

QCHA YOUTH HOCKEY

PLAY-UP POLICY

It is the policy of QCHA that each registered player will play in his/her age group as set forth by USA Hockey rules. However, individual requests to play up shall be considered by the QCHA Board and reviewed on a case by case basis. The Board of Directors recognizes it can be appropriate and even beneficial to a participant's development for him or her to play-up to the next age classification. A fine balance needs to be struck, however, to avoid placing the desire of a participant above the legitimate opportunity for that participant to be successful in an older age classification.

There is an increased risk of injury for participants playing outside of their designated age classification. However, USA Hockey allows the 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 participant into an older age classification.

- A participant will not be permitted to move up more than one year in age, except in rare and specific cases. For example, a first year Squirt cannot be moved to the Pee Wee level. A second year Squirt may advance to Pee Wee. This will apply at Mite, Squirt, Pee Wee & Bantam levels.
- Only requests submitted in writing by the participant's parents or legal guardians will be considered. This request must be submitted at least 14 days prior to the try-out or evaluation skate.
- The Queen City Hockey Association board, coaches or other board appointed persons will evaluate each request. Criteria for allowing a person 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. The move up participant should be projected to be among the top participants on the move up team. If the participant is not projected to be one of the top participants on the team, then it is highly questionable whether the move up is truly in the best interest of that participant.
- Allowing participants to move from a non-checking division to a checking division represents the greatest risk and will receive the greatest scrutiny.
- The QCHA Board of Directors will make the final decision on allowing a participant to play-up based on the recommendations from the Coaches, Evaluators and Coaching Coordinator.
- The QCHA Board of Directors specifically reserves the right to reverse any decision either allowing or denying a participant to play-up at any time. If the participant is experiencing difficulty, as determined by the QCHA Board of Directors and/or the player's coach, the board may reverse the decision allowing the participant to play up. The safety of all participants is our primary concern.
- Upon request, the participant's parent(s)/guardian must sign a specific Risk Acknowledgement and Liability Waiver, in a form acceptable to the QCHA Board, acknowledging the risks associated with playing outside of a participant's proper age classification.

QCHA Youth Hockey Risk Acknowledgment 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 Queen City 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 even if a player is allowed to move up, QCHA reserves the right to reverse that decision for any reason at any time. Nothing in USA Hockey's rules requires an association to allow any player(s) to play-up.

I understand that QCHA 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 QCHA, its officers, MidAm 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): _____

Return completed forms to: Carl Robinson, Youth Hockey Director or mail to:
Queen City Hockey Association
Sports Plus
10765 Reading Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45241