



## SAULT MAJOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

### Exceptional Player Status

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#### **Introduction:**

The Sault Major Hockey Association has had numerous players with the capability and talent to play in a higher division. As a practice, however, the SMHA has encouraged players to grow and develop with players of their own age.

An exceptional player may be allowed to move up a category (e.g. Minor to Major) within a division provided the outlined criteria has been met and the appropriate procedure is followed.

The only reason for allowing a player to move up within their own age category is to facilitate the development of that particular player, and not simply to provide the older club with additional players.

#### **Applicability:**

This policy applies to all players on all AAA teams over which the Sault Major Hockey Association has jurisdiction over. Regardless of how many players apply we will only allow **one player** to move to the higher category. The coach of the higher division team has the final decision if he would like to use this player.

This policy does not apply to midget aged players. Minor midget aged players may try out for the major midget team freely without going through the process.

#### **Criteria:**

If a player is to be considered for player movement, the following criteria must be met:

- A player moving up to a higher category must be physically able to play in the higher division, as agreed to by both coaches.
- A player moving to a higher category must have approval from both coaches, parents, and the Board of Directors of the Sault Major Hockey Association.
- Exceptional player designation: a player moving to a higher division must be the equivalent in talent and ability as one of the top 3 forwards, top 2 defensemen, or the top goalie on the team they are trying out for at the older age group.



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### **Process:**

This section recognizes that a member may wish to have their child play at the next level of competition.

1. A parent may request in writing to the SMHA president to have his/her child play in a higher category. This request must be received by **January 15th**. **Any request received after this date will not be considered for the upcoming season.** The request is to be forwarded to the Secretary:

Email: at [saultmajor@saultmajorhockey.ca](mailto:saultmajor@saultmajorhockey.ca)

Mail: Sault Major Hockey Association

269 Queen Street East

PO Box 172

Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario CA

P6A 5L6

2. The current coaching staff will be approached by the association to see where they would rank the player. If in the top 3 of their team move on to next step.
3. The president is responsible to select a committee that will determine whether the player is eligible to play at the higher level. The independent group will evaluate the player during the current season and playoffs. The coach and parents will be notified of the results.
4. In the event that the evaluators feel that the player can play at the higher level, **the coach of the higher division team has the final decision if he would like to use this player.**
5. If at any time during the process the parent(s) of the player(s) participating in the movement attempts to influence the coaches or evaluators, the process will be terminated.
6. No team will invite, offer or include any applicant in any tryout, practice, scrimmage or other activity until such time as the applicant has been declared eligible under the exceptional player status. Any violation of this provision will result in a suspension for any person who violates the provision. The length of the suspension will be determined by the Disciplinary Committee of the Sault Major Hockey Association.

### **Note:**

This procedure will only act as a one year release and **must be repeated yearly.** During the evaluation any contact with the evaluators will void the application.