



Richmond Jets Minor Hockey Association

PLAYER & GOALIE MOVEMENT POLICY

Introduction:

This policy pertains to RJMHA players seeking to play hockey at a higher or lower Division than their age group. This RJMHA player and Goalie Movement policy is in addition to PCAHA, BC Hockey and Hockey Canada rules and regulations applicable to player movements.

A. U7 & U9 Program:

1. The intent of the U7 and U9 program structure is to ensure that players of each age group receive basic hockey development skills appropriate to their age group or peers. Within this structure is the provision to allow for limited movement of players up or down as deemed appropriate by the RJMHA Director of Hockey, in consultation with the Division Manager, coaches and parents, based on skill level, and maturity. Player age is the primary determinant of placement, with only very strong or very weak players being moved.
2. Player movement is not to be interpreted as to permit the strengthening of teams at a particular level by excluding weaker players. Allowing for player movement is intended to permit RJMHA flexibility to move very strong players up a level and very weak players down a level, for the benefit of the player. It is not intended to allow the culling of age levels by skill to form homogenous skill groups.
3. All-star, rep or select teams of any kind are strictly prohibited.
4. Teams of one level shall not be allowed to move as a unit into a higher level.
5. RJMHA 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.
6. It is recognized that for the 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.
7. Applications for player movement within the U7 and U9 groups is to be made to the PCAHA by the RJMHA Registrar and President, following consultations with the Director of Hockey and the affected players, parents and coaches.

B. U9 to U13

1. **Movement to a Higher Age Division:** It is recognized that for the exceptional player, movement up to a higher division may be desired. Determining an exceptional player should be based on the on-ice skills relative to other players of the same age. 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.
2. PCAHA rules state that "Member Associations may move exceptional U9-aged players into the U11 Division to play at the level of their ability" and "A maximum of three (3) U9-aged players may be registered with any one U11 team in accordance with the PCAHA Regulations - Section R, Part 2(f)." Practically speaking, within the U9 Program, this is interpreted as U9 players moving to U11.
3. There are no specific PCAHA rules applying to players moving into a higher division above U11. RJMHA supports the limited movement of exceptional players to a level one Division higher than the player's own age category or one Division lower than the player's own age category as approved by the RJMHA board.
4. For player movement to a higher category, it is recognized that there is significant overlap in the skills between age divisions. Therefore, only the very exceptional player(s) will be granted the ability to move. As a guiding principle the maximum number of players that will be allowed to move is contingent upon space availability in the Division above. RJMHA also reserves the right to invite 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, may result in an RJMHA invitation to play at a higher level. Refer to Goalie Move Up Section on Page 10.
5. Where movement results from the request of the parents or guardians of a player, the fees charged will be that of the higher division. Where movement results from the request of the RJMHA Board, the fee charged will be that of the players original division.
6. **Movement to a Lower Age Division:**
 - 6.1 RJMHA 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 to a lower level is discouraged, unless absolutely necessary.

6.2 PCAHA rules state that “Special permission may be granted for Minor “C” teams to register “C” caliber player(s) of the older age division in cases where because of small size or weak ability, a player would be unable to compete in his or her normal age division. Such permission in writing shall be obtained from the responsible PCAHA “C” Managing Director prior to the registration of the overage player in the lower division and the player may need to be assessed by a PCAHA official at a practice in their age division before final approvals are given.

6.3 For player movement to a lower category, it is recognized that there is significant overlap in the skills between age divisions. Consideration for movement will be given primarily to players in their first or second year of hockey, with the exception of U21 aged players wishing to play in U18 “C”. As a guiding principle, the maximum number of players shall be contingent upon space availability in the division below.

6.4 **Objectives:**

6.4.1. To provide players with an opportunity to play where their demonstrated skills (including on-ice and off-ice attributes) are most suited.

6.4.2. To provide balance and protect the competitive levels of teams within each age division.

6.5 **Selection Criteria:**

Selection criteria include, but is not limited to the following:

1. On-Ice Skill Level
2. Attitude/Social Maturity
3. Motivation/Desire
4. Dependability/Commitment
5. Physical Maturity
6. Experience
7. Team Needs
8. Parental Support

It is noted that on-ice skill level is the primary determinant, with all other selection criteria considered as secondary determinants.

C. U15 and Above

1. There will be no requests accepted for transfers from the U13 Division to the U15 Division or U15 to U18 Divisions. RJMHA 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. PCAHA rules state that "Special permission may be granted for Minor "C" teams to register "C" caliber player(s) of the older age division in cases where, because of small size or weak ability, a player would be unable to compete in his or her normal age division. Such permission in writing shall be obtained from the responsible PCAHA "C" Managing Director prior to the registration of the overage player in the lower division and the player may need to be assessed by a PCAHA official at a practice in their age division before final approvals are given.
3. For player movement to a lower category, it is recognized that there is significant overlap in the skills between age divisions. Consideration for movement will be given primarily to players in their first or second year of hockey, with the exception of U21 aged players wishing to play in U18 "C". As a guiding principle, the maximum number of players shall be contingent upon space availability in the division below.

D. Procedure for U7 and U9 Divisions:

1. Application:

- 1.1 U7 and U9: The applicable Division Manager and the Director of Hockey may, no later than Sept. 30th of the current season, request that a player move to a higher division, considering the following key items:
 1. Experience competitive and skill level including activities outside of RJMHA
 2. Physical attributes including height and weight
 3. Attitude/social maturity
 4. Motivation/desire/dependability/commitment
- 1.3 For U7 and U9: Requests for movement to a lower division must be made by the parents or guardians by email to the applicable Division Manager and Director of Hockey no later than Sept. 30th of the current season.

NOTE 1: An exception to the above dates will only be made for players registering after the deadline dates noted above, or at the discretion of the Board, if team composition requires it.

NOTE 2: Players requested by RJMHA to move divisions will not be required to submit an email application.

2. Fees:

2.1 There is no fee for application for player movement to a lower division. A player moving to a lower division must request a refund of the difference of the registration fees between those divisions.

3. Number of Players:

3.1 Based on the total registration at each level, the RJMHA Board will determine a maximum number of players who can move up or down. Of note, the primary determinants in setting this number shall be the total number of players registered at each level, the number of teams in a division, and the number of players per team as approved by the Board. As a guiding principle the maximum number of players moving from a lower division to a higher division shall be three players, contingent upon space availability in the division.

3.2 The final decision of which players move up or down will be based on the number of spaces for players at each level and the results of the evaluations as approved by the Board.

NOTE: Because the philosophy is to deal with these issues in a timely manner, it must be noted that waiting until the final deadline for application could result in all available spaces within a division being filled prior to the application deadline.

E. Procedure for U9, U11 and U13 Divisions:

1. Application:

1.1 Requests for movement to a higher division must be made by the parents or guardians by email to the applicable Division Manager and the Director of Hockey no later than August 15 of the current season. In addition, a brief player resume must be submitted, which should include the following key items:

1. Experience, competitive and skill level including activities outside of RJMHA
2. Physical attributes including height and weight

3. Attitude/social maturity
4. Motivation/desire/dependability/commitment
5. Body checking clinic completion for U15 and above

1.2 Requests for movement to a lower division must be made by the parents or guardians by email to the applicable Division Manager and Director of Hockey no later than Sept. 30th. If approved, the PCAHA Overage Request Form must be completed and the player may need to be assessed by a PCAHA official at a practice in their age division before final approvals are given.

NOTE 1: An exception to the above dates will only be made for players registering after the deadline dates noted above, or at the discretion of the Board, if team composition requires it.

NOTE 2: Players requested to move divisions by RJMHA will not be required to submit a written application.

2. Fees:

2.1 A player approved to move to a higher division is required to pay the registration fee of the higher division. This registration fee difference is due no later than Sept. 30th of the current season. Failure to pay these fees shall result in the application being denied or the approval withdrawn.

2.2 There is no fee to move to a lower division. A player moving to a lower division must request a refund of the difference of the registration fees between those divisions.

3. Number of Players:

3.1 Based on the total registration at each level, the RJMHA Board will determine a maximum number of players who can move up or down. Of note, the primary determinants in setting this number shall be the total number of players registered at each level, the number of teams in a division, and the number of players per team as approved by the Board. As a guiding principle the maximum number of players moving from a lower division to a higher division shall be three players, contingent upon space availability in the division.

3.2 The final decision of which players move up or down will be based on the number of spaces for players at each level and the results of the evaluations. No underage player shall take that place of a regulation aged player on a carded team.

4. Evaluation Process:

4.1 Evaluations if required will be completed by the Director of Hockey and 1 or 2 independent evaluators.

5. Selection Process – Competitive Rep Hockey:

5.1 Any underage player applying to tryout for rep hockey in a higher division, must first get approvals from the RJMHA Board based on recommendations from the Competitive Rep Committee. For player movement requests conducted as part of the Rep Tryout Process, if players are ranked “relatively equal”, selection preference shall be given to players in the age category. This decision is based on the cumulative rankings and is the responsibility of the Director of Rep, the evaluation and rep committee.

5.2 The following policy will apply:

5.2.1. For any underage skaters ranked in the top five of all players trying out for Rep: evaluation committee decision.

5.2.2 Any underage goalie must make the A1 team or return to their original Division.

5.2.3. For any underage skater ranked sixth or lower: No underage players will be selected.

The decision regarding placement of the underage player in Rep in the higher division must be made by the completion of stage 2. If the player has not been selected for a Rep Team based on the above criteria, then the player will be returned to the Rep Pool at the peer level.

NOTE 1: For U9 players trying out at the Rep level in U11, the requirement to be evaluated at the peer level shall be waived, if the player is selected to the Rep team. The Rep Tryout Coordinator and Director of Rep will provide a list of all evaluation scores to the RJMHA Competitive Rep Committee and Board. It will be the responsibility of the RJMHA Board to approve the final player movement requests.

NOTE 2: In addition to this policy, the Rep Tryout Policy shall also be in effect, except appeals, which is subject to # 7 below.

6. Final Decision Date:

6.1 The final decision regarding player movement shall be communicated to the parents or guardians, by the applicable RJMHA Division Managers, no later than Sept. 30th of the current season. Once the parent or guardian has accepted player movement, the move shall be final, with the exception of team balancing.

7. Appeals:

7.1 No appeals shall be entertained.

F. Goalie Movement – Moving Up Policy (MUP)

Objective:

The objective of this policy is to outline:

1. The triggering mechanism to begin the “**Moving Up Policy**” (**MUP**) of a goalie from one age division into the division directly above.
2. How the moving up of a goalie is to be executed according to the MUP.

Triggering the MUP:

While forecasting is underway (e.g. during the offseason), as determined by the Board, requirements for the **MUP** may be identified under the following circumstances (in priority order):

1. Where a division does not have enough goalies to support the available players pool and the division beneath it has a surplus exceeding 1 per team.
 - a. Example: there are 2 Rep Teams, 2 House Teams, and 3 goalies, **MUP** will be triggered to support the extra team if possible.
2. Where a division has a surplus of goalies exceeding the 2 per team allowed, the **MUP** will be used to support keeping as many goalies playing and in the association as possible.
 - a. Example: 17 goalies for 8 teams means each team will have two goalies and there is 1 surplus, **MUP** will be triggered.
3. For the divisions U21, U18 and U15 the association will prioritize having at least one team in the division with 2 goalies to support the demanding nature of these divisions.

- a. Example: There are 6 goalies for 6 teams, **MUP** would be triggered to support the moving up of a younger goalie so that at least 1 team in the division will hold 2 goalies. The two goalies can be held either in A or C divisions but the goalie who is being pulled up must play C.

Triggering the **MUP** must not occur more than once a month (once in July and once in August) and the **MUP** must be extended to all registered goalies who fall into the required division. This is to avoid “one off” communication or the ad hoc moving of goalies.

Procedure:

1. Upon determining that the **MUP** is required, the board will notify the goalie committee which divisions require the **MUP**.
2. The Board will exit the process at this point, and the Director of Hockey Operations (DOHO) will be solely responsible for all communication to the goalies to execute the **MUP** (with a CC to the Goalie Committee).
3. The Goalie Committee chair will provide regular updates to the Board and Committee as necessary.
4. The **MUP** is specifically designed to move a goalie from the lower division into the C division of the higher age group, not the A division. Movement into the A group will not be considered through this **MUP**.

Moving Up Policy Outline:

- Only 2nd year goalies in the lower division will be eligible for this process, if none the process shall not continue. This is to avoid having 1st year goalies pre-maturely moved up prior to appropriate development to support the needs of the association over the safety and development of the goalie.
 - Once the expression of interest period has passed (as outlined in the initial interest email), if no goalies are interested there will be no further discussion and the “Moving Up” of goalies will no longer be accepted without exception (ie. No goalie shall be granted moving up as an alternative to a Rep Try Out decision later in the season).
- Once interest has been received, the Goalie Committee Chair will require for each goalie:
 - At the discretion and approval of the Hockey Director and the Goalie Committee, all goalies who are interested will be presented to the Goalie Coach Provider for a written recommendation and prioritization of who

would be best suited (and in which order). This recommendation must be sent to the Hockey Director for approval with cc to the goalie committee.

- Once the recommendation priority list of goalies has been determined by the Goalie Coach Provider to the DOHO, the Goalie Committee Chair or DOHO will make a motion to the Board for the **MUP** to proceed prior to the end of July. If the motion is carried, the DOHO will reach out to families (with a CC to the Goalie Committee) indicating that the highest goalie on the priority list has been selected by the **MUP**. They will need to confirm acceptance prior to the start of Rep Tryouts for their own division.
 - If the goalie accepts the “Move Up” then that goalie shall be moved up and officially withdrawn from their own division.
 - If the goalie does not accept, then the same process will continue with the next goalie identified by the Goalie Coach Provider and so on until either a goalie accepts or there are no other interested goalies. Once the list has been exhausted there will be no further discussion and the “Moving Up” of goalies will no longer be explored or accepted.
 - **New Goalies** - In the circumstance where new goalies are added to the division after this process has begun, that goalie shall be included in the 2nd round of **MUP** emails. After this, the new goalie will have to be considered only after the 2nd round of MUP is complete.
 - Where the goalie is new to the association they will be excluded from the **MUP** until the time where the goalie can be evaluated by the Goalie Coach Provider. This evaluation will be the responsibility of the parent and needs to be done by a Jets approved goalie coach prior to the beginning of August.
- Once moved up, the goalie must participate in the C division skills training.
- All communication related to the **MUP** must be written and transparent to the Director of Hockey and Goalie Committee Chair including:
 - Initial request of the **MUP** by the Board to the Goalie Committee
 - Goalie Committee initial email of interest to goalies
 - All responses to the goalie committee
 - Recommendations and Prioritization of goalies from coaches and Goalie Coach Provider
 - Emails regarding placement decisions