Player Movement Guideline (2020)

**West Kelowna Minor Hockey Association (WKMHA)**

This guideline pertains to WKMHA players seeking to play hockey at a higher or lower Division rather than their age group. Our player movement guideline is in addition to OMAHA, BC Hockey and Hockey Canada rules and regulations applicable to player movements.

All decisions to allow players to attend tryouts or evaluations in a higher or lower age category are made by the WKMHA Executive. Past and/or current coaches may be asked to provide input for additional skills and maturity level.

***U7 to U9***

1. There will be no requests accepted for transfers from the U7 Division to U9 Division because of the age and maturity level of the player.

***Novice to Atom***

1. Movement can be based on skill level. WKMHA requires the player to be within the top 5 players as part of evaluations at the upper age category to be moved up.
2. Movement up can be based on roster size; WKMHA attempts to balance roster sizes so all teams can be equally successful. If the higher division is requiring more players than enrolled, then the move up process may be modified by the Executive on a case-by-case basis.
3. Movement can be based on positions to ensure a team has the appropriate number of skilled players in all positions. WKMHA also reserves the right to ask player(s) to move to a division higher, based on team composition requirements. For example, a shortage of goaltenders at one level, with an excess at the level below.
4. Player movement is not to be interpreted as strengthening teams at a level by excluding weaker players. Allowing for player movement is intended to permit WKMHA flexibility to move strong players up a level and weaker player down a level, for the benefit of the player.
5. All-star or select teams of any kind are strictly prohibited.
6. WKMHA strongly encourages players to play at their age-appropriate level, noting that (i) being able to play with their friends is significant inducement to players remaining interested in the game, and (ii) specific skills in both individual play and team play are taught at each level. Missing a level means the loss of graduated development time to develop those specific skills.
7. It is recognized that for an exceptional player, movement up may be desired. However, it is noted that while on-ice skills may be advanced, off-ice attributes, such as the player’s emotional and interpersonal skills, also need time to develop. The decision to move a player up should be based on the assessment of both on-ice skills and off-ice attributes.

***For Recreational Hockey***

1. WKMHA strongly encourages players to play at the age- appropriate level, noting that specific skills in both individual play and team play are taught at each level. Missing a level means the loss of graduated development time to develop those specific skills. It is also noted that learning with one’s peers may be preferred, particularly for the older players who want to play with their friends. For these reasons, movement down is discouraged, unless absolutely necessary.
2. Movement can be based on positions to ensure a team has the appropriate number of skilled players in all positions. WKMHA also reserves the right to ask player(s) to move to a division higher, based on team composition requirements. For example, a shortage of goaltenders at one level, with an excess at the level below.
3. Movement up can be based on roster size; WKMHA attempts to balance roster sizes so all teams can be equally successful.
4. Movement up can be based on a family request to move a sibling up an age category to play with an older sibling. In rare occasions, movement up can also be based on a family request for a special circumstance where travel requirements prevent a player from participating without support from a relative or neighbor.
5. We do not move players up to play with friends or to play for a specific coach.

***U13 Division to U15 Division***

1. There will be no requests accepted for transfers from the U13 Division to U15 Division because of the body checking aspect of the game. WKMHA reserves the right to ask player(s) to move to a division higher, based on team composition requirements.

***Procedure:***

1. A written request for movement, signed by parent or guardian, along with a recommendation letter from the players most recent coach, addressed to the President or designate must be made five days after the opening of registration. Such a request must outline in detail specific reasons for this player movement.
2. Upon receipt of the written request for player movement WKMHA will acknowledge receiving the request in writing within two days.
3. Applicants will take part in the evaluations of the higher division that they are wanting to move up to prior to WKMHA issuing written approval to be evaluated by OMAHA and BCHL for the chance to have the player move up. The player movement fee will be a non-refundable $200 fee per player, payable to WKMHA. If the player does move up to the higher division $100 of the fee will be applied to the tryout fee for that division. Only two players determined by the evaluator will receive written permission to move forward with the movement process.
4. WKMHA will communicate the recommendations to the parent/player within seven days after the on-ice evaluation.
5. The decision by WMHA Executive to allow or disallow player movement is final.

***Criteria:***

Criteria for allowing a player to play hockey in a higher Division is based on the evaluation of the player, both on-ice skills and off-ice. The player MUST exhibit significant advanced skills and abilities to play at a higher level. Skating ability, skill maturity, player maturity, and player safety will be taken into consideration. The player in question must be ranked in the top 5 players on the team he is trying out for, as well as the team at his own age group. If the player is not projected to be a dominant player on the older team, then it is highly questionable whether playing up is truly in the best interest of that player or team, but this decision it ultimately up to the WKMHA Executive.