



## State Championships Seeding Requests (2022)

In the past Hockey Queensland has occasionally received requests of teams to be placed in a different division, mainly as the Association feared the team would be of below standard after losing a cohort of strong players into the next higher age group. Seeding requests have often been denied due to a lack of flexibility in the rules and process. During the State Championship Review a significant appetite to provide some flexibility in this process for the future was apparent.

There is consensus that seeding requests should be taken into consideration and HQ decisions should be based on consultation with the affected regions and Associations. Considerations need to also be given to teams which may be indirectly affected (possible promotion / relegation). Above all, an easy and clear process is required. The HQ Board has endorsed the following process for seeding requests:

- Seeding requests to be placed in a different Division can be submitted to HQ before the team nomination deadline. This can include requests to move up or down Divisions;
- Once a request is received, HQ will contact the respective Associations in the target Division to investigate whether their team would be interested in a division swap as well as consulting with regional stakeholders knowledgeable of the playing standard of teams (where available);
- The team which is first in line for promotion / relegation within that division has first right of refusal;
- A maximum of 3 teams in the target Division will be considered for a swap;
- If no agreement can be reached, the seeding request will be rejected;
- In the case where there are multiple requests from teams impacting the same Division, the request of the team which finished higher in the placings will be considered first if the request is for promotion. If the request is for relegation the team finishing lower would be considered first.
- Once a request is accepted, the affected teams are to be seeded at the top of the division when relegated and at the bottom of the division when promoted