

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.