



Mariposa Minor Hockey Association

Player Movement Guideline

Purpose:

This guideline pertains to any Mariposa Minor Hockey Association (MMHA) player seeking to play hockey at a higher (or lower) division/subdivision than their current OMHA defined division/sub-division on birth year, as defined by the Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) Manual of Operations (MOO) section 3.0 Player Eligibility, based subsection 3.6 Eligibility to Play in a higher division.

Division is defined as Age Group within an Association (i.e. U21, U18, U15, U13, U11, U9, U8, U7, U5). For clarity a subdivision is a specific age group (i.e U16 is an OMHA recognized division/subdivision, however Victoria Durham has not historically recognized or had a U16/minor midget division/subdivision and U16 have played as part of U18).

This guideline does not speak to the following which are dealt with under different sections of the OMHA MOO, Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF) and Hockey Canada guidelines;

1. Categories (i.e.a centers level of competition, i.e. 3C vs “C”),
2. Offer of affiliation (AP’s).
3. Residential movement
4. 3.5’s
5. ATM

Background:

Player Movement to a team in a division/subdivision that is higher or lower than the participants current division/subdivision is one of the options identified in the player pathways, so that a participant can be placed in a division/subdivision with other participants of similar skill level, which should allow the participant to progress in their development at an appropriate rate.

For clarity, Player Movement is primarily permitted as it pertains to player development. Player movement policy is not intended to (nor used) to try and circumvent OMHA MOO, OHF and Hockey Canada guidelines.



Criteria

Any player wishing to move up a division/subdivision must meet the following necessary criteria to allow such a move;

All OMHA MOO, guidelines of subsequent bulletins/updates must be adhered to. In particular 3.6 Eligibility to Play in a higher division.

Following that, the additional guidelines are applied by MMHA;

Per OMHA MOO section 3.6 a) Association (MMHA) criteria required in order for a participant to play in a higher division;

- a) Player must exhibit significantly advanced skills and abilities to play at a higher division/subdivision than their current division/sub-division. Skills including skating ability, skill, maturity and player safety will be taken into consideration.
- b) To allow for the fair development opportunity of all MMHA members requesting to move up a division/subdivision must;
 - i) U11 - U18
 - a) Follow this player movement guideline, in particular the procedure and evaluation committee process
 - b) Positional player - participant should rank in the top 5 (five) of ability for the team which the player is trying out for.
 - c) Goalie - rank in the top 2 of ability for the team which the player is trying out for.
 - ii) U9 and below:
 - a) Follow this player movement guideline, in particular the procedure and evaluation committee process
 - iii) The participant wanting to move up should be evaluated as a top player on the team they are trying out for, as well as the team at their own age /division/subdivision. If the participant is not projected to be a strong player on the higher division/subdivision team, then it is questionable whether playing up is truly in the best interest of that players development and/ or the team the participant is wanting to play up to.



iv) **player movement initiated by the MMHA administrative board**

- a) If registration and team rosters are lacking numbers at a higher division/subdivision (ii.e. if U11 3C has 18 skaters and U13 3C has 9 skaters) moving players up to field appropriate roster sizes-may be an option upon MMHA Board approval as well as player/family/guardian consent & regardless of section.
- b) subsection i) where deemed necessary.
- c) Player can also be moved down a division/subdivision based on the above criteria, but where a participant lacks the ability/maturity, skill, etc to play at their current division/subdivision. NOTE: moving a player down a division/subdivision requires the approval of OMHA Regional Director.
- d) Team roster numbers should follow OMHA guidelines. Roster sizes will be reviewed and determined by the MMHA board; factoring in OMHA guidelines, registration numbers at a given division/subdivision and budget/costs Player movement should not have a negative impact on a a division/subdivision, nor a specific teams roster size, for both (the team/age group they should be on, nor the team they are trying to play/move up to).
- e) The approval of a participant to play up a division/subdivision must not leave a team at that participant's actual division/subdivision short players. In addition, the age group signing said player must have the room to accept another player.
- f) It is recommended that the participant make all reasonable attempts to attend as many of the evaluations as possible (ideally a majority) (up to which point they are offered a position, or released/cut from the evaluation) for the division/subdivision that they are age compliant to, and subsequently as many evaluations(ideally a majority) for the division/subdivision that they are requesting to move up/down to. If a participant decides not to attend the tryouts for their current age division and to only attend the tryouts for the older age division, that player may not be eligible to be selected for the team for their current age division.

For U9 and below, attendance is only required at the team you are seeking to play for as per OMHA pathways guidelines of maximum ice allotment.
- g) MMHA does not move players up solely to play with friends or to play for a particular coach.
- h) All player movement is subject to submittal of information on HCR and OMHA regional director approval.



Circumstantial Player Movement

An MMHA member in good standing may request player movement for circumstantial reasons.

These requests will be reviewed on a case by case basis and a decision provided by the MMHA board.

Examples of circumstantial movement may include:

1. Player may request to move down a division/subdivision based on lack of hockey experience.

Evaluation Committee

The MMHA Administrative Board will appoint an evaluative committee of at least 3 members (MMHA Board members and/or independents) to be certain that a player meets all criteria.

Evaluative committee members shall not have any affiliation or relation to the team or the participant in question. The evaluation team should attend a minimum of the one evaluations/tryouts that the participant is involved in (and/or until such time that the participant is offered a roster spot/or released/cut from evaluations).

Overage player movement down a division/subdivision (especially for players u9 and under) will be evaluated by at least one administrative board member without affiliation to the team/player based on the request from the parent/guardian and/or coach in the best interest of the players skills, ability, maturity and experience with hockey. Every effort to complete this evaluation during prep/evaluation allotment should be made unless it becomes evident that a participant should move down after this time based on but not limited to skills, ability and maturity. Player movement requests should be completed no later than 2 weeks prior to the OMHA final roster deadline date.

Evaluations need to be requested and completed during the 7 day tryout/evaluation period and cannot extend beyond the evaluation period. Sufficient notice from the coach needs to be provided to be able to get an evaluation committee to the eval/tryout ice times allotted to the team.

The evaluation committee may make a recommendation to the MMHA Administrative Board for approval. If approved by the MMHA Administrative Board, then the request will go to the OMHA Convenor and Regional Director. (and/or Three County representative and Three county board as applicable). Final approval is at the discretion of the OMHA Regional Director.



Procedure:

1. A request for movement form should be completed by a player/parent/guardian on the MMHA website and submitted through the website to the board as soon as the player intends to attend evaluation skates outside of their own age division/subdivision. The more notice the better. This ensures the coach is notified and prepared for the player at the tryout/evaluation and that the board is prepared with an evaluation team should the player be successfully accepted by the coach. Lack of sufficient notice could lead to evaluations not being able to be completed within the OMHA 7 day tryout period and denial of the player movement. The request must also advise if the participant is wanting solely to play up a division (i.e. U8 to U9) , or a division(I.e.U9 to U11) as well as a category (i.e. 3C to Rep)
2. Upon receipt of request for movement form, MMHA administrative board will acknowledge receiving the request in writing within two days.
3. MMHA Administrative Board will advise the head coach of the team the applicant is wanting to move up to, and of its intent to at least allow the participant to attend that division/subdivisions evaluation/balancing skates and instruct the evaluation committee to review the request. This review is accomplished by having the player participate in the evaluation process. Those results will be forwarded to the entire MMHA Administrative Board for final decision. Following OMHA guidelines no participants should be released/cut until after the third tryout. However in the case of underage players, if they are not expected to make the team they are trying to play up to, they should be released prior to the third tryout as not to hold up tryouts/evaluations of the team that the participants current age group division/subdivision.
4. MMHA Administrative Board will communicate the recommendations to the parent/guardian and player by the final tryout (in the case of representative teams) or no later than the final evaluation/balancing skate for 3C.
5. All decisions based on the above criteria will be taken to the MMHA Administrative Board for approval, and following that, to the OMHA for approval before any player will be signed at a higher division/subdivision.
6. The decision to allow or disallow player movement is final.
7. All movement is subject to OMHA Regional Director approval upon roster submission.