



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ICE HOCKEY **ASSOCIATION**

Under-Aged Player Playing Up Policy

Adopted by the South Australian Ice Hockey Association Inc.
on February 25th 2015

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On some occasions, a player or his/her Club may wish for the player to train and/or play in a Division higher than his/her age permits. If a player or his Club wishes him/her to be considered to train and/or play above his/her Division, they must adhere to the IHSA Under-Aged Player Playing Up Policy and Procedures as detailed below.

1. Policy

- 1.1 The fundamental objective of the Under-Aged Player Playing Up Policy is to ensure that members of Ice Hockey SA train and/or play in a Division which is appropriate for their age and ability, which in turn ensures that Ice Hockey SA is upholding its duty of care to provide an environment which is as safe as possible for its members.
- 1.2 The policy also serves to indemnify Ice Hockey SA should a player train and/or play in any Division higher than his/her age-appropriate Division and in the course of doing so, sustain injury.
- 1.3 This policy applies to all Juniors wishing to train and/or play any Division higher than their age-appropriate Division, including but not limited to:
 - A Pee Wee wishing to train and/or play Bantams
 - A Bantam wishing to train and/or play any Senior Division i.e., A, B or C Grade
 - A player wishing to train and/or play in any National Championship higher than his/her age category i.e., a McCrae aged player wishing to train and/or play Ginsberg, a Ginsberg aged player wishing to train and/or play de Fris, a de Fris aged player wishing to train and/or play Tange, or a Tange aged player wishing to train and/or play Brown
- 1.4 For a player wishing to train and/or play in any National Championship higher than his/her age category, the player and/or their parents are referred to Section 6 of the IHSA State Team Selection Policy. In addition, they must consult with their age-appropriate Board appointed State Team Coach about the matter. If their age-appropriate State Team Coach denies permission for them to train and/or play in a higher age group then the player shall only train and/or play their age-appropriate division. If their age-appropriate State Team Coach provides permission for them to train and/or play in a higher age group then the player and their parents must seek permission from the Ice Hockey SA Board to train and/or play the higher division using the procedures outlined in this policy. Training and/or playing must not commence without Ice Hockey SA Board approval.
- 1.5 Once approval has been granted for a player to play a Division higher than their current age-appropriate Division, the said player is not required to seek approval to play within the same higher age Division in a subsequent year i.e., a Bantam approved for B Grade in one year does not need to seek approval to play B Grade in a subsequent year. However, if the player wishes to be considered for a higher Division than for which approval was granted they would need to seek approval for that Division i.e., a Bantam approved for B Grade would need to seek approval to play A Grade.
- 1.6 Approval for a player to play in a Division higher than their current age-appropriate Division is subject to review by the Coaching Director and the Ice Hockey SA Board and can be revoked. To uphold its duty of care to members, if a player's attitude or skills indicate that he/she is at-risk of injury by competing within the higher age Division approval can be revoked and the player will only be allowed to play within their current age-appropriate Division.

1.7 This policy does not apply to players over the age of 18 years who wish to play any Division higher than their current Division, including but not limited to:

- A C Grade player wishing to be drafted to B Grade
- A B Grade player wishing to train and/or play in A Grade

1.8 If approval to train and/or play up a Division is granted the player concerned (or their parents) are liable to pay any additional fees incurred. That is, if participating in more than one Division the player will be responsible and liable to pay the prescribed fees in each of those Divisions.

2. Principles

2.1 These principles apply to all players wishing to train and/or play up a Division within Ice Hockey SA, with the exception of those specified at Item 1.7 and 1.8.

2.2 Comprehensive and well documented records are to be maintained on all playing up requests and decisions.

3. Procedures

3.1 Any player wishing to train and/or play any Division higher than their age-appropriate Division must complete and submit the Under-Aged Player Release and Indemnifying Agreement (See Appendix A). The coach of the current team for which the player is playing and the coach of the team in the higher age group must both approve and sign the agreement.

3.2 The Under-Aged Player Release and Indemnifying Agreement must be completed by the player's parents or legal guardian.

3.3 The Under-Aged Player Release and Indemnifying Agreement must then be given to the Coaching Director of Ice Hockey SA who will make a determination whether the player has the physical ability, skill and mental attitude to play ice hockey in the new Division being sought.

3.4 The Under-Aged Player Release and Indemnifying Agreement must then be signed by another member of the Ice Hockey SA Board and the form must be submitted to the Secretary of Ice Hockey SA to be tabled and discussed at the next available Board meeting.

3.5 The player's request to train and/or play up a Division will be tabled and discussed at the next available Board meeting of Ice Hockey South Australia, where a decision will be made to approve or reject the request. Where further information is required from the Coaching Director, a decision may be delayed until that information is able to be sought.

3.6 Upon a decision being made by the Board of Ice Hockey SA, the player and his/her guardians will be notified of the decision in writing.

3.7 If approved, prior to training and/or playing in the higher Division, the player or the parents/legal guardian must present their Letter of Approval to the Team Coach and the Score Box Officials.

3.8 Player must participate and pay for their age appropriate division. Non compliance will result in termination of the playing up agreement.

3.9 Player must participate and pay for their age appropriate National Championship. If the National Championship for the playing up age group is held first, then the player must commit to pay and play for the age eligible team, failure to do so will incur a suspension of the player to be determined by the board of IHSA

4. Right of Appeal/Complaints

4.1 Any player who wishes clarification of the decision or wishes to complain about the process may submit their query or complaint in writing to be tabled at the next Ice Hockey SA Board meeting.

5. Penalties for Breaching the Policy

5.1 Any player who trains and/or plays in a higher Division than is age-appropriate without written authorisation from the Ice Hockey SA board to do so will be suspended for one training or game of their age-appropriate Division.

5.2 Any Club who allows a player to train and/or play in a higher Division than is age-appropriate without written authorisation from the Ice Hockey SA board will forfeit the game in which the player was deemed to have played illegally **AND** will be responsible for the cost of the ice.

APPENDIX A



Underage Player Request and Indemnifying Agreement

Part A: Player Details:

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Years played: _____ Position: _____

Current level of competition: _____

Higher level of competition the player requests to play for: _____

Part B: Approvals

Parent /Guardian: _____ Ph: _____ Date: _____

Coach of current team: _____ Ph: _____ Date: _____

Coach higher level team: _____ Ph: _____ Date: _____

IHSA Coaching Director: _____ Date: _____

IHSA Board member: _____ Date: _____

Part C: WAIVER, RELEASE AND INDEMNITY:

I _____ (family and given name of the player)

And _____ (family and given name) being the parent/legal guardian of the above named player do hereby release and forever discharge the IHSA all official representatives of the IHSA individually and in their representative or official capacity, all members and officials of the team, all game officials, individually and in their official capacities, all ice hockey arenas, their employees and officials, which arenas are used as official sites for the game competition during the above specified competition and all other persons, firms or corporations, known or unknown, who are or might be claimed to be liable, from any and all actions, causes of actions, claims or demands for, upon or by reason of any damage, loss suffering or injury to person or property, known or unknown, which may or hereafter be sustained during the above specified competition by the undersigned as the result of not meeting the age requirement to compete in the above mentioned competition.

Mother/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Father/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____