



PLAY UP POLICY & PROCEDURE FOR THE BURLINGTON CITY REP HOCKEY CLUB

The Burlington City Rep Hockey Club have adopted a clear and concise “Play Up Policy” for families and players considering this request. It is the policy of the Burlington City Rep Hockey Club that each registered player will play at their age level set forth by the OHF rules. However, individual requests to “Play Up” maybe considered by a Play Up Committee and reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

The Burlington City Rep Hockey Club and Play Up Committee does recognize that in certain situations, it may be the appropriate and beneficial for the player’s development to “Play Up”. While in other cases, it may be the best for the player to remain in their age-appropriate level. When considering these requests, the Play Up Committee objectives are to provide the proper skill development opportunities for the player while factoring the impact it will have on the desired team. The following 3-step procedures shall therefore be followed when there is a desire a player to “Play Up” at the older level. The following includes:

STEP 1 – FORMAL REQUEST

1. The parents or guardians may seek permission for their child to “Play Up” by a formal written request to the Vice-President of Hockey, Brian Sharpe and Director of Player and Coach Development, Corey Locke three weeks prior to the beginning of tryout process.
2. Only written formal requests submitted by email by the parents or guardians will considered.
3. The parents or guardians will not be permitted to “Play Up” more than one year in age division, and only at the highest category offered.
4. The parents or guardians seeking permission to “Play Up” from a non-checking age level to checking level represents greater risks and will therefore receive additional scrutiny.
5. The parents or guardians must be fully registered for tryouts and will be responsible for paying the tryout fee at the set price of the Burlington City Rep Hockey Club.
6. The Burlington City Rep Hockey Club will not issue a tryout refund based on the final decision of the request to “Play Up”.

STEP 2 – PRE-TRYOUT PLAY UP COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1. The parents or guardians will have a private timed schedule discussion with the Play Up Committee to present their cases for their player's request.
2. The parents and guardians will have the opportunity to explain to the Play Up Committee the reasons why it may be the appropriate and beneficial for the player's development.
3. The Play Up Committee will take the points made in the case presented by the parents or guardians to the final stage of the 3-step procedure.

STEP 3 – TRYOUT EVALUATION AND DECISION PROCESS

1. The player must participate in both tryouts at their age-appropriate level and the desired "Play Up" level.
2. Members of the Play Up Committee along the Coaching Staff will be present at the tryouts. They will evaluate the players based on criteria of their Technical Skills, Compete Skills, Hockey Sense and Mental Skills.
3. Additional criteria such as: contributing to the older team, the player's emotional and physical maturity level compared to the desired team's players and physical size will help in supporting and allowing the request to "Play Up".
4. The Play Up Committee will consider and evaluate a player's development potential in their age-appropriate division versus potential for development success in the desired "Play Up" division.
5. The Play Up Committee will consider the best interests of the request to "Play Up", and the Burlington City Rep Hockey Club.
6. The Play Up Committee must agree the player is an impact or dominant player on the "Play Up" team being considered top 3 player on the desired team.
7. Special considerations will be taken by the Play Up Committee for divisions that do not offer representative hockey such U8 and U9 tiered divisions.
8. The parents or guardians will need to acknowledge that approval to "Play Up" in one year does not necessarily allow for continued "Play Up" situations or guarantee approval to "Play Up" in future years.
9. The player requesting to "Play Up" must meet the criteria for each year of eligibility.
10. The parents or guardians must acknowledge that there is an increased risk of injury for players outside their age-appropriate level.
11. Once a decision is made, the Play Up Committee's ruling in agreeance with the Coaching Staff will be final.
12. Unsuccessful requests to "Play Up" does not allow for release forms to given to play in other centers at the age-appropriate level.