

SAHA Development Committee's Guidelines for Player Development, Team Totals, Boys Request to Move Up, and High School age players.

The purpose of the following guidelines and rules will be to ensure that in the very rare instances where a player's skill level and motivation dictate that a "move-up" to the next level of hockey is a possibility, there will be a consistent process through which they will have to follow. It is also understood that other reasons for potential move-ups may exist, they will be handled according to the following guidelines as well. No player will be officially moved up to another level until the Development Committee thoroughly reviews both player participation numbers at each of the effected levels, and the written petition stating the reasons for the potential player relocation. Petitions received for a move-up request will be reviewed following registration. If a petition is denied, the parents of the petitioning player can make one appeal to the SAHA board. Consideration will be given to place family members such as siblings, of the same age group and/or gender, on the same team, if requested by the parents. However, it will be required that multiple family players be placed on the level team of the child scoring the lowest evaluation.

Note: Boys will not be allowed to play on any Girl U-level teams.

Minimum and Maximum Player Totals & Player Moves: Ref: Player Developmental Schedule, Squirt/Peewee/Bantam Team Totals.

The Development Committee also recommends "minimum" and "maximum" player totals be established for all teams, at each level, prior to evaluations. Player totals will be determined at the conclusion of the designated "late registration" date prior to evaluations. See; Player Developmental Schedule, and Squirt/Peewee/Bantam Totals.

Note: When possible, SAHA will not schedule league games within the DAHA (Duluth Amateur Hockey Association) organized league until a final team count has been established. (DAHA will be asked to wait until SAHA team totals are determined).

The guideline for maximum number of skaters per team, not including goalies, is 15. Each team can carry up to two goalies for a team total of 17 players. The guideline for minimum number of skaters per team is 10 skaters and 1 goalie for a team total of 11 for Squirts and lower groups, and 12 (w/goalie) for Peewee levels and above (See SAHA team number guidelines).

If after registration player total counts require maximum guideline levels to be exceeded, attempts will be made to create additional teams. One consideration to enable this will be player movement from one level to another higher level. If this cannot be accomplished, then B level teams will be assigned the "extra player(s)". These players will be distributed as evenly as possible between the B teams. Note: If the A-level team is below the maximum number of skaters (15), excluding goalies, they will be required to adjust "up" to 15 skaters. This can occur up until the USA Hockey Registration Forms are submitted by SAHA in December.

If a potential goalie or skater shortage occurs, whether at the Squirt, Peewee, or Bantam age level, the Development Committee may approach players and ask them to move into

the higher level. Players whose petitions have been accepted by the Development Committee will be approached first. If there are no petitioning players, this will be done by first asking the oldest player, then the next oldest, and so on. This would only occur on a player/family volunteer basis. No player will be forced to move up into a higher level of play.

A-level coaches will be informed by the Development Committee of player registration totals prior to the first evaluation session. A-level coaches can then recommend their A-team totals. However, the Development Committee may adjust team totals due to player shortages or overages. A-level player totals and/or adjustments may be made prior to or after the completion of A-level evaluations.

HIGH SCHOOL AGE

It will be at the discretion of the Bantam "A" coach to hold a position open to Bantam "A" player/s trying out for the High School team if Bantam evaluations occur prior to HS tryouts. Bantam age player/s who make the High School team but wish to return to the Bantam level, must notify the Development Committee no later than 72 hours after the first High School roster is posted. Players returning after this 72 hour period will be placed on a B level team.

Player Movement Request "Petition" Protocol Move-Up Continuation Process

The following criteria shall be reviewed by the Development Committee to determine if a player move-up "petition" request, submitted by the parent/s, is accepted or denied. A petition to move-up must be submitted to the Development Committee no later than the last "official" day of registration. (Any decision rendered by the Development Committee is considered final and may not be appealed). A letter will be submitted to the player/parents sent by the Chairman of the Development Committee informing them of acceptance or denial.

PROTOCOL FOR A MOVE-UP PETITION

- Petitioning parents are required to provide a brief explanation, in writing, as to why they believe their child should be skating at a higher age level.
- Petitioning player must be an incoming second year player at the SAHA level they are trying to move up from.
- The petitioning player must have been a registered participant within SAHA the previous year, and carries no outstanding financial debt to the Association.
- Petitioning player should obtain a letter of recommendation from previous year's Head Coach. Note: The previous year's Head Coach's opinion that the petitioning player has the skills necessary to potentially play at a higher level will be considered, but will not be the sole determining factor. The Head Coach's recommendation letter must be submitted to the Development Committee attached with the original petition to move-up request letter.
- Development Committee reviews the Registration Numbers.

- Development Committee will review the Mite Fill-In Schedule, and the Squirt/Peewee/Bantam team total reference sheet to assist in deciding the appropriate number of teams at each level.
- If an accepted petition wishes to withdraw the request, this must be done 72 hours before the first evaluation session of both the level they have petitioned into, and the level they want to return to.

Player “Move-Up” Continuation Process

Development Committee will inform Board members of all requests to move-up, i.e. “petitions”, and whether the petition has been accepted or denied. This information exchange must be accomplished prior to evaluations.

On acceptance, these processes will be followed:

- The Chairman of the Development Committee will notify the petitioning family, in writing, that the request to move-up was accepted (or denied), based on the previously mentioned criteria.
- If accepted, the petitioning player **MUST** report to all evaluation sessions at the level requesting to move up to. Missing an evaluation session due to any circumstance may place the child back down to the level requested to move from.
- The Development Committee shall make all attempts to select independent, non-biased, evaluators to participate in the evaluation process of all players evaluating at that level. These evaluators may be, but are not limited to, College or HS level coaching staff.
- The player will not be identified to the Evaluators.
- The petitioning player must have an evaluated score that would place them in the top three forwards, a score that would place them in the top two defensemen, or a score that would place them as the top goalie. This may alter the normal evaluation rating systems, but will be necessary in move-up situations.
- The Evaluation selection process will be final and positional placement will occur at all levels within that age grouping, i.e. “A”, “B-1” or “B-2”.
- After the first evaluation session at the higher level, the petitioning player cannot opt to move back to the level requested to move from.
- A petitioning player who has been selected to the Bantam “A” team (upon evaluation completion), will not be granted placement on Bantam “A” team if any positions are held open for returning HS age players. The petitioning player will be required to skate with the next Bantam level B team until HS evaluations are complete. If the Development Committee determines that the petitioning player still scores high enough according to the aforementioned 3-2-1 scoring scale, they could then join the Bantam A team if the maximum number guideline has not been exceeded.
- Successfully petitioned players are granted this exemption one time only. If in two years the player wants to petition to the next higher level they will have to go through the move-up process again.