**Huntsville Minor Hockey Association**

**TRYOUTS AND PLAYER MOVEMENT**

**Underage Players**

2.31.1 Any player requesting the opportunity to try out as an underage player for a Rep Team (Atom-Midget) must concurrently try out in his/her own age group. A request to attend the higher level tryouts must be made in writing (request must state reason(s) the player wishes to try out at the higher level) to HMHA and permission must be given, prior to an underage player participating in the tryouts. A rep coach must apply in writing to HMHA for approval of an underage player selection – the decision may be referred to the Discipline and Ethics Committee.

2.31.2 To qualify as an underage player (Atom-Midget) the player must possess the following:

-exceptional skills (meaning unusual)

-must excel at his position (meaning superior skills)

-must be requesting to move from PeeWee to Bantam or Bantam to Midget (Atom aged players could apply to move to PeeWee if they compile an exceptional number of personal statistics in their own age group)

-if any underage player wishes to try out as a Forward, he/she must be within the top 3 Forwards at the 1st Entry Rep level of the division he/she wishes to try out for (i.e. if a PeeWee aged player wishes to tryout as a Forward at the Bantam level, he/she must be in the top 3 Forwards at the 1st Entry Bantam Rep level)

-if any underage player wishes to try out as a Defense, he/she must be within the top 2 Defense at the 1st Entry level of the division he/she wishes to try out for (i.e. if a Bantam player wishes to tryout as a Defense at the Midget level, he/she must be in the top 2 Defense at the 1st Entry Midget level)

-if any underage player wishes to try out as a Goalie, he/she must display exceptional skills in this position and HMHA must assess the implications of allowing an underage Goalie to possibly move up in the proposed season (including, but not limited to, number of potential goalies available for the Goalie’s division (by age) and the division he/she hopes to try out for – consideration will be given to determine if permitting an underage Goalie could potentially undermine the viability of another HMHA team, in either of the effected divisions). HMHA will advise on a case by case basis, if an underage Goalie can try out in any given season and division.

\*\*HMHA reserves the right to review and determine unique situations regarding player movement within the organization. For example, but not limited to, a situation where movement of an underage player(s) would be beneficial to both divisions, or necessary to ice a particular team without reducing the numbers at the younger level such that the team becomes not viable.

2.31.3 Any player requesting the opportunity to tryout as an underage player for a Novice Rep Team must wait until the first round of Novice Rep Tryouts are completed, consisting only of 8 year olds (as of December 31st of the playing season). If there is a shortage of 8 year olds to ice a full Novice Rep Team (minimum of 13 skaters and 2 goalies), HMHA will open a second round of tryouts, inviting interested Tyke aged (7 years old as of December 31st of the playing season) players to try out for the Novice Rep Team. No 8 year old shall be released from the Novice Rep team to allow for a 7 year old to try out or sign with the team. 7 year olds will only be permitted to try out for Novice Rep if there is a shortage of 8 year olds wishing to play. For a Novice Rep team to be viable, they must have no more than 50% underage players rostered to their team.

\*\*HMHA reserves the right to review any extenuating circumstances and to determine the appropriate course of action on a case by case basis

2.31.4 Local League underage or overage player eligibility is at the discretion of HMHA and the decision may be referred to the Discipline and Ethics Committee.