

Telluride Lizard Head Hockey

Play up Policy

It is the policy of Lizard Head Hockey Club that each registered player will play in his/her age group as set forth by USA Hockey rules and the current league regulations. However individual requests to play up shall be considered by the board and reviewed on a case by case basis. The Lizard Head Hockey Board recognizes in certain situations it may be appropriate and beneficial to a participant's development for him or her to play up to the next age level. Any decision to move a player up will be based on the betterment of all parties involved, taking into consideration the team's needs, the desires of the parents and the skater, recommendations of the coaches and ultimately the board.

Equally important, the short and long term best interests of the Lizard Head Youth Hockey Club must be given consideration. There is an increased risk of injury for participants when playing outside of their designated age classification. However, USA Hockey allows the movement in certain situations if specific guidelines are followed. Parents/guardians should carefully consider the increased risks involved and follow the guidelines below when making a request to move a participant into an older age group.

- A participant will not be permitted to move up more than one age group. For example a first year Squirt cannot be moved to the Pee Wee level. A second year Mite may advance to Squirt.
- Only requests in writing by the participant's parents/legal guardians will be considered. The request should be submitted to the Lizard Head Hockey Board, at least 15 days prior to the start of the skating season. Please note that final rosters are due December 31st and no movement can occur after that date.
- If the Lizard Head Hockey Board determines that due to participation numbers it is beneficial for younger team players to double roster on a higher level team the same care, evaluation and written request by the parents must be submitted to proceed with any double roster play up situation.
- The Lizard Head Hockey Board will evaluate each request on an individual case by case basis. Criteria to move a player up will include but not be limited to: participant's skills and ability to contribute to the older team, the player's maturity level compared to the older team's participants, physical size, and the numbers of players at each level and the need if necessary for players in a double roster situation. Under no circumstances will an age-appropriate player be bumped from a team roster to accommodate a younger player. *In addition, the board will take into consideration the effect that moving a participant will have on the younger teams competitive play level.*
- The evaluation committee will not include a parent, sibling or other person legally or otherwise related to the player. The evaluation committee will not include coaches of the teams that are losing or gaining the player, though they can be consulted. The player requesting to move up should be projected to be among the top players on the move up team. If the player is not projected to be one of the top players on the team, then it is highly questionable whether the move up is truly in the best interest of that player.
- Allowing players to move from a non checking division to a checking division represents the greatest risk and therefore will receive the most scrutiny.
- The Lizard Head Hockey Board will make the final decision on allowing a participant to play-up. This decision is final.
- The Lizard Head Hockey Board specifically reserves the right to reverse any decision either allowing or denying a participant to play up at any time. If the participant or teams involved are experiencing difficulty as determined by the board and/or the coaches or parents of the player the board may reverse the decision allowing the participant to play up.
- Upon request, the participant's parents/legal guardian must sign a specific Risk Acknowledgment and Liability Waiver, acknowledging the risks associated with playing outside the participant's proper age classification.

TELLURIDE LIZARD HEAD HOCKEY CLUB

Risk Acknowledgement and Liability Waiver for Players Requesting Play-Up

Name of Participant (print): _____

Birth Date: _____

Desired Play Up Age Team/Classification: _____

I/We _____, parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of _____ request that he/she be permitted to Play-Up to the next age division as defined by USA Hockey. I have read and understand the Telluride Lizard Head Hockey Club Participant Play-Up Policy and agree to all the terms, conditions and eligibility requirements that apply.

I understand that requesting a play-up does not guarantee approval or the right to stay on the selected team and understand that even if the decision is made to move up a player that the LHHCB reserves the right to reverse that decision for any reason at any time. Nothing in USA Hockey's rule requires a club to allow any player to play-up.

I understand that the LHHCB recommends that players stay in the age groupings defined by USA Hockey and stipulated in the USA Hockey Annual Guide as appropriate for birth year. I understand and appreciate that in playing up , the risk of injury may be greater and that the risk of injury from hockey is significant, including the potential for permanent paralysis and death, and while particular rules and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious injury does exist.

By my child's participating, I knowingly assume all such risks, both known and unknown. Further I agree to indemnify and hold LHHCB, its members, Colorado Amateur Hockey Association, and USA Hockey, Inc., harmless from any and all liability, loss, expense, attorney's fees or claims for injury or damages causes as a result of my request.

I understand and agree to accept these conditions of participation.

Participant Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian (print): _____

Please return completed with any additional comments to: **Laura Cattell Brown, Telluride Lizard Head Hockey**