



FORT WAYNE YOUTH HOCKEY

TRAVEL PARTICIPANT PLAY-UP POLICY

The Board of Directors recognizes that in rare and specific cases it can be appropriate and even beneficial to a participant's development for him or her to play-up to the next age classification to play hockey. 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. For example, a first year Squirt cannot be moved to the PeeWee level. A second year Squirt may advance to PeeWee. This will apply at Mite, Squirt, PeeWee, and Bantam levels.
- Only requests submitted to the Coaching and Player Development Director or Travel Director 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 designated tryout date
- The Coaching and Player Development Committee will evaluate each request and will forward their recommendation to the Fort Wayne Youth Hockey board. Criteria for allowing play-up participants will be based on the evaluation of the participant's skill and ability to contribute to the older team as well as the participant's maturity level compared to the older team's participants. The evaluation team making the determination will not include coaches of the teams that are losing or gaining the participant. 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 only be granted under rare circumstances.
- The FWYH Board of Directors will make the final decision on allowing a participant to play-up based on the recommendations from the Coaching and Player Development Committee. The decision will be final.
- The FWYH Board of Directors specifically reserves the right to reverse any decision allowing a participant to play-up at any time. If a participant that has moved up is experiencing difficulty, as determined by the FWYH Board of Directors and or the player's coach, the board may reverse the decision allowing the participant to play up. In this case every attempt will be made to place the participant on a similar level team within the participant's proper age classification. There are no guarantees that the participant will be placed on another team. Parents and players should carefully consider this outcome prior to making a request to play-up.
- Upon request, the participant's parent(s)/guardian must sign a specific Risk Acknowledgement and Liability Waiver, in a form acceptable to the FWYH Board, acknowledging the risks associated with playing outside of a participant's proper age classification.



FWYH Risk Acknowledgment and Liability Waiver For Players Requesting Play Up

Print Name of Participant: _____ **Birth date:** _____

Desired Play-Up Team: _____

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 Fort Wayne Youth Hockey Travel Participant 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 the ability to make a team and understand that even if a player makes a play up team, FWYH reserves the right to reverse that decision for any reason at any time. I assume the risk that if the player is not chosen for the play up team or is subsequently removed from the team; he/she is potentially forfeiting the ability to play on a travel team for the current age division.

I understand that the FWYH 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 FWYH, its officers, Mid-Am Hockey 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): _____