

**PLAY UP PROCEDURE**  
**PARMA HOCKEY ASSOCIATION**  
**ADOPTED MARCH 9, 2016**

**Objective**

The Parma Hockey Association (PHA) Board of Directors recognizes that in rare and specific cases it can be appropriate and even beneficial to a player's development for him or her to play-up to the next age division to play hockey. A fine balance needs to be struck, however, to avoid placing the desire of a player above the legitimate opportunity for that participant to be successful in an older age division.

There is increased risk of injury for players playing outside of their designated age division. However, USA hockey allows movement in certain situations if specific guidelines are followed. You should carefully consider the increased risks involved and follow the guidelines below when making a request to move a player into an older age division.

**Play-Up Guidelines:**

**- All Board approved play-up requests will only apply to the season that was approved and not a guarantee or**

*agreement of play-up for future seasons.*

- A player will not be permitted to move up more than one year in age. For example, a first year Squirt cannot request to be moved to the Peewee division. A second year Squirt may submit a request to advance to Peewee. This will apply at Mite, Squirt, Peewee, and Bantam divisions.

- Only requests submitted to the PHA Hockey Director in writing by the player's parents or legal guardians will be considered. This written request must be submitted no sooner than the completion of the CSHL playoffs (approximately March 1st) and no later than 14 days prior to the start of tryouts for the division level that is being requested.

- The player must be registered with PHA for the upcoming season in their proper age division and the entire PHA registration deposit (try out fee + player deposit) must be paid prior to the submission of a request. This deposit is non-refundable.

- The board strongly encourages parents to obtain a letter of recommendation from the previous coach to include with

your application.

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The PHA Risk Acknowledgment and Liability Waiver for players requesting to play up form must be submitted along with the written request. This form is located on the Parma Hockey website at: <http://www.parmaflyershockey.org>.

- Criteria for allowing a player to play-up will be based on the evaluation of the participant's skill and ability to contribute to the older team, the participant's maturity level compared to the older team's participants, physical size, and number of players at each level within the program that will be impacted by the request.

- Play-up requests seeking approval to move from a non-checking division to a checking division represents the greatest risk and will receive the greatest scrutiny.

- The PHA Hockey Director will review the request and present a recommendation on the request to the PHA Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will review and discuss the recommendation of the Hockey Director and will make the final decision on allowing a player to play-up based on all relevant information on what is in the best interest of not only the player but the entire organization. The Board will decide on the request no later than 1 week prior to the start of tryouts for the division level that is being requested. The Board's decision will be considered final.

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**PARMA HOCKEY ASSOCIATION RISK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND LIABILITY WAIVER FOR PLAYERS REQUESTING PLAY-UP**

**Print Name of Participant:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Birth date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**USA Hockey Age Level:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Desired Play-Up Level:** \_\_\_\_\_

I/We \_\_\_\_\_, parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of

\_\_\_\_\_ request that he/she be permitted to play-up to the next age division as defined by USA Hockey. I have read and understand the Parma Hockey Association Play-Up Policy and agree to all the terms, conditions and eligibility requirements that apply.

I understand that requesting a play up does not guarantee approval and understand that nothing in USA Hockey's rules requires an association to allow any player(s) to play-up.

I understand that Parma Hockey Association recommends that players stay in the age groupings defined by USA Hockey and stipulated in the USA Hockey Annual Guide as appropriate for their birth year. I understand and appreciate that in playing up, the risk of injury may be greater and that the risk of injury from hockey is significant, including the potential for permanent paralysis and death, and while particular rules and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious injury does exist.

By my child's participating, I KNOWINGLY ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, both known and unknown.

Further, I agree to indemnify and hold Parma Hockey Association, its officers, and USA Hockey, Inc., harmless from any and all liability, loss, expense, attorney's fees, or claims for injury or damages caused as a result of my request.

**I understand and agree to accept these conditions of participation.**

**Participant Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Name (print):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**PARMA HOCKEY ASSOCIATION REQUEST TO PLAY-UP**

**Print Name of Participant:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Birth date:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**USA Hockey Age Level:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Desired Play-Up Level:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Reason and Supporting Information for Request to Play-Up:**

**Participant Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Name (print):** \_\_\_\_\_

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