



OPERATIONAL POLICY: MINOR HOCKEY OVERAGE PLAYERS
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PURPOSE

An objective of the Minor Hockey system is to facilitate participation that develops players within their specific age division. Movement of players to a younger age division should only be considered as an exception, for Players that have limited skills, to provide an opportunity for them to access Minor Hockey when there are no relevant options within their respective age division.

CRITERIA

A player that is of first year in a division, by date of birth, may be permitted to register and participate with a team of a lower age division provided they meet the criteria outlined herein:

- a) Players are only eligible for Overage status if they are one birth year older than the maximum age for the Division and have a date of birth between November 1 and December 31 of that year;
- b) The Player has limited skills that are not conducive to participate in their respective age Division;
- c) Eighteen-year-old (18) Players are only eligible for Overage status if they are still enrolled full-time in high school;
- d) AA and AAA Teams are not eligible to register Overage Players;
- e) Players that were rostered to AA or AAA teams the previous season will not be eligible for Overage status.

Exceptions may be considered for a Player that has a date of birth between January 1 and October 31, provided the Player has entry level and/ or limited skills that would not enable the Player to play within their respective age division.

PROCESS FOR EXCEPTION REQUESTS

Approval for any Overage Player that does not meet the criteria outlined above must be obtained through an application made by the Minor Hockey Association (MHA) to Hockey Alberta through the online application form.

- If an MHA does not support and submit the request, an application will not be considered;
- Applications must be made no later than **October 31**;
- Prior to a formal decision, Hockey Alberta may use an evaluation or “trial” period to determine the correct division of hockey for the applicant.

OVERAGE PLAYERS IN INTRO TO HOCKEY LEVELS

- Hockey Alberta may allow a Player that is in their first year in the U11 Division, by date of birth, to register and participate in an MHA’s Intro to Hockey Program.
- MHAs are permitted to register U9 aged participants in the U7 division should they deem it appropriate for the participants development. Notification must be made to the Minor Administration Coordinator.



USE OF AN APPROVED OVERAGE PLAYER

- Overage Players may be placed on any level of Team (except AAA and AA Teams) that the MHA deems to be appropriate for the participant's development;
- Overage Players are eligible to participate with their registered Team in all exhibition, tournament, League and Provincial games;
- Overage Players are eligible to affiliate to a team of their appropriate age division;
- Overage Players must be marked as "OA" on all game sheets;
- A maximum of three (3) Overage Players can be registered to any one team;
- Overage Players may have their Overage status revoked at any time within the season, up to and including December 31, should it be deemed the player is strengthening the Team or no longer meets the respective criteria;
- Overage Player approvals are valid for the current season only.