



LA RONGE MINOR HOCKEY **PLAYING UP/DOWN POLICY**

(Effective October, 2016)

La Ronge Minor Hockey is in a unique situation. Our location is a significant distance away from higher tiered/calibre hockey. Prince Albert is our closest center, however, Prince Albert Minor Hockey Association is declared a “closed center”, which leaves LRMH players having to travel further distances for higher tiered/calibre hockey. This distance can be a financial burden to families who cannot afford to have their children play at a level comparable to their skill, physical size and maturity.

Each request for minor hockey players to play up or down must be sent within two weeks of the beginning of the season in writing/email to the head coaches of each team involved, as well as, the LRMH President.

The coaching staff from both teams will arrange a meeting with the parents/guardians of the player requesting to play either up or down. If the coaches/parents/guardians cannot come to a mutually agreed upon decision, the request will be brought forth to the LRMH Board for a final decision. The LRMH Board’s decision will be final with no opportunity for appeal. Each request will be treated on an individual basis and will have no bearing/influence on other potential requests received. *(Please note that there will be a difference in registration fees due to playing up or down. LRMH will request payment for the difference OR will refund the difference via a cheque.)*

The criteria that will assist in determining the decision will include, but is not limited to:

- 1) ***Skill level:*** Ability to play the game at the level expected within the desired division. The ability is gained through practice and experience and is demonstrated by proficiency, training, strength, agility and mind set, in relation to skating, puck handling, positioning, and knowledge of the game.
- 2) ***Balancing overall team numbers:*** If the player involved leaves a team and reduces the number on that team below an acceptable amount of skaters, determined by the coaching staff, this may not be the best option for the player or the team. If a request is made to move a player up to a team that already has 21 registered players, this would cause the team to have too many players on paper and the request would be rejected.
- 3) ***Player safety and player maturity:*** A player’s physical size must be brought into consideration as a safety factor for themselves and for those they will be playing with, as well as, their maturity level in relation to others on the team they are requesting to play up or down with.

Players can only request to play **one level or tier higher or lower**, with the exception of goaltenders upon approval from the LRMH Board.

Parents/guardians and coaches are reminded of the following;

If a player’s request to play up is not granted, as per what his/her skill level may dictate, the player will still have the ability and opportunity to improve aspects of his/her game, throughout the hockey season. These aspects include, but are not limited to, leadership, sportsmanship and defensive/offensive play. He/she will have more touches per game, which will in turn, improve his/her skill level on a whole.