

## Rep Player Movement

The objective of the OMLA is to ensure that each player is able to participate on a team that accurately reflects a player's skill level, development, and provides an opportunity to participate at their highest level. Although the selection process and measurement of a player's abilities is subjective, it remains the responsibility of the Rep Coach to select a group of athletes that will provide the highest level of competitiveness for each team within a division.

**Best Player Available** - It is the philosophy of the OMLA to have a team selected based upon best player available. Whether the player is a Minor or a Major aged player in the division the coach will select his team on the skill set of the player and the position or role that player will fulfill to provide the most competitive unit. Best Player available may be defined in many ways as a coach may need to select from a number of skill sets or characteristics as Size, Speed, Lefty, Righty, Offensive, Defensive, Aggressiveness, Coach ability, Potential, Passing or Shooting abilities.

**Goalies:** After the selection of the starting goalie to the top team in the division the allocation of the remaining goalies within an age group will be determined and agreed on by the group of head coaches in that age group and VP Boys Rep. This distribution of the remaining goalies will be based upon the competitive requirements of the respective teams as well as the best developmental situations for the individual goalies. The object is to have the goalie play at the highest level possible while balancing the need to give him / her sufficient playing time to develop his / her skills.

**Refusal to Play for a Selected Team** - To be consistent with the "Best Player Available" philosophy if a player is invited to play for a team through the selection process, the player must report to that team. If a Parent has an objection to the decision of being selected to a higher level of play than they wish for their son/daughter to participate in they have the right to submit in writing within 24hrs an objection to the VP of Rep at which time they will be permitted an opportunity to voice their concern. If it is deemed, after the appeal process, that the decision of the Coaches assessment of the player is consistent to that of the Appeals committee, the players option would be to play on the team selected or to participate in the Recreational ( HL ) Division with the Club. There will not be an appeal process for any player who is selected to a lower caliber team than that which their parent may feel they are capable of competing at. The decision of the Coach is final.

**Exception to Refusal to play** - The only exception to the Refusal to Play Policy is for a player of a Head Coach. That is, the son or daughter of the Head Coach may play on their parent's team rather than the one they have been selected for. (Dad is coach of the 2 team, son makes 1 team, however son can play on 2 team if player and parent so choose. The above does not apply to sons or daughters of the team staff (assistant coaches, trainers, managers etc). That is, if the parent is the assistant coach on 2 team and the player makes the 1 team then the player must play on the 1 team. The assistant coach can remain on the 2 team as a non-parent coach if they so choose.

**Playing Up:** Player movement is governed by the CLA, OLA, and OMLA operating policies. The OMLA does not believe it to be in a player's long term interest to permanently play in a

division older than their own age. Requests by parents will not be considered sufficient cause for OMLA to allow players to permanently play for a team of higher age. In rare instances, where a player has obviously outclassed his/her peers or in the event that the risk of not being able to “field” a team due to lack of players, a coach may, with the parent's approval and most importantly the players desire, make a recommendation to the Executive that the player be allowed to play with the next highest age group. In no case will a player be allowed to advance more than 1 division past his/her peers. In subsequent years, the situation must be reviewed by the Executive to determine if the player should continue to advance ahead of his/her peers or if he/she should remain in the division for an additional year and be reunited with his/her own age. The latter should be the normal decision of the Executive barring substantial evidence of the player's ability to continue to outclass his/her peers and still has the desire to move up to an older age group. The Association will entertain any other requests provided it is submitted in writing and presented to the Clubs Secretary for Executive approval or denial.

**Playing Down** – under no situation will this be permitted. Players are not permitted to participate under any circumstances in any scheduled games in an age group lower than their current birth year.