

Massachusetts Hockey Medical Waiver Program
Reviewed September 4, 2008 Reviewed again on June 10, 2011

This is the information that we will need to consider a medical waiver for a player to play down.

1. name of the player
2. date of birth of the player, age of the player, and sex of the player
3. the age level at which the player should be playing
4. the age level for which the request is being made
5. height and weight of the player
6. any medical condition that might suggest that the player should be allowed to play down
7. names of the player's parents
8. addresses of the player and parents
9. e-mail addresses for the parents
10. request from the parents for the player to play down and the reason(s) for the request
11. name of the program in which the player will be playing
12. request from the program for the player to play down
13. the name of a contact person at the program including address and e-mail address

If the waiver is granted, a USA Hockey form Release and Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Indemnity Agreement will be sent to the parent for signature.

The program will have to get permission from the league that the player will be playing in.

For females, it is probably better for a girl to play on a girl's team, rather than playing on a boys team at a lower age level. (Girls teams do not allow body checking but do have body contact.) Another possibility for girls is to play on a boy's team in a non-checking program. If a player does not have the skills to play in his or her age group, it may be better for that player to play in an intramural program (Division 4) program where skill and body checking may not be as important as on a Division 2 or 3 team.

At some point in time, size does matter.

If a player is too small, some people feel that it may be best for that player to play down an age group so that the other players will be the same size, and we will consider medical waivers based on this premise. However, if players are normal size for their age group, then these players may be too large (weight and height) to play in the lower age group, and there will be the potential for injury to the smaller players.

The following restrictions apply to the waived players (page 74, Mass Hockey Guide 2010-2011):

The waiver is for only one season and will not be automatically renewed.

Waivers will not be issued to players on Tier 1 or Tier 2 teams.

Waivers will only be issued to players on Tier 3 teams if it is the lowest level team in the program.

Waivers will be issued to players on Tier 4 teams.

Players cannot participate in District Playdowns or State Championship tournaments.

Waived players can participate in league play only if the league approves the participation at the lower age level.

Waived players can participate in Invitational Tournaments only if the Tournament Director approves it.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone or e-mail.

Dr. Ashare
Chairman, Mass Hockey Medical Waiver Committee

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