



**WETASKIWIN MINOR HOCKEY
ASSOCIATION (WMHA) 2025-2026**

Player Acceleration Policy

Applies to all Co-Ed and Female Streams

1. Purpose

The player acceleration policy outlines the process and criteria for evaluating requests for players to move to a higher age division than their designated group. This policy ensures that movement occurs only when it supports player development and does not negatively impact team structures or league integrity.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all players and divisions within WMHA, including both the co-ed and female streams. It is intended for players who demonstrate exceptional skill and development that clearly exceeds expectations of their current age category.

3. Policy Overview

Parents or guardians who believe their child may qualify for acceleration must submit a formal application to the WMHA board. All applications must be received no later than Sept 1st for the upcoming season. Late applications will not be considered.

4. General Eligibility Criteria

To be considered for acceleration, players must meet all of the following requirements:

- Age requirement: The player must be in the final year of their current age division
- Team placement: The player must have played on the top team in their division during the previous season
- Try out attendance: The player must participate in all tryout sessions for the top team in the division in which they are applying, and will not participate in the lower age division in which they are registered until an acceleration decision is made.
- In the case of only one team in a division with no evaluations which often occurs in the female divisions; the player requesting acceleration will attend the first skate with that team. The evaluation committee will be present and will evaluate the player as per the criteria noted above. If the player does not meet the necessary criteria, they must go back to their registered age division

5. Roster Impact Criteria

A player will not be considered for acceleration if the movement would result in:

- a. The higher division exceeding 15 skaters and 2 goalies
- b. The current division falling below 13 skaters and 1 goalie

6. Registration

A player requesting acceleration must register in their own division. Once a decision is made, if the player is accelerating to the higher division, their registration will be transferred and fees will be adjusted.

7. Division Specific guidelines

U5-U7:

WMHA will not accept any player acceleration requests from U5 to U7 due to the introduction of a formal U5 program

U7-U9:

WMHA will not accept player acceleration requests for movement from U7 to U9

U9-U18

Players must meet the roster impact criteria (section 5)

Players will only be considered if they are:

- Evaluated as one the the Top 5 skaters in the division; or
- Evaluated as the top Goaltender in the division

8. Evaluation Process

- If the application is approved for consideration the athlete will be invited to attend evaluation skates in the higher division which will be conducted by the evaluation committee
- All evaluations are based on skill, game sense, physical readiness, and emotional maturity
- Players will only attend evaluation skates for one division until such time as a decision is made regarding their acceleration
- Final decisions rest with the WMHA Board and are not subject to appeal

9. Evaluation Fees

- If an additional evaluation skate is required, the requesting family will be responsible for all associated costs.
- Evaluation fees must be paid in full to WMHA prior to the evaluation taking place

10. Final Notes

- This policy is reviewed annually and is subject to change
- Meeting eligibility criteria does not guarantee player acceleration
- Decisions will prioritize long term player development and team stability
- Any request that does not fall under player acceleration, for example, a player does not have a team to play on, will be considered by the Board and will be decided at the Board's discretion.

11. Contact Information

For questions or to submit a player acceleration application please contact:

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