**LISTOWEL MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION**

**PLAYER MOVEMENT POLICY – EXCEPTIONAL STATUS**

The Listowel Minor Hockey Assoication (LMHA) does not encourage players to play above their age division and supports Hockey Canada’s recommendation that minor hockey players should develop and play within their age division. However, the LMHA Board may consider appliations for player to seek exceptional status to try out for a team that is one (1) age division older, subject to and in accordance with this Exceptional Player Status Policy (this “Policy”). There will be NO EXCEPTIONS beyond what is written here.

***INTRODUCTION***

To be an “Exceptional Player” one must possess not only hockey skills that are ***superior*** to ***players in their own age category (making them one of the or the top skilled players in their own age group), but would be capable of competing with the top skilled players at the next level***. ***This athlete must be deemed to be in the top bracket of players of the higher age category in the position for which they are attempting to move up to.*** In addition to hockey skills, the exceptional player must also possess physical maturity and social-emotional skills, which would match their superior hockey skills. The player must be well rounded in all aspects of their development. The purpose of having the Exceptional Player policy is that it is understood that from time to time, member may want to request their player to move up an age category for various reasons. This policy ensures that players are given a fair review, and ensures that the association is not moving players out of their age category who are not qualified.

***OMHA REGULATION 3.6***

As per OMHA Regulation 3.6, Listowel Minor Hockey has etabilshed criteria for an under age player to be eligible to roster with a higher age division team.

1. This regulation is created in accordance with OMHA Regulations 3.6 – Eligibility to Play in Higher Division.
2. "The following policy rules apply to players at the U7- U15 age division (under OMHA Pathways) and U18 age division."
3. At this point, LMHA Board of Directors are limiting the applications for exceptional player requests, to the following;
	1. Members of LMHA in the previous season,
	2. Families that have recently moved to Listowel and surrounding area.
	3. Your association that is not running a team that your exceptional player is trying out for.
4. No team player will be advanced to a higher age group without the consent of the Executive Board of Directors.
5. Players are encouraged and expected to play in their appropriate age division. Exceptions to this rule will be consided on a case by case basis by the LMHA Board of Directors with respect to the best interest of the **child** involved.
6. The rationale of the Player Request to Move Up is to provide for those athletes who display ***“exceptional skill”*** and excel to an **“elite”** level at their current position.
7. An underage player may ***only be approved for selection*** to the higher-aged team on one of the following conditions:
	1. Is evaluated and ranted as the top goaltender
	2. Is evaluated and ranked as a top 3 skater
8. U8 through to U18 are allowed a ***maxium of two (2) underage players.***Unless there is a number of players issue, which there is leniency in this number, based on Executives decision.
9. Any request for a player to move up must be made to the LMHA Board. A “Player Request to Move Up” form must be completed by the parents and submitted to the Board of Directors.
10. Any player obtaining premision to try out or move up as an underage player will be allowed to try out or move up for no more than **one** higher-aged team per season.
11. If the player moving up is requesting to be moved to a team that does not hold offical tryouts (for example U8 to U9), the player shall attend three (3) practices of the higher age team and be evaluated by the three (3) Board of Directors and one (1) coach of a different age divison.
12. If the underaged player requesting to be moved up an age division does not meet the criteria outlined in this policy, he or she must return to his or her’s registered age divison.

***EVALUATIONS***

The evaluation of the underage player shall include the following:

1. LMHA shall appoint three (3) Board of Directors and one (1) coach of a different age division that have no affliation to the player requesting the evaluation to avoid any conflict.
2. A standard evaluation form shall be given to all evaluators prior to the try-out or player evaluation.
3. Once the evaluation has been completed and reviewed by the appointed evaluators, notice will be provided to the LMHA Board of Directors.
4. The LMHA Board of Directors shall review the determination of the appointed evaluators and provide notice of the decision to the coach of the higher-aged team as to selection/non-selection of the underage athlete to the team.
5. At the end of the current season, the underage player must return to the team of his/her proper age division and must follow the same procedure for the upcoming season if he/she will be requesting to play for a higher-aged team again.

****

 **EXCEPTIONAL PLAYER APPLICATION**

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: (yyyy/mm/dd)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Current Divison:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Division applying for:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Upon signing below, I, the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the mentioned expectional player, have read and understood the process outlined under the Player Movement Policy – Exceptional Status.***

Parent: (print)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_