



## SMHA PROCESS FOR CONSIDERATION OF EXEMPLARY ATHLETES

### PREAMBLE:

As a matter of principle or best practice, it is strongly recommended by the Smithers Minor Hockey Association (SMHA) to have all athletes play in their appropriate age divisions. SMHA also recognizes that every so often there can be exceptional circumstances where exemplary athletes could see their development impaired significantly if they are not granted the exception to participate in an age division above their own. SMHA believes in providing a positive and holistic athlete development model for all membership. The process below allows our association the best possible opportunity to remain consistent and transparent while we strive to meet this goal.

### DEFINITION OF "EXEMPLARY"

An athlete with uncommon, superior, distinguished, remarkable, or exclusive ability and drive. In addition to hockey abilities, the athlete must possess physical, psychological, social and emotional abilities beyond their current age division and be suitable to have success at a higher age division.

### APPLICATION PROCESS

In order to be in consideration, the player's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must submit, prior to September 1<sup>st</sup>, an application to the SMHA Executive. This application can be sent through mail or email to either the President or Head Coach of SMHA. This application must include a fee of \$250.00 payable to SMHA. Once received, the application will be reviewed. If all required material is present, the athlete will be granted permission for evaluation. If the application is incomplete, all material and payment will be returned, and the applicant will be declared ineligible. The \$250.00 fee will be refunded if the athlete is approved to play at the higher age division. If they are unsuccessful, they will not be refunded the \$250.00.

### EVALUATION PROCESS

SMHA will appoint an objective panel of three knowledgeable hockey individuals, one of which will be the Head Coach of SMHA. This panel will comprehensively review the application material prior to watching the athlete in a minimum of, but not limited to, two practices and one scrimmage. Once the panel has reached its decision, they will communicate their recommendations to the SMHA Executive. It must be emphasized that approval is based on all factors of the application, not just on-ice ability.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR APPROVAL

- ) Exemplary on-ice abilities. Must be seen by the panel as one of the five most valuable athletes in the age division above that they are being evaluated with.
- ) Must possess all necessary maturities to develop wholesomely at this new age division.
- ) Written essay of 500 words or less from the athlete and/or parent(s)/guardian(s), explaining why this is essential for the athlete's growth and development.
- ) Favourable "Coach Questionnaire" from most recent or relevant coach.
- ) Favourable "Teacher Questionnaire" from most recent or relevant teacher.
- ) Fee of \$250.00
- ) All components of the application received prior to September 1<sup>st</sup>.



ATHLETE'S NAME IN FULL:

ATHLETE'S DATE OF BIRTH:

CURRENT AGE DIVISION:

REQUESTED AGE DIVISION:

PREVIOUS TEAM:

PREFERRED POSITION:

SECONDARY POSITION:

HEIGHT:

WEIGHT:

HAND:

ATHLETE'S SIGNATURE:

ATHLETE'S PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S) NAME IN FULL:

SIGNATURE OF ATHLETE'S PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S):





**SMHA EXEMPLARY ATHLETE APPLICATION  
HOCKEY COACH QUESTIONNAIRE**

*For each description, please mark with an X*

<b>Coachability</b> The athlete eagerly accepts and respects the coaching process.	<b>Below Average</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Above Average</b>	<b>Exceptional</b>
<b>Motivation</b> The athlete demonstrates a high degree of consistent self-motivation.	<b>Below Average</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Above Average</b>	<b>Exceptional</b>
<b>Work Ethic</b> The athlete constantly values and demonstrates a high level of effort in their sport.	<b>Below Average</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Above Average</b>	<b>Exceptional</b>
<b>Team Cohesion</b> The athlete contributes to the overall benefit of the team, looking to make all those around them better.	<b>Below Average</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Above Average</b>	<b>Exceptional</b>
<b>Mental Toughness</b> The athlete demonstrates an ability to react to adversity, personally and as part of a team.	<b>Below Average</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Above Average</b>	<b>Exceptional</b>
<b>Pressure Situations</b> The athlete welcomes opportunities to compete in important situations.	<b>Below Average</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Above Average</b>	<b>Exceptional</b>
<b>Leadership</b> The athlete has demonstrated the necessary leadership characteristics and assumed a natural leadership role in the past.	<b>Below Average</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Above Average</b>	<b>Exceptional</b>
<b>Self-Preservation</b> The athlete consistently demonstrates the knowledge, ability and awareness to protect themselves while still being effective within the team game.	<b>Below Average</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Above Average</b>	<b>Exceptional</b>
<b>On-Ice Vision</b> The athlete demonstrates an ability to see, read and positively adjust to on-ice play.	<b>Below Average</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Above Average</b>	<b>Exceptional</b>
<b>Hockey Knowledge</b> The athlete demonstrates knowledge of the game and its tactics, systems and strategies.	<b>Below Average</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Above Average</b>	<b>Exceptional</b>
<b>Overall Assessment</b> All things considered, is this individual capable and would they benefit holistically from the challenges of playing in a higher age division.	<b>Below Average</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Above Average</b>	<b>Exceptional</b>
<b>Additional Comments:</b>          				

Name (please print):

School and Grade/Subject:

Signature:

Date:



SMHA EXEMPLARY ATHLETE APPLICATION  
ATHLETE ESSAY SUBMISSION

Instructions:

You have indicated your goal of playing up an age division. Please describe the abilities and personality traits that you possess, which would allow you to contribute and benefit at a higher division. We value your overall maturity, and your willingness and passion to reach your goal. Take some time to indicate how these factors will make this a successful season for you and your potential team. Your essay must remain under 500 words.