

**VANCOUVER THUNDERBIRD MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
PLAYER MOVEMENT POLICY (P-11)**

1. Objective

1.1. The objective of this policy is to make appropriate provision for players who would be best suited to play in a division other than in which they would normally be placed because of their age.

1.2. In particular, this policy may be used to give an exceptional player the opportunity to participate in a higher division which is more suited to that player's ability. Permission to try out for a team at a higher division will be based on factors including, but not limited to:

- probability of making the team for which that player is trying out;
- hockey skills;
- physical and mental maturity; and
- age.

1.3. Alternatively, this policy may be used where a player, because of small size or weak ability, wishes to play on a "C" team at a lower age level.

1.4. This policy is subject to the rules and regulations of the PCAHA and the BCAHA.

2. Application

2.1. Any player wishing to play on a team in a higher division must make a written application to the Player Movement Committee ("PMC") on or before the February 1 immediately preceding the start of the season in which the player wishes to play in a higher division. A player may request to move up to a higher level Recreational or Rep team. An exceptional player wishing to play Recreational hockey must first consider playing Rep hockey in his/her age division rather than being placed in a higher Recreational division.

2.2. The application must include a support letter from the player's head coach at the time the application is submitted (or, if the application is provided under Section 2.3 below after the end of a season, the player's head coach during the most recently completed season).

2.2.1. Where the player is seeking to move from Initiation to Atom Rep, the letter must state that the based upon the coach's experience, the coach believes the player is among the top three players in the player's age group of Vancouver Thunderbird Minor Hockey Association ("VTMHA") or, for a player who is not registered with VTMHA and applies under 2.3, that player's Association.

2.2.2. Where the player is seeking to move from a Rep team to a Rep team in a higher age group, the letter must state that based on the coach's experience, the coach believes the player has a reasonable probability of making the A1 team in the division for which the player intends to try out.

2.2.3. Where the player is seeking to move from a Recreational team to a Recreational team in a higher division, the letter must state that based on the coach's experience, the coach believes the player's development would be best suited by playing in the higher division.

2.3. Notwithstanding the above, a player who was not registered as a VTMHA player on the applicable February 1 application deadline will have until the earlier of (i) June 30 or (ii) 14 days following their registration with VTMHA, to make an application.

2.4. The decision as to whether a player may try out to play in a higher division is intended to be made by the PMC based only upon an evaluation of the player's performance during the regular winter season.

3. Player Movement Committee

3.1. The PMC in respect of any particular application will be chaired by the Director responsible for the division from which the applicant is applying, and will include at least two others appointed by the chair, one of whom should be the Director responsible for the division to which the applicant is applying and one of whom should be the Director of Hockey Operations or the Assistant Director of Hockey Operations. Other members of the PMC will be selected from:

- Division Managers from the two affected divisions; or
- Other members of the Board of VTMHA.

4. Procedure

4.1. Upon receiving a written application that meets the requirements of Section 2, the members of the PMC will evaluate the application. The chair will ensure that members of the PMC attend a sufficient number of the applicant's ice times during the remainder of the relevant season in order to adequately assess the performance of the player.

4.2. The members of the PMC must consult with and obtain feedback from the Division Manager from the division from which the applicant is applying, as well as the player's head coach during the relevant season and any other persons deemed relevant.

4.3. The PMC will complete its evaluation and meet within 30 days of receiving a written application for player movement in order to make a decision about the application, and the PMC shall give its decision as soon as possible after the meeting.

4.4. If the player has applied to play on a Rep team at a higher division, a positive decision will result in the player being invited to attend the Rep tryout process at that higher level.

4.5. Rep Team to Rep Team at a Higher Division

4.5.1. In addition to the other factors to be considered by the PMC, in order for a player to be invited to attend a Rep tryout process at a higher division, the PMC must determine that based on its evaluation there is a reasonable probability that the player will make the A1 team at the higher division.

4.5.2. If a player is invited to attend a Rep tryout process at a higher division, the player must make the A1 Rep team at the higher level in order to move up. Should the player succeed in obtaining a position on the A1 team at the higher level, then the player will be permitted to be rostered on the A1 team at the higher level. Should the player not succeed in obtaining a position on the A1 team at the higher level, then the player will be transferred to the Rep tryout process at the player's own age level.

4.6. Initiation to Atom Rep

4.6.1. In addition to the other factors to be considered by the PMC, in order for an Initiation-aged player to be invited to attend the Atom Rep tryout process, the PMC must determine that

based on its evaluation there is a reasonable probability that the player will make the Atom A1 team.

- 4.6.2. If an Initiation-aged player is invited to attend the Atom Rep tryout process, the player must make the Atom A1 in order to move up. Should the player succeed in obtaining a position on the Atom A1 team, then the player will be permitted to be rostered on the Atom A1 team. Should the player not succeed in obtaining a position on the Atom A1 team, then the player will be transferred to their age group in Initiation.
- 4.6.3. Applications from Initiation-aged players to try out for Atom Rep will be accepted only from players in H3 at the time the application is made (i.e. players looking to skip H4).

4.7. Initiation Team to Higher Initiation Team

- 4.7.1. It is the general policy of VTMHA that subject to Section 4.6, the development of Initiation-aged players is best served by playing with other players of the same age. Therefore, other than the admission of underage players into H1 pursuant to Section 2.7 of the VTMHA Registration Policy (P-3), Initiation-aged players will not be approved to play in a higher-age Initiation division.
- 4.7.2. Underage players admitted to H1 will be required in subsequent seasons to enter their own age group, subject to 2.2 and 4.6.3 above.

4.8. Recreational Team to Higher Recreational Team

- 4.8.1. In addition to the other factors to be considered by the PMC, in order for a Recreational player to be invited to play on a team in a higher Recreational division, the PMC must determine that based on its evaluation the player's development would be best suited by playing in the higher division.

4.9. No appeal of a player movement decision made by the PMC or the Board will be allowed.

4.10. With respect to Midget players, and at the sole discretion of the PMC and prior to the deadline for player movement set by the PCAHA, player movement may be accommodated during the season using the criteria outlined above.

5. Approval of Overage Exemption

5.1. In the event that a player, because of small size or weak ability, wishes to play on a "C" team at a lower age level, the player shall:

- 5.1.1. Make written application to the Division Manager for the division in which the player is registered, setting out in such application the reasons why the request is being made and whether it has been recommended by any past coach;
- 5.1.2. The Division Manager shall advise the Administrator and the Director Recreational of the request, and arrange for an evaluation of the player by the Director of Hockey Operations;
- 5.1.3. If the Director of Hockey Operations recommends such a move, the VTMHA will make application to the PCAHA for approval of such move in accordance with Section C(40) of the PCAHA Rules.