



PLAYING UP FOR PLAYERS 8 AND UNDER POLICY

March 3, 2018

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 Players eight (8) years of age and under are part of the modified ice hockey program which is a model that progresses the experience and ice surface with age of the players to ensure size appropriate ice surfaces for maximum development.
- 1.2 A second tenant of the modified ice hockey program is that at ages eight (8) and under the concept of an exceptional player does not exist. Players eight (8) and under will vary in their progression along the development path based on many factors in their personal and sport growth.
- 1.3 Traditional methods of tiering in Associations of different sizes has been to progress a player further along their development stream to the next chronological age group to find like skilled players and competition.
- 1.4 Tiering of players may be achieved through a number of different methods and the concept of a player participating at an older chronological age group is one of those options, however, not the primary option for tiering.

2. AFFILIATION OF PLAYERS EIGHT (8) AND UNDER

- 2.1 Players will be eligible to Affiliate to a higher Division or Category once they are registered in Minor Novice based on the programming that is age appropriate.
- 2.2 Affiliation of Minor Novice Players to Novice will occur only when Novice programs are participating in modified ice hockey during the first half of the season.

- 2.3 Affiliation of Novice Players to Minor Atom or Atom will occur only once the Novice program has transitioned to full ice programming.

3. PLAYERS FIVE (5) YEARS OF AGE PLAYING UP

- 3.1 Players that are five (5) years of age where an Association offers programming for specific age groups (i.e. 5, 6, 7 and 8) if deemed by the Association the opportunity to participate with Players six (6) years of age. The criteria an Association must evaluate is:
 - 3.1.1 The impact on having the Player participate with their peers at five (5) years of age. Will it negatively impact their development?
 - 3.1.2 The impact on the Player in participating with their peers at five (5) years of age. Will it negatively impact the Player's development?
 - 3.1.3 The impact on the development of the Players six (6) years of age. Will it impact negatively impact their development?
 - 3.1.4 Is the decision to move the Player up to ensure programming exists for the Players six (6) year of age?
- 3.2 Players that are five (5) years of age are not eligible to participate in programming of Players that are seven (7) years of age.

4. PLAYERS SIX (6) YEARS OF AGE PLAYING UP

- 4.1 Any requests for a Player or Players six (6) years of age to register for programming for Players seven (7) years of age or mixed programming (Players 7 and 8 years of age) must be submitted by the Association to their Member for approval unless the programming is cross ice and consistent with the modified ice program for Players six (6) years of age.
- 4.2 The Member will have a process to in a timely and efficient manner review and work with Associations to address their reasons and rationale for the request. The Member will evaluate the following criteria but is not limited to only this set of criteria:
 - 4.2.1 Does the rationale of the request align with the OHF PDM?
 - 4.2.2 Does the request focus on the impact to one Player or to the overall impact of Players at the age affected?
 - 4.2.3 The impact on having the Player(s) participate with their peers at six (6) years of age. Will it negatively impact their development?
 - 4.2.4 The impact on the Player(s) in participating with their peers at six (6) years of age. Will it negatively impact the Player's development?
 - 4.2.5 The impact on the development of the Players seven (7) years of age. Will it impact negatively impact their development?
 - 4.2.6 The impact on league creation at both ages.
- 4.3 Players that are six (6) years of age are not eligible to participate in programming of Players that are eight (8) years of age.

5. PLAYERS SEVEN (7) YEARS OF AGE PLAYING UP

- 5.1 Any requests for a Player or Players seven (7) years of age to register for programming for Players eight (8) years of age must be submitted by the Association to their Member for approval unless the programming is cross ice and consistent with the modified ice program for Players seven (7) years of age.
- 5.2 The Member will have a process to in a timely and efficient manner review and work with Associations to address their reasons and rationale for the request. The Member will evaluate the following criteria but is not limited to only this set of criteria:
 - 5.2.1 Does the rationale of the request align with the OHF PDM?
 - 5.2.2 Does the request focus on the impact to one Player or to the overall impact of Players at the age affected?
 - 5.2.3 The impact on having the Player(s) participate with their peers at seven (7) years of age. Will it negatively impact their development?
 - 5.2.4 The impact on the Player(s) in participating with their peers at seven (7) years of age. Will it negatively impact the Player's development?
 - 5.2.5 The impact on the development of the Players eight (8) years of age. Will it impact negatively impact their development?
 - 5.2.6 The impact on league creation at both ages.
- 5.3 Players that are seven (7) years of age are not eligible to participate in programming of Players that are nine (9) years of age.

6. PLAYERS EIGHT (8) YEARS OF AGE PLAYING UP

- 6.1 Any requests for a Player or Players eight (8) years of age to register for programming for Players nine (9) years of age must be submitted by the Association to their Member for approval unless the programming is cross ice and consistent with the modified ice program for Players eight (8) years of age.
- 6.2 The Member will have a process to in a timely and efficient manner review and work with Associations to address their reasons and rationale for the request. The Member will evaluate the following criteria but is not limited to only this set of criteria:
 - 6.2.1 Does the rationale of the request align with the OHF PDM?
 - 6.2.2 Does the request focus on the impact to one Player or to the overall impact of Players at the age affected?
 - 6.2.3 The impact on having the Player(s) participate with their peers at eight (8) years of age. Will it negatively impact their development?
 - 6.2.4 The impact on the Player(s) in participating with their peers at eight (8) years of age. Will it negatively impact the Player's development?
 - 6.2.5 The impact on the development of the Players nine (9) years of age. Will it impact negatively impact their development?
 - 6.2.6 The impact on league creation at both ages.
- 6.3 Any request for a Player to participate up from an Association providing mixed programming (Players 7 and 8 years of age) based on the Player already participating in the transition to full ice as a seven (7) year old will not be considered.