



Ice Hockey Victoria

IHV Playing Down application.

Version 2.00

DOCUMENT CONTROL SHEET

Document History

Version	Date released	Pages affected	Remarks
1.00	31/02/2025	All	Original form and process
2.00	6/2/26	All	Clarification of how to identify a player's age division, addition of limit to many age divisions a player can play down, update to bibliography.

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1 Introduction

Ice Hockey Victoria (IHV) conducts a range of leagues and events to cater for players of various ages and state of development, with minimum and maximum ages set for each division. Wherever possible, our junior divisions are aligned with the age bands of Ice Hockey Australia (IHA) national championships.

For the purposes of identifying a player's age division, a player's natural age group is identified by the age the player turns in the calendar year of the season in question.

For example, for the 2026 Winter season,

U11 – birth years 2015 or younger

U13 – birth years 2014 and 2013

U15 – 2011 and 2012

U17 – 2009 and 2010

Thus, for a player born in 2015 who is turning 11 in 2026, their natural age group is U11.

In the interest of player safety and continued development, it is a requirement that every request to play down from the player's natural age group to a lower level be processed by the player's club wherein the club confirms the suitability of the player to safely participate in the lower level with the consideration to all other players within the requested playing division.

The level of body checking ranges varies across the junior age-based divisions.

Division	Level of Body Checking
11U	no body checking
13U	no body checking
15U	modified body checking
17U	full body checking

Explanation of the levels of contact can be found here: [For Officials - Ice Hockey Australia](#)
"IHA Rules Emphasis and Officiating standards"

It is expected that the player's club will provide instruction and practice in the levels appropriate for the requested playing division.

2 Playing Down Form - Approval & Consent for Overage Player

This form is to be submitted by the Club seeking approval from the IHV executive for a Player to play in a lower age division for which the Player is no longer age eligible.

Applications not submitted via this form will not be accepted.

Players cannot play down more than 1 age division.

All Parts of this Application form must be completed and submitted to the Junior VP no later than 10 days prior to their first game in the requested division.

Completed forms are to be lodged via email with the subject line "Playing Down application – club name - *player name* – current division" and sent to juniorvp@ihv.org.au cc secretary@ihv.org.au and admin@ihv.org.au

SECTION 1 PLAYER/MEMBER		
Name:	DOB	
Club:	Natural Age Division:	Requested Division:
Height (in cm):	Years Played:	Previous Grade (if Applicable):
To play as	Skater or Goalie (strike out inapplicable)	
Sign	Date	
SECTION 2 TEAM COACH REQUESTING DISPENSATION		
Name		
Sign	Date	
Detailed Reason for player dispensation:		

SECTION 3 PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN OF THE ABOVE PLAYER

Name	Club & Grade
Sign	Date

SECTION 5 ELECTED CLUB OFFICIAL/COMMITTEE MEMBER

Name	Club & position
Sign	Date

2.1 For Office Use Only

Application Received Date: _____
Approved/Denied: _____
Reason for Denial (if applicable): _____
Records Filed: _____

3 Bibliography

This document may reference material in the following documents at the listed version or later current version.

IHA 2025-2026 Rules Emphasis and Officiating Standards. (2025-2026).

IHA Member Protection Policy (February 2024 ed.). (2024). Ice Hockey Australia.

IHV By-Laws (1.4 ed.). (2024).

IHV Game Administration Regulations (26 ed.). (2024).

IHV Rules and Constitution (1.00 ed.). (2021). Ice Hockey Victoria.

IHV Schedule A (1.22 ed.). (2022).

IHV Tribunal & Suspension Regulations (1.51 ed.). (2022).