



STETTLER MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Exceptional Player Policy

Introduction

The purpose of the Exceptional Player Request is to provide an opportunity for members to request their player move up to a higher age category. This procedure ensures that players are given a fair review and ensures that the association is not moving players out of their age category without diligent review.

To be an "Exceptional Player" one must possess hockey skills that are superior to players in his/her own age category and be capable of competing with the highest ranked players at the next level. In addition to hockey skills, the exceptional player must also possess physical & social maturity that match his/her superior hockey skills (SMHA board discretion). The player must be well rounded in all aspects of his/her development. A player will not be considered to move to any other than the highest level within the higher age category (U9 Advanced, U11 AA, U13 AAA, U15 AAA, U18 AA).

Guidelines

U7 to U9 Division

A player at the U7 level may be considered, upon request or identification by SMHA Executive or Coaches, for U9, in accordance with the Exceptional Player procedure. There are **NO EXCEPTIONS**. A parent/guardian who would like to request a U7 player be considered for a roster spot in the U9 division must notify the SHMA Executive a minimum of 30 days prior to the first assessment session.

- a) The U7 player will be evaluated by a member(s) of the SMHA Executive (minimum of one of President, VP Operations or VP Development, & U7/U9 senior coaches, &/or appointed evaluator (who may be a member in good standing or a non-member invitee).
- b) The U7 player must be able to be ranked within the top 10% of U9 players
- c) Consideration for movement may be impacted by roster numbers & impacts to U7 or U9 program.
- d) Consideration of movement may be impacted if development of U7 player will be impacted negatively by staying within the U7 division or will be negatively impacted by moving to U9 division.

U9, U11, U13, U15 and U18 Divisions

SMHA adopts Hockey Canada's recommendation that players develop and play within their age category. However, a player may seek exceptional status to try out for the highest-level team in the next highest age division. SMHA will consider any such request and may grant exceptional status, for one season only, based on exceptional player ability (considerably advanced for his/her age and playing at a level consistent with the top players one age division above) and maturity level.

SMHA will also consider the overall impact of any movement on the teams involved as well as the safety of the player. For a player to try out for a higher age division team, the player must:

- a) Inform the SMHA Executive, in writing, a minimum of 30 days in advance of the first scheduled tryout of the desire to try out at the higher division.
- b) All registration and tryout fees must be paid in full before the tryout begins.

In order for a player to be considered an exceptional player and be granted a roster spot on the highest-level team in the higher age category, the player must be ranked, at the conclusion of the tryout:

- Top 2 Defense
- Top 1 goaltender
- Top 3 forward positions
- Top 5 skater (for movement from U9 to U11)

There are NO EXCEPTIONS.

PROCEDURES:

1. SMHA Executive will meet to evaluate whether they feel the player warrants a tryout in the age group above. If the Executive is not available, SMHA President, VP Operations & VP Development will meet to make the decision.
2. If deemed to be allowed to participate in the tryout at the higher division, Two of the SMHA President, VP Operations & VP Development will attend the first tryout of the higher division team to assess the player and determine, in their opinion, if the player should continue to attend tryouts at the higher level. If the decision is that the player should not continue, the parent/guardian will be notified before the second tryout session.
3. If the player continues beyond the first session, in order to be deemed an "exceptional player" by SMHA, the player must place in the above categories described in the guidelines. The decision is final and no appeal will be heard. If the player does not fall into one of these top SPOTS, their tryouts will continue in their regular age category.
4. The player must continue to attend the tryouts for his/her own age group in addition to the tryouts for the higher division team during the tryout process if these ice times do not conflict.
5. Any player requesting Exceptional Player Status will be required to pay a \$100.00 applications/tryout Fee.

Association Regulations:

Successful applicants will be granted the opportunity to move up to the next age division. The decision to grant permission for the player to participate with the higher age category will become final, at the time the player's name is approved as part of a team's roster. Prior to this approval, the player may request a release from the higher age category and move down to his/her applicable age category without penalty.

MAXIMUM: The number of players that would be moved in to any one age group from the lower age division is one player per season per position.

DEADLINE: The deadline for submissions for Exceptional Player Status consideration is September 1st each hockey season.

Players must also participate in the evaluation skates at their own age group until a final decision is made.

PLEASE NOTE: At any time, SMHA has the right and may request a player(s) to move up an age level, with the parent(s)/guardian(s) approval, and without the need for this application. This requirement would be applied only if enrolment numbers at this higher division are at an extreme low. The player(s) chosen would be assessed and considered to be physically and mentally capable to manage this higher division.

SMHA may also determine each season that no positions in the higher age category are available for exceptional player movement.

Example if U18 has 40 player positions open, and 40 midget aged players registered, SMHA would not supplant one of those U18 aged players to accommodate a younger player searching for exceptional player movement status.

STETTLER MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION



EXCEPTIONAL PLAYER APPLICATION

Player Name: _____ Date of birth:(yyyy/mm/dd) _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Base Division: _____ Division applying for: _____

Upon signing below, I, the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the applicant, acknowledge that I have read and I understand the process outlined in this document.

Parent:
(print) _____ (Signature) _____

Please circle whichever applies:

Yes

I have included a one-page submission attached to provide a personal appeal / position statement as to why this player is applying for Exceptional Status and possible upwards movement within SMHA. Please limit submission to one page and attach to the application form.

No

I have not attached any further documentation for consideration in this application.

Submit application attention to TASA Competitive VP as per procedure and please submit prior to the stated deadline date.

By submitting the Exceptional Player Application, applicant acknowledges they will be required to pay the \$100.00 applications/tryout Fee.

Submit application attention to SMHA President, VP Operations, VP Development as per procedure and please submit prior to the stated deadline date.