



## **FORT ST. JAMES MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION Player Movement Policy**

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### **Players Moving Up**

Any consideration for a player moving up on a full time basis must take into account the best interest of the player in question. In addition, and equally important consideration must also be given to the best interests of any and all other players affected by such movement.

The following process will be followed by Fort St James Minor Hockey Association for a player to be moved to a higher age level:

### **Procedure:**

1. A written request for movement, signed by a parent or guardian, addressed to the President or designate must be made prior to October 30<sup>th</sup> of each year. Such a request must outline in detail specific reasons for this player movement.
2. Upon receipt of the written request for player movement, FSJMHA will acknowledge receiving the request in writing within two days.
3. FSJMHA will instruct the Coach and Team Manager of each Division affected to review the request. This review is accomplished by having the player attend a minimum of two practices in the higher division and being assessed by a committee made up of three independent knowledgeable hockey representatives along with the coaches from each division. The committee will report their findings and recommendations to FSJMHA immediately following their decision making.
4. FSJMHA will communicate the recommendations to the parent/player within ten to fourteen days of receipt of the written request.
5. The decision to allow or disallow player movement is final. Any appeals of such decisions must then follow designated appeal proceedings and FSJMHA must receive any appeal no later than ten days following notification of the decision.

### **Considerations when reviewing a request for a player to move up:**

- a. First consideration must be given to ensuring the player is playing at the level at which he/she is best suited. The criteria used in determining the best placement for the player are skill development, physical size and development and social development. A player must possess outstanding development levels in each of the noted areas and

if it is the wish of the parents that he be moved to a higher level, the above process must be followed in all cases. FSJMHA will not approve any requests for player movement unless all criteria are met. **Only the most exceptional player will fit the above noted criteria. This exceptional player will need to be in the top 25% of the division he is requesting to be moved up to.**

- b. Consideration for player movement will not be given where such movement would be detrimental to any team in terms of player numbers. In other words, if such movement would leave a team less than adequate player numbers, no consideration will be given for player movement in that instance. Furthermore if the team or level to which such a player would move up to already has adequate player numbers and an additional player would result in players already on the team not being given their fair allotment of playing time, once again FSJMHA will not allow player movement. If the team or level to which such a player moves up to does not have adequate players then movement up would be looked upon more favorably.
- c. Unless unique and exceptional circumstances are identified, no player shall be moved up to play at a higher level more than one above that players eligible age level. For example, no player who is in the first year of his particular age group shall be allowed to move up to a higher level. Requests for movement will only be considered for players in their second year of age division.

### **Players Moving Down**

Procedure:

The Same procedure will be used as under 'Players Moving Up', however the two coaches from the affected divisions may decide that they do not require the player to be assessed by a committee made up of three independent knowledgeable hockey representatives.

Considerations when reviewing a request for a player to move down:

- a. Consideration for player movement down to a lower age category must originate from either parent or guardian of the player or from concerns expressed by the Coach with regards to well being of the player. If the player lacks necessary skill development to play at a level to which he/she is suited by age, and if the player also lacks the sufficient physical size to be able to play without concern for their safety, that player wouldn't be given consideration for movement down to a younger age level.
- b. If the request is for a female player to move down, FSJMHA automatically approves movement down one division for females.
- c. All players moving down must still register in their proper age

division.

**NOTE:**

The coach of the player that has moved down will be required to advise all coaches of opposing teams that an over age player is on the roster. The coach of the opposing team must agree to allow that player to take part in tournament play.

**Temporary Player Movement - Coach Initiated - normally due to low numbers**

FSJMHA recognizes that we may have situations where low participation numbers hinder our divisions. Coaches may be interested in asking skilled players from a lower division to play up on a temporary basis to assist to fill rosters for practices, games, tournaments, etc. Any consideration for a player moving up on a temporary basis must take into account the best interest of the player in question. In addition, and equally important consideration must also be given to the best interests of any and all other players affected by such movement. Caution must be used when temporary movement is considered for a player moving from a non-hitting division to a hitting division.

1. The coach asking for a player or players will initiate any request for temporary player movement. The requesting coach must communicate directly with the coach of the team/division from which players are being moved and the executive of the FSJMHA. Should the Coach of the team being asked for player(s) have no objections to such player movement, parents or guardians and player(s) approval must also be granted.
2. Temporary player movement must not interfere with planned team activities including regularly scheduled practices, games, tournaments, etc. The player's first priority is

with his own team and FSJMHA discourages any influence on the player which would disrupt the team-player relationship unnecessarily. FSJMHA does support the concept of affiliation, which allows for temporary player movement under proper conditions.

3. Temporary player movement should be initiated only if the Coach of the requesting team has a need for additional player(s). Concern would arise if a coach were to ask for a temporary movement of player(s) from another team/division to his/her own, if such players were to receive an unfair amount of playing time as result.
4. The Coach being asked for temporary player(s) movement will be within his rights to refuse to allow for player movement providing he can legitimately show why such player movement should not occur.
5. The FSJMHA Executive Committee reserves the right to incorporate extra fees associated with the extra ice time received to a player when temporary player movement is granted.