



Last Updated April 2016

Underage Player Policy

Purpose

This Policy establishes the approach of the North Shore Female Ice Hockey Association (the “Association” or the “Avalanche”) to requests made by parents/players to permit a player to try out for and play on teams in older birth year divisions.

The remainder of this Policy does not apply to situations in which the Association, of its own accord, makes a decision to move players up or down age divisions, which decisions involve different considerations (including, but not limited to, the balancing of teams and age divisions as well as the placement of coaches) and apply in different situations than set out in the remainder of this Policy. In such cases, the Board of Directors of the Association (the “Board”) may, in its sole and absolute discretion, move players as between teams and age divisions as it deems appropriate.

Policy Statement

1. The Association does not encourage players playing up an age division in those circumstances that this Policy applies to. In such situations, it is the policy of the Avalanche to encourage players to play with their same age peers except in the most extraordinary of circumstances.
2. Players who demonstrate significantly advanced skills and abilities may, at the discretion of the Board, be permitted to try out for the A level team (or C1 team in the case where teams are tiered and there is no A level team) in the next older birth year division if:
 - a. the player’s skills are significantly above those of her same age peers and the competitive level of play in that division;
 - b. there is a reasonable expectation that the player will be selected to the rep team of the next higher age bracket; and
 - c. it will not materially disadvantage the balance of the players in either age division.

Procedure

1. Parents must apply in writing to the Board of the Avalanche for permission to try out for a rep team in a higher age division or to be placed on a higher aged division team when no rep level team exists.
2. Parents are encouraged to consult with their divisional coordinator or the Director of Player Development prior to making an application to play-up.
3. Parents will be required to acknowledge and accept that:
 - a. there may be social conduct and conversation in the higher aged division that the player is unaccustomed to; and
 - b. there may be additional risk of injury.
4. The Board will review the written application and make a decision as to whether the player is permitted to try out for the rep team in the older division (or the C1 team if there is no rep team).
5. The Board may, in its sole and absolute discretion, make any decision it considers appropriate in the circumstances.
6. If the Board provides its approval and:
 - a. if a rep level team exists (including Atom C1), the player may participate in the evaluations for the higher level team:
 - i. If the player is selected as one of the top 5 players by the independent evaluators during the usual evaluation process and if the head coach of the higher level team agrees that the player should be part of the team, that player will be placed on the team. If the player is not selected as one of the top 5 after the independent evaluation process, the player will return to their division and may join the working group to be considered for selection to the rep team in her division.
 - ii. If the goalie is evaluated as the top goalie by the independent evaluators during the usual evaluation process and if the head coach of the higher level team agrees that the player should be part of the team, that goalie will be placed on the team. If the goalie is not selected as the top goalie, the goalie will return to their division and may join the working group for selection to the rep team in her division.
 - b. If no rep level team exists and tryouts are not required the player will be placed on a team in the higher aged division.