

6.8 CCMHA U9 Exceptional Player Status

Cumberland County Minor Hockey Association – Policy Manual

CATEGORY:	Team Management	LAST REVIEW:	2026
POLICY NUMBER:	6.8	DATE APPROVED:	August 2026
TITLE:	U9 Exceptional Player Status		

PURPOSE: To establish the process CCMHA will follow when considering a request for an exceptional U9 player to advance to the U11 division in accordance with Hockey Nova Scotia regulations.

RELATED GUIDELINES: Hockey Nova Scotia Regulation 3.9; Hockey Nova Scotia Regulation 19.11; CCMHA Policy 6.2 – Player Selection and Evaluation.

1. DEFINITION OF EXCEPTIONAL

For the purpose of this policy, the term “exceptional” refers to a player whose hockey ability is extraordinarily advanced for their age. An exceptional player must demonstrate hockey skills that are clearly superior not only to players of the same age, but also to players in the older age group into which advancement is being considered.

2. PLAYER AGE ADVANCEMENT

As specified in Hockey Nova Scotia Regulation 3.9 and Regulation 19.11, at the discretion of CCMHA and with the required approval of Hockey Nova Scotia, a highly skilled player within the U9 Program may be placed in the U11 division with the consent of their parent(s) or guardian(s).

Advancement is an exceptional measure and is not automatic. Any request to move a player from the U9 Program to U11 must follow the process below.

3. APPLICATION AND EVALUATION PROCESS

1. The parent(s)/guardian(s) of a player being considered for advancement must apply in writing to CCMHA's President no later than September 1 and request that the player be considered for advancement.
2. Only players who are eight years of age and who have been competing in Level 3 – Advancing, or who have otherwise been approved by the Regional Director, are eligible to be considered. The player must earn a position on the highest-level U11 team offered by CCMHA. If the player does not make that team, the player must participate in the U9 Program with CCMHA for that season.
3. If CCMHA decides to consider the request, an evaluation committee of no fewer than four members must be formed. Committee members must be fully certified to coach in accordance with Hockey Nova Scotia Regulation 8 – Certification Requirements and must have at least three years of coaching experience. Committee members must be unbiased and, except for the U11 coach identified below, must not be associated with CCMHA's U11 Program. One member of the committee shall be the coach of the U11 team to which the player may advance. The committee and its membership must be approved by Hockey Nova Scotia Minor Council before any evaluation is conducted.
4. The approved committee shall evaluate the player to determine whether the player possesses the skill and ability to compete successfully at the higher level. The committee shall also consider the social, physical and skill-development impact of advancement on the player. The committee must submit its findings and recommendation in writing to the CCMHA President.
5. If CCMHA determines that the circumstances support advancement, the CCMHA President shall submit the committee's findings and recommendation to the Regional Director for written approval. Any additional approval required by Hockey Nova Scotia Minor Council must also be obtained before the player is advanced.
6. Once a player has been advanced, the player must not be released to a lower-category U11 team. The player may, however, be returned to the U9 division.

4. REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed by Cumberland County Minor Hockey Association annually and updated as required to remain consistent with Hockey Nova Scotia regulations.