

TEAM SPORTS PLAYING UP POLICY (6NOV17)

Hanover Parks and Recreation does not typically allow athletes to play up and strongly recommends that all athletes play within their correct age groups. Some athletes may exhibit some natural talents toward the game and their parents think they are ready to play up, while in fact most kids will benefit greatly by playing in their actual age group. There may be some athletes who are advanced in size, strength and skills to the point where playing within their correct age group could present a safety problem to the others, or where the athlete is not challenged and must hold back. Given one of these unique situations, it may be possible to give the athlete a chance to show that he or she can play in a different age group.

Requirements for a Play Up Request:

1. **All players** must request to Play Up by completing the Play Up Request and Acknowledgement of Risk and Liability. If the request is not made in advance of the evaluations, the request will be denied.
2. The player must be registered for his or her correct age group.
3. **All players** requesting to Play Up must be present and participate in their grade appropriate evaluation session. Failure to attend the appropriate player evaluation will result in the Play Up request to be automatically denied.
4. To Play Up, the athlete must demonstrate, at the grade appropriate evaluation, that he or she has the skills, strength, sport specific knowledge and social maturity to be competitive in the older age group. If the grade appropriate coaches recognize the needed skills, then the athlete may be evaluated at the higher level. He or she will be rated and must evaluate in the top 10% of the next higher age division to be allowed to Play Up.
5. If the athlete Plays Up and leaves the appropriate age group short playing up will not be allowed.
6. If the athlete demonstrates the ability to Play Up, there must be room for him or her in the program at the next higher age division. If the next higher age division is full, playing up will not be allowed.
7. To have an accurate evaluation, player standings will not be shared.
8. Being selected to Play Up one season does not guarantee the players ability to Play Up another season. The Play Up criteria must be met each season.
9. Play Up requests will only be made for athletes in grades 2-6. 7th and 8th graders are not eligible to play up to the high school level.
10. The final decisions will be made by the HPR Director after reviewing the evaluation rankings and coach recommendations. The number of players that will be approved to Play Up will be infrequent and the decision will be final.



Parks & Recreation Department

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PLAYING UP REQUEST & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK AND LIABILITY

Player's Name: _____ Current Grade: _____
Sport: _____ Gender: _____

I/We _____, parents or legal guardians of the above-named participant request that he/she be permitted to Play Up in the next grade classification as defined by Hanover Parks and Recreation. I have read and understand the HPR Play Up Policy and agree to all the terms, conditions and eligibility requirements that apply.

Reason for Request

Evaluation Record: *Grade Appropriate* Coach Name: _____

- ☐ After evaluating the above-named athlete, they will be given the opportunity to be evaluated at the next level.
- ☐ After evaluating the above-named athlete, they will stay in their grade appropriate level.

Evaluation Record: *Higher Age Division* Coach Name: _____

- ☐ The player ranks in the top 10% of all athletes being evaluated and should Play Up.
- ☐ The player ranks below the top 10% of all athletes being evaluated and will not Play Up.

As the parents/legal guardians of the above-named participant we:

1. Understand that HPR reserves the right to reverse the Play Up decision for any reason at any time.
2. Understand that Playing Up provides a greater risk of injury.
3. Knowingly assume all such risks, both known and unknown. Further, I agree to indemnify and hold the Town of Hanover, Hanover Parks and Recreation Department and their officers, directors, agents, volunteers and employees harmless from any and all liability, loss, expense, attorney's fees, or claim for injury or damages caused as a result of my request.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____
Parent/Guardian Name: _____
HPR Director Approval: _____ Date: _____