

# INITIATION PLAYER MOVEMENT POLICY

## **Purpose:**

The intent of the Initiation Hockey Program (H1 through H4) 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 following criteria will be used in determining the best placement for the players requesting movement:

1. Hockey Skill
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 outlined below will be used to determine whether the criteria for player movement has been met.

**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 Vice President 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 resubmitted 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 be 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 LMHA Executive approving the application and Stage two consists of the actual evaluation of the player.

**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 executive members, including LMHA's Director of Player and Coach Development, 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.

#### Phase Two – Evaluations

- If approved for evaluation, the Initiation Coordinator 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. ie. The ranking of the top numbers would be outlined as the equivalent number to the number of teams in that higher division. i.e. if the player is in H3 and is requesting to play in H4 and there are 7 teams in H4, the player must rank in the top 7 in order to move up; if the player is in H2 and is requesting to play in H3 and there are 6 teams in H3 teams they 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, H4. Any contact with evaluation team will void the application. PCAHA will have the final approval on any and all player movements.