



### **IRTHA Play-up Policy**

**Play-up Policy:** (Only applicable to CSDHL teams and Pre-CSDHL Squirt Minor team)

- All CSDHL and Pre-CSDHL Racer teams will be birth-year driven. A play-up approval is required for a player to move up a birthyear CSDHL team (i.e. Bantam Minor to Bantam Major) category. (see Play-up approval Process)
- For Gold, Silver and Bronze Racers teams, players can tryout/play within their USA Hockey defined age category without a play-up approval. Without exception, no play-ups will be approved to move a player up to a Gold, Silver or Bronze Racer team that plays in the next USA Hockey defined age category. A USA Hockey category is defined as Mite, Squirt, PeeWee, and Bantam.

***Example:***

1<sup>st</sup> year PeeWees are free to tryout/play for the Gold, Silver, or Bronze Racer team of his/her choice within the defined PeeWee category. Conversely, PeeWee players (1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> year) will not be allowed to play on a Gold, Silver, or Bronze Bantam team under any circumstances.

Play-up approval Process- (Only applicable to CSDHL and Pre-CSDHL Squirt teams) In general play-ups are done only in rare situations where player development could be compromised if the player did not play-up. To be eligible for a Play-up approval, a player must be a top five player on the top age group team (CSDHL Racers) that he/she is moving up to as ranked by that coach. To start this process, the coach of the CSDHL team requesting the play-up must contact the Executive Director of the IRTHA prior to tryouts and ask for permission for the player in question to tryout/play-up. The Board will vote on allowing the player to tryout/play-up based on coach's feedback as to the talent of the player and his/her rank. If more information is needed by the Board to make a decision, it will obtain that information prior to voting. A waiver must be signed prior to the play-up becoming effective.