that the player requesting movement is scheduled to be evaluated by both the Division they are registered in, and the higher division they are applying to be moved into. The player will skate in a practice group at the current level that the player is registered to.

- Once all the evaluation sessions are complete the Initiation Player Movement sub-committee will then review the results of the applicant's evaluations.
- In order to be approved for player movement the applicant must evaluate at the top of the Division they are applying to go in to. The ranking of the top numbers will be outlined as the equivalent number to the number of teams in that division i.e. if the player is in U8 and is requesting to play in U9 and there are 7 teams in U9, the player must rank in the top 7 in order to move up; if the player is in U7 and is requesting to play in U8 and there are 6 teams in U8, the player must rank in the top 6 and so on. This ensures that the applicant will be among the top players on the team within the division they are applying to play in.
- If there is a tie in the player evaluations the tie will be broken in favour of the applicant.
- If the applicant does not evaluate in the top of the older age group then they will be put back into their appropriate year for the draft.

4. Conclusion

The decision to allow or disallow player movement is FINAL. This procedure only acts as a one (1) year release and must be repeated in any future years up to, but not including, U9. Any contact with evaluation team will void the application. PCAHA will have the final approval on any and all player movements.

