



Vancouver Island
Amateur Hockey Association

INFORMATION BULLETIN # 2009-08-IN

September 2009

TO: MHA Presidents, MHA Administrators

FROM: Mark Kenny, President and VIAHA Officers

SUBJECT: OverAge and UnderAge Exemption Requests

OVERAGE EXEMPTION REQUESTS:

As per VIAHA Reg 5, paragraphs 5.13 to 5.16, VIAHA will consider OverAge Exemption requests based on BC Hockey's Policy regarding the reasons for OverAge players in Recreational Hockey (BCH Handbook, page 150).

Over the past few years, several requests have been coming in for VIAHA approval that fall outside the guidelines established by BC Hockey's policies as noted below. Although Local Associations know best how to manage their numbers and follow their own established policies regarding player movement, we ask that you communicate these policies to your player(s)/parent(s) and keep the following in mind before sending your requests in.

Recreational Hockey only (Male and Female):

Atom to Initiation and PeeWee to Atom:

- a) Very small
- b) Health reasons
- c) No skills appropriate for this level of hockey
- d) No team in proper category

Bantam to PeeWee:

- a) Extremely small and frail structure
- b) No skills or aptitude for the game of hockey (ie. first year in country or first year in hockey)
- c) No team in category

Midget to Bantam and Juvenile to Midget:

- a) Doctor approved medical reason
- b) Extremely small
- c) No team in category

We would also remind everyone that:

- 1) Exemptions granted are only valid for one year
- 2) Overage players can only be ONE year out of age category
- 3) VIAHA Reg 5, paragraph 5.16 regarding 'impact' player. The definition of 'impact' player for VIAHA will include players who played rep hockey the immediate previous year. Playing rep hockey two or more years previously will not disqualify them. The 'impact' skill definition will also include recreational players of high caliber.
- 4) Player cannot participate with the requested lower age division until VIAHA approval has been granted.

UNDERAGE EXEMPTION REQUESTS:

- 1) Exemptions granted are only valid for one year
- 2) Underage players can only be ONE year out of age category
- 3) The player may be evaluated by VIAHA Evaluators and must be in the top 25 percent of the higher age division.
- 4) Player cannot participate with the requested higher age division until VIAHA approval has been granted.