



## *Playing Outside Age Group Policy*

### **Preamble**

The following policy was developed through consultation with local clubs and some clubs in Southern Ontario.

Most Clubs' when canvassed agreed that with the younger age groups (9, 10, 11, 12 and possibly 13) we should frown on allowing players to compete outside their age group unless they are exceptional. This determination should be assessed by the Club's Head Coach in conjunction with senior coaches.

### **Policy**

Players will not normally be allowed to play outside their age group. However, for an exceptional athlete the Club will consider individual circumstances on a case by case basis by having the Club Head Coach and senior coaches undertake individual assessments to determine whether the athlete has the ability and the talent to compete at the higher age group.

### **Grandfather Clause**

To minimize the disruption to teams that already have under aged players the Club will introduce a grandfather clause allowing this participation to continue in order to minimize the disruption to teams. The following are examples of guidelines to be followed:

- (1) Under aged players will be allowed to continue playing in the older age group without any annual review by the Club.
- (2) However, if the athlete/parent wishes the player to compete in a higher competitive category (moving up to Premier from Division 1) an individual assessment will have to be undertaken to determine if the player has the ability and talent to compete.

Teams should not have more than two under aged players on a team because this will be perceived as depriving other athletes of an opportunity.

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