

# **Windermere Valley Minor Hockey Association Player Movement Policy**

*Reviewed and Ratified, June, 2016*

**October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006**

Preamble: The executive of the WVMHA has undertaken a review of the current player movement policy in response to an increasing number of requests for player movement, within all levels, at the beginning of the season. While it is sometimes in the best interest of the WVMHA to try and accommodate player/parent requests, this does make it harder on the coaching staff and the executive, as a review of each case must be undertaken. This in itself is time consuming and adds additional involvement at a time when our volunteers are trying to firm up numbers and decide where a team will play in the upcoming season. Therefore the following policy will be put forward to the executive for consideration.

## **Player Movement Policy (2008)**

- 1) All player movement must be in accordance with Hockey Canada, Hockey BC, and the EKMHA rules.
- 2) The President of the WVMHA shall appoint a Player Movement Committee, at the beginning of each season. This committee shall consist of an executive member and two independent evaluators. The independent evaluators may be appointed from within or outside the WVMHA.
- 3) No movement shall be considered from Initiation to Novice or Novice to Atoms. All players shall be assigned to their age appropriate group. However, in the case of beginner hockey players, or if parents feel their child is not ready to advance, movement downward from Peewee to Atoms, Atoms to Novice, or from Novice to Initiation will be considered if a written request is received from the parents within (14) days of the first practice.
- 4) No move of more than one division will be considered or allowed.
- 5) No underage player shall take the place of a regulation aged player on a carded team. However, once a player is approved to move to a new division by the association, he or she will be considered that new division's player for the year and will practice and play only with the appropriate team within that division.
- 6) Parents who feel that their child should play in a higher division must apply in writing to the executive within fourteen (14) days following the first practice of the season. The request will be answered by a letter that will acknowledge the receipt of the request and include an application form which is to be filled out by the parents. The application requires the parents to justify the request for movement. If the official application is not supplied to the executive, by

October 1<sup>st</sup> of the current season, then the request will not be forwarded to the Player Movement Committee, and the child will have to stay within the age appropriate division for that season.

- 7) A decision will be made within fourteen (14) days after receiving the official application. The player will practice in his or her age division while the application is considered.
- 8) The Player Movement Committee will confer with the coaches of the two affected teams and consider the following when making their decisions: a) safety issues, b) team numbers, c) benefits to both leaving and receiving teams, and d) skill levels.
- 9) The recommendation of the committee will be forwarded to the executive for final approval. If a player is successful in his or her application for movement, this decision will expire at the end of the season and said player would register in his or her age division the following year. A successful application only applies to the current season and does not guarantee that all future applications for movement will be accepted.
- 10) Any executive or committee member who applies to have their child moved to a new division is unable to vote on the issue.
- 11) There is no appeal committee, all decisions of the Executive are final. This ensures that all teams are ready for league or tournament play by October 31<sup>st</sup> of the current season.
- 12) Under special circumstances a coach may apply in writing to the executive to allow short term player movements. This would only occur if a small number of players from one group were needed to supplement another team. (i.e. For a weekend tournament or game) The application must include a release from the coach of the team of which the players are being borrowed. Coaches may not apply to have players, temporarily, moved from Atoms and below to Peewee and above.
- 13) This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis.