**WLMHA Player Movement Policy for House League Teams 2016-2017 season**

**Players:**

**As a General Rule:** Players shall play within their own age group.

Only in **limited situations** will players be moved up from their own age group into a higher division/age group.   The Vice President, House League will assess player movement issues if team sizes in a particular division need adjustment as a result of registration numbers resulting in too few or two many players per team or to address special circumstances such as close in age siblings.

1. No player will be "forced" to play for a team at a higher division/age group.  Players under consideration to be moved up a division/age group will be given the option to play at a higher division/age group or remain at their current age group.  Parental consent is required for a player to move up a division.
2. Where team numbers warrant additional players being added from a division below to augment small team member numbers or where a team is too large which could negatively affect playing time, the selection of potential players for movement will be based on player performance at evaluations.  Players being considered will have demonstrated the necessary skill level and have sufficient size that they will be able to succeed while playing in a higher division.  Players selected will not be the ‘top’ evaluated players to ensure that the overall division is not weakened by movement of ‘top’ players to higher divisions.
3. Individual player/parent generated requests to move up to a higher division for reasons other than having siblings 1 year apart will not be granted except in extreme circumstances. Sibling requests are not automatically granted since WLMHA will need to determine the appropriateness of the skill level of the younger player moving up. The primary objective being kept in mind of ensuring that all divisions have a good talent pool from within their own birth year. Also of importance is that the teams are created to ensure a good level of competitiveness between the teams in the same division both within West London and when these teams play against the other association teams.

**Goalies**

In a situation where a team does not have an identified Goalie, the first step taken will be to actively promote and support teams in identifying goalies at their age group - including permanently converting a skater to Goalie and / or looking at a Goalie rotation (especially on younger teams).

If a goalie cannot be identified at the age group in question and there are more goalies than the minimum required at the next younger year, the Vice President, House League will consult with the appropriate team coaches and the Goalie(s) at the younger age group and their parents to see if there is a willingness on behalf of the player and parents to be added to the older age group. Parental consent is required and a goalie will be given the option to play at a higher division/age group or remain with their current age group.

**In All Cases: Players and Goalies**

Players and goalies that have been permitted to play up at a higher division/age group during one season will not automatically continue to play for a team at a higher age group/division the following season. The request and approval process must be followed at the beginning of each season where there is a request/need to have the player play for a team at a higher age group/division.