

# **The Mountlake Terrace Youth Athletics Association (MTYAA) Play-Up Policy**

*Approved by MTYAA Board 11/7/2018*

## **Section 1 – Purpose**

The purpose of this document is to provide rules for use by MTYAA for players who are interested in playing in a baseball division designated for older kids. These rules shall be utilized whenever a player requests to Play-Up. The goal for the MTYAA Play-Up policy is to provide guidelines for eligible players with the desire and skills to Play-Up. The following policy will help us reach that goal in a fair and consistent manor by establishing a documented process.

## **Section 2 – Introduction**

2.1 MTYAA has had numerous requests over the years from parents and coaches for players interested in playing up. Officially, MTYAA has not allowed players to Play-Up.

2.2 This policy reviewed is applicable for one year and is reviewed by the board each year.

2.3 This policy is for unique circumstances and in some years no players will be qualified or approved to Play-Up. Some reasons why a player would be approved to Play-Up are as follows:

2.3.1 Extremely skilled, i.e. throws, hits, fields, and catches considerably better than the average or even good player.

2.3.2 The player's physical attributes are more developed than others, such as throwing velocity, height, and/or body weight.

2.3.3 Safety to his fellow players. If the players advanced skills add an extraordinarily high risk to his teammates and the opposing team.

2.3.4 MTYAA recognizes that these attributes are subjective so an evaluation process (see Section 4) shall be performed to determine eligibility.

2.4 Quantity of Players. There is no cap to the number of players who can Play-Up, however it is anticipated that only a few players (at most) each season are legitimately qualified to play-up. The board recognizes that occasionally there are players that are suited to Play-Up. These are exceptionally skilled players and this policy is not meant to allow any good player with the desire to play-up to do so.

2.5 Those players selected to Play-Up will have the opportunity to participate in Summer All-Star or Tournament Teams just like any other player in that division.

## **Section 3 - Play-Up Eligibility**

3.1 Senior age players are the only ages (6,8,10,12) who will be considered to Play-Up.

3.2 Junior age players are not eligible to Play-Up. In general, junior age players are not socially ready to participate with the older players.

3.3 The player shall be currently registered with MTYAA in their age appropriate division for consideration.

3.4 Players considered to Play-Up shall be evaluated on their own merit. The parent(s) willingness or desire to coach in the upper division shall not be considered.

3.5 A player will not be automatically selected to Play-Up even if they had previously done so within MTYAA or in another league. For example if a Shetland age 6 player was approved to Play-Up, they will not automatically be approved as a Pinto age 8 player two years later.

#### **Section 4 - Play-Up Evaluation and Approval Process**

- 4.1 Only players who meet the eligibility requirements shown above shall be considered.
- 4.2 A player interested in Playing-Up shall fill out an online form requesting to play up.
- 4.3 A player shall only be considered for the upper division if a request has been made by the player / parent. Thus, other players, coaches, or MTYAA board members who think the player is an ideal candidate to Play-Up can NOT submit the request.
- 4.4 No player will be forced or required to Play-Up.
- 4.5 The players request shall not be considered until the players Evaluation Fee (see Section 6 below) is received by MTYAA.
- 4.6 MTYAA will evaluate the players request and make a determination no later than the next board meeting. Requests shall be submitted no later than the first Monday in a month as board meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month.
- 4.7 Requests shall be made no later than February 1<sup>st</sup> in order to allow the Division directors time to create teams or in the case of the Upper Division for the player to participate in the Draft Tryout. In extreme circumstances, a player may be considered for playing up in the middle of the season with special MTYAA approval.
- 4.8 MTYAA shall evaluate the request based on feedback from parents, previous coaches, and division commissioners. In addition to player skills and physical characteristics the player's social skills shall also be considered. In some circumstances, the MTYAA may even request the player Tryout as part of the evaluation process. This may be necessary if the player is new to MTYAA. A player / parent interview may also be necessary to perform an accurate evaluation.
- 4.9 The upper Division Commissioner shall notify the player's parent of the decision made no later than 48 hours following the MTYAA board meeting.
- 4.10 All request will be handled on a case-by-case basis by the division directors in consultation with the board.

#### **Section 5 –Player Team Assignment**

- 5.1 Senior Shetland (age 6) players approved to play in the Pinto Division will be assigned a team by the Pinto Commissioner.
- 5.2 Senior Pinto, Mustang or Bronco players approved to play in the Upper Division will be placed into the draft.
- 5.3 Players can only move up one division from their normal division.
- 5.4 Players who are approved to Play-Up may have to play 3 years in one division. For example, Pinto 8 year olds approved to Play-Up would play 3 years in the Mustang Division.
- 5.5 If a player is approved to Play-Up in the middle of the season that player shall be assigned a team based on the existing rules in place for player on a waiting list.

#### **Section 6 – Play-Up Evaluation Fees**

- 6.1 Players requesting to Play-Up will pay a Play-Up Evaluation Fee to MTYAA. The fee shall be collected with the player's application form. The purpose of the fee is to minimize the quantity of unwarranted requests. Guidelines for the fee are as follows:
  - 6.1.1 The Play-Up fee shall be the difference between the registration fee for the player's normal division and the upper division being requested.
  - 6.1.2 The Play-Up evaluation fee will not be returned to the player regardless of their acceptance in the upper division.
  - 6.2.3 If the player is approved for play in the upper division, the evaluation fee will cover the additional cost of the higher division.
  - 6.1.4 If the player is NOT accepted for play in the upper division, the fee will go into MTYAA's general fund. The fee will NOT be refunded to the player.