



PELHAM MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Exceptional Player POLICY



1. INTRODUCTION

To be an “Exceptional Player” one must possess not only hockey skills that are superior to players his/her own age category, but would be capable of competing with players at the next level. This athlete must be deemed to be in the top third of the higher age category in the position for which he/she is attempting to move up to.

In addition to hockey skills, the exceptional player must also possess physical maturity and social-emotional skills, which match his/her superior hockey skills. The player must be well rounded in all aspects of his/her development. The purpose of having the Exceptional Player policy is that it is understood that from time to time members may want to request their player to move up an age category for various reasons. This policy ensures that players are given a fair review, and ensures that the association is not moving players out of their age category who are not qualified.

2. GUIDELINES

Section 1 - Representative Level - Novice BB

Under the new Hockey Canada and OMHA regulations for Novice & Below aged hockey, the PMHA is to develop a policy regarding player movement in to the Novice age group which is now identified as only 8 year old hockey players. PMHA members wishing to have their 7 year old participate in PMHA Novice Tryouts need to review & understand the following process. There will be **NO EXCEPTIONS** beyond what is written here.

- 1) The seven year old players will be evaluate by both:
 - a. Team appointed evaluator
 - b. Board appointed evaluator (this person can be a member in good standing or non-member invitee)
- 2) The PMHA will provide a formal evaluation sheet for the try out skates/evaluations and for these 7 year old players particularly who desire to be considered for the Novice BB team.
- 3) For a player that is seven (7) years old to be considered a candidate eligible to be chosen by the coach for the Novice BB team selection, the following conditions must exist pertaining to the evaluation:
 - a. If the seven year old is a skater, the player **MUST** be evaluated by the PMHA Independent Evaluator(s) in the Top 5 players of the total roster of participants in the tryout in their overall evaluation, or;
 - b. If the seven year old is a goaltender, that player must rank as the top goaltender in the Tryout to be eligible for being signed to the team.
 - c. The seven year old participant will receive a minimum of three skates during tryouts.
- 4) Each player will be evaluated on this standard form, and parents can request viewing this evaluation at the conclusion of tryouts (and / or prior to the PMHA sending to the OMHA for approval). These evaluations will be sent to the OMHA and retained by the OMHA after their review. They will also be kept by the PMHA.
- 5) If the Head Coach **DOES** select said player (if they reach the evaluation standard required), the player’s evaluations, as well as the Coach’s reasoning / justification for this player selection must be documented and formally submitted to the PMHA President & VP of Rep Hockey who then forward to the OMHA Regional Director for review & approval. *This final approval process takes place prior to the Team Roster approval being granted* and **prior to the player being accepted on to the PMHA Novice team officially**. Any 7 year old being

considered for inclusion on the Novice BB will NOT participate in ANY team events until this official approval from the OMHA has been granted.

- 6) **FOUR seven-year old players maximum will be rostered to the Novice BB team. These 4 players can play any position on the team. The PMHA will not consider submitting the documentation required to the OMHA for a fifth player to be approved under ANY circumstance.**
- 7) As per page 41 of the OMHA Association Implementation Guide for Novice & Below hockey, published in 2018, no seven year olds are permitted to be signed as an Affiliated Player to the Novice BB team. Any player that is not considered for the Novice BB team will be returned to the PMHA Tyke program.
- 8) There will be no “exceptional player” fee applied to the seven year old players trying out for the Novice BB team, and there is no requirement to complete the Exceptional Player Application listed within this document. The seven-year old participant trying out will only have to pay the annual PMHA Try Out Fee to participate in the Try Out process at PMHA tryouts.

Section 2 – Representative Level – Atom through Midget age groups

PMHA adopts Hockey Canada’s recommendation that players develop and play within their age category. However, a player may seek exceptional status in order to play for a representative team in the next highest division. PMHA will consider any such request and may exercise its discretion to grant exceptional status for one season only based on exceptional player ability (considerably advanced for his/her age and playing at a level consistent with the top players at least one age group above) and maturity level. PMHA will also consider the overall impact of any movement on the teams involved and the association as a whole.

In order for a player to try out at for a higher division team the player must comply with the following:

1. Inform the Vice-President of Rep Hockey 30 days in advance of the first scheduled tryout in writing of the intent to try out at the higher division.
2. All registration and tryout fees must be paid in full before the tryout begins including the \$100 exceptional player application fee.

PROCEDURES:

1. The Evaluation Committee (as determined by the VP-Rep Hockey) will meet to evaluate whether they feel the player warrants a tryout in the age group above.
2. If deemed to be allowed to try out, the Evaluation Committee will attend during the tryout process of the higher division team to assess the player and determine, in their opinion, if the player is deemed to be “exceptional” as per the wording below.
3. The player must continue to attend the tryouts for his/her own age group in addition to the tryouts for the higher division team as long as these ice times do not conflict.
4. In order to be deemed an “exceptional player” by PMHA the player must be the in the top 3 players on the higher division team regardless of position, and for goaltenders the player must be the #1 goaltender. The decision of the Evaluation Committee is final and no appeal will be heard. If the player meets this criteria as deemed by the Evaluation Committee the coach of the higher division team will decide on whether or not to select the player.
5. If the player does not make the higher division team based on the above criteria, the player will return to play within their own age group.

Section 3 – Local or House League Level

In order to be considered an exceptional player for upwards movement in the Local League level of hockey, the player's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) shall submit an application form, which shall be submitted to the PMHA Vice President of Local League Hockey. Upon receipt of the application, the VP of LL shall determine that all material requested has been provided and will pass this application and all material on to the evaluators who are approached and appointed by the current PMHA Executive Committee members.

Failure to provide the materials requested results in the player being denied his/her request, and all monies paid shall be forfeited.

In order for an application to receive approval, the evaluator(s) must be in complete agreement of the ability of the player to meet the requirements as set forth by PMHA. A written report shall be completed by the evaluators and shall be forwarded to the Executive Committee members of PMHA. The decision of the evaluators is final and binding upon all parties, and no appeal shall be granted. If the player is granted a move to the next age category, the move shall be in effect only for the season for which he/she is applying.

The evaluators' assessment of the player must be independent of the opinions of the base coach and the coach of the higher age category. This is to eliminate any biased opinions that may taint the process.

The PMHA VP of Local League hockey will also act as an evaluator during the process which brings the total evaluation form submissions to three for each player. The evaluators will submit their reports regarding the player being assessed for consideration for approval from the Executive Committee members. If any of the four Executive Committee members has a conflict of interest regarding the player being evaluated then the remaining committee members will act as the committee.

Section 4 – Association Regulations

Successful applicants of this policy will be granted the opportunity to move up to the next age category. The decision to grant permission for the player to participate with the higher age category will become final, at the time the player's name is approved as part of a team's roster / the master list of players of the next age category. Prior to this approval, the player may request a "Release" from the higher age category and move down to his/her applicable age category without penalty.

PLEASE NOTE: At any time the PMHA Board has the right and may request a player(s) to move up an age level, with the parent(s)/guardian(s) approval, and without the need of this application and fee. This requirement would be applied only if enrolment numbers at this higher division are at an extreme low. The player(s) chosen would be assessed and considered to be physically and mentally capable to manage this higher division.

The Board may also determine each season that no positions in the higher age category are available for exceptional player movement. Example if midget has 40 player positions open, and 40 midget aged players registered, the PMHA would not supplant one of those midget aged players to accommodate a younger player searching for exceptional player movement status.

MAXIMUM: The number of players that would be moved in to any one age group from the lower age division is one per season.

DEADLINE: The deadline for submissions for Exceptional Player Status consideration is September 12th each hockey season, which is typically one week before LL evaluations skates will commence, leaving enough time for age group lists to be updated, and evaluators assigned to this task to be identified.

The one session evaluation will be done during the first hockey skate during the higher age group's evaluation schedule. The player seeking upwards mobility must be assessed while on the ice with the age group they are looking to move up to.

Players must also participate in the evaluation skates at their own age group until a final decision is made (unless they conflict).

If the applicant is not deemed to be exceptional, the \$50 evaluation fee is not refunded.

THIS POLICY WILL NOT APPLY FOR ANY PELHAM MINOR HOCKEY PLAYERS THAT ARE 6 YEARS OF AGE OR UNDER IN THE CURRENT SEASON. THE PMHA WILL NOT BE "MOVING UP" PLAYERS THAT ARE 6 OR UNDER.

3. SUMMARY

The PMHA in certain circumstances may extend invitations to players to move up to an older age group for the season either by request of the player/parent, or by necessity at the Board's decision. There is no guarantee that movement to an older age group will be accepted. For Representative hockey, the tryout process may also impact which team a player also ultimately plays on. For Local League hockey, registration limits may prevent openings for movement to happen.



EXCEPTIONAL PLAYER APPLICATION

Name: _____ Date of birth:(yyyy/mm/dd)_____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Base Division: _____ Division applying for: _____

Player: (print) _____ (Signature) _____

Upon signing below, I, the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the mentioned exceptional player, have read and understood the process outlined before me.

Parent: (print) _____ (Signature) _____

Please circle whichever applies:

Yes

I have included a one page submission attached to provide a personal appeal / position statement as to why this player is applying for Exceptional Status and possible upwards movement within the PMHA. Please limit submission to one page and attach to the application form.

No

I have not attached any further documentation for consideration in this application.

Submit application and payment (cheque payable to PMHA) attention to the appropriate PMHA Board member as per policy and please submit prior to the stated deadline date.

Mailing address:
PMHA
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Fonthill, Ontario
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