

## **PYB In-House Play-Up Policy**

Pomperaug Youth Baseball strongly recommends that all members play within their appropriate age groups. PYB believes - even though some players may exhibit natural talent toward the game - most kids would benefit greatly by playing in their appropriate age groups.

However, there may be some players who could be advanced in size, strength, and skills to the point where playing within their appropriate age groups could present a safety problem to the others, or where the child could truly benefit from playing at an older level. Conversely, the skill and strength level of other kids may be such that playing with children of their own ages could possibly injure them. In either case, it may be possible to make an exception to our policy and give the child a chance to show that he or she should play in a different age group.

Here are the requirements for requesting to play in a different age group for in-house spring baseball (PLEASE NOTE, THIS DOES NOT APPLY TO PLAYERS ABOVE THE MAJORS LEVEL - BASEBALL AGE 13 AND ABOVE):

- **All players** must request to play up via the spring registration process. If the request is not made via spring registration, any post-registration request would be denied.
- The player must be registered and paid in full prior to the play-up evaluation. Any additional fees for the division in which the player seeks to play would be assessed at registration. If the play-up is denied, a full refund for the incremental amount would be provided.
- Play-up requests may not exceed one level of competition. For example, a “AAA” player may not request a tryout at the “Majors” level.
- **All players** requesting to play in a different age group must be present and participate in the appropriate evaluation session (tentatively scheduled for March). Players not evaluated during the play-up evaluations will not be given the chance to play in a different age group. Failure to attend the appropriate player evaluation will result in the play-up request to be automatically denied.
- In order to play-up, the player must demonstrate that he or she has the skills, strength and knowledge to be competitive in the older age group. He or she will be rated on the ability to bat, field, catch, and throw and must evaluate in the top 20% of the age group directly above him or her. For example, an 8-year-old attempting to play up to “Minors” would have to rank in the top 20% of 9-year-old players.
- If the child demonstrates the ability to play up, there must be room for him or her in the older program. If the older program is full/closed, play-ups will not be allowed.
- The final decisions will be made by the Baseball Play-Up Committee. The number of players that will be approved to play up will be infrequent and the decision will be final.

## Summer Tryout Player and Coaching Guidelines

1. Players interested in competing in the travel program must be available for practices and games from June through early August.
2. Coaches for travel teams will not be selected until a player roster is set. Potential coaches interested in running a travel team may contact the board once player rosters have been finalized.
3. Players who are 8-15 years of age and who are interested in travel team participation must try out for a roster spot on the travel team. Tryout dates, times, and locations will be announced by PYB and posted on this website. Extenuating circumstances, such as injury or illness during the tryout period, must be communicated to the league directors so that a player can be evaluated at some other time, if possible.
4. Every player who tries out for the travel team must also play in the house league; it is the philosophy of the program to have a strong travel program but not at the expense of the house league.
5. Tryouts at each age level will be conducted through the Director of Player Evaluations and prior coaches of many age levels that do not have a child trying out for that particular team.
6. Tryouts will be one or two days in length, as determined by the Director of Player Evaluations.
7. Tryouts will test the individual skills of each player in any of the following areas: 1) infield and outfield play; 2) arm strength and accuracy in the field; 3) pitching; 4) catching; 5) hitting; and 6) foot speed, as well as other skills.
8. The evaluations will rely heavily on mechanics, e.g.: 1) swing mechanics (e.g., head down, bat speed, pivoting the back foot and striding towards the pitcher; 2) the mechanics of fielding (e.g., charging the ball, fielding the ball in the center of the body, using two hands to field ground balls and fly balls or pop-ups, throwing over the top and following through a throw). Sound mechanics are much more important than hitting the ball or picking up every ground ball. It is important to understand that these mechanics can be identified easily whether pitched balls are hard balls or Wiffle Balls, or if the ball is hit off a tee.
9. Potential players must have sound mechanics in all areas of baseball. For example, a player fielding 5/5 ground balls may not necessarily receive a higher grade than a player fielding 2 of 5 ground balls if the latter player has used better mechanics. The same is true for hitting drills.
10. The number of players chosen for a travel team and the number of travel teams will be predicated on the skill of those trying out for the team. The number of skilled players will determine the number of teams.

### PYB Summer Play-Up Policy

Here are the requirements for requesting to play in a different age group for summer travel baseball:

- **All players** must request to play up at the summer travel baseball tryouts sessions to be held in the winter/early spring. If the request is not made via summer tryouts, any post-tryout request would be denied. Players requesting to play-up in the summer must have already been granted play-up rights for the spring season. There may be exceptions, however. For example, a 9-year-old eligible to play Minors in the spring would not be able to try out for Majors, but that same player could try out for the 10-year-old travel team.
- **All players** requesting to play in a different age group must be present and participate in the appropriate tryout session. Players not evaluated during the appropriate evaluations will not be given the chance to play in a different age group. Failure to attend the appropriate player evaluation will result in the play-up request to be automatically denied. **Please note:** Players will not be evaluated based upon their performances in the spring in-house season, as travel team rosters will be set prior to Opening Day.
- Players may only request to play up one year. For example, an 8-year-old would only be eligible to play up on the 9-year-old travel team.
- Play-ups would only be eligible for All-Star Team selections for the level in which he or she plays. In other words, a play-up player could not “play down” for an All-Star selection.
- In order to play-up, the player must demonstrate that he or she has the skills, strength and knowledge to be competitive in the older age group. He or she will be rated on the ability to bat, field, catch and throw and must evaluate in the top 20% of the age group above.
- The final decisions will be made by the Baseball Play-Up Committee. The number of players that will be approved to play up will be infrequent and the decision will be final.