

2018-12



Jeffco Midget Football Association

## Proposal Background

### Rule or By-Law Effected 1 GRADE/AGE

Current Version	New Version
<p>GRADE/AGE 1.1 League play beings at 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Players will be placed on teams on their grade for the year of play. The Jeffco Midget Football Association (JMFA) sponsors the following age groups for play: 2<sup>nd</sup> grade (7); 3<sup>rd</sup> grade (8); 4<sup>th</sup> grade (9); 5<sup>th</sup> grade (10); 6<sup>th</sup> grade (11); 7<sup>th</sup> grade (12); 8<sup>th</sup> grade seniors – (13-14). High School students are ineligible to participate in the JMFA program. EXCEPTION: 1<sup>st</sup> graders may play on a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade team for ONE YEAR and then play 2<sup>nd</sup> grade again as 2<sup>nd</sup> graders.</p> <p>1.2 <del>When special circumstances exist due to repeating a grade or being advanced a grade, the JMFA board will</del></p>	<p>GRADE/AGE 1.1 League play beings at 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Players will be placed on teams on their grade for the year of play. The Jeffco Midget Football Association (JMFA) sponsors the following age groups for play: 2<sup>nd</sup> grade (7); 3<sup>rd</sup> grade (8); 4<sup>th</sup> grade (9); 5<sup>th</sup> grade (10); 6<sup>th</sup> grade (11); 7<sup>th</sup> grade (12); 8<sup>th</sup> grade seniors – (13-14). High School students are ineligible to participate in the JMFA program. EXCEPTION: 1<sup>st</sup> graders may play on a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade team for ONE YEAR and then play 2<sup>nd</sup> grade again as 2<sup>nd</sup> graders.</p> <p>1.2 If a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade team cannot field a full team, a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade player may play up to a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade team for one year. The</p>

~~determine where the child will be rostered based on age as of July 31<sup>st</sup> of the current year.~~

~~1.3 At no time, will a player be allowed to play up or down in grade without JMFA board approval.~~

~~1.4 Any player who was previously rostered on a JMFA team with players one grade above or below that players school grade, may elect to move to that players school assigned grade level one time in that player's JMFA career.~~

player may then play 3<sup>rd</sup> grade again as a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader. This will not count as your one-time grade-level return.

1.3 Players who meet the age requirement as of October 1st of the current year will be permitted to play with their age-level team regardless of the player's grade in school. Players who elect to play with their age-level team may only do so once. Players will be permitted to return to their grade-level team ONE time at any point as a player with JMFA. Players may only be able to play one grade level up and never play a grade level down. Parents of players who elect to play with their age-level team under this rule must sign a written acknowledgment stating their clear understanding of the expectations and consequences of this rule. This written acknowledgment will be filed with the player's football club and the JMFA board.



## **Benefits of Change**

The proposed rule change would clarify the existing rule and provide clear guidance to JMFA football clubs and the JMFA Board. Parents of players seeking to play up a grade would sign a written acknowledgement that would be filed with the player's football club and the JMFA Board. This written acknowledgement would clearly outline the expectations and consequences of the player's decision to play up a grade. This would also relieve the JMFA Board of ongoing requests to interpret the clarity of the rule.

The proposed rule change would promote the health, safety and welfare of all JMFA players. Players will be playing with like-age players who are similarly physically developed. This will prevent the likelihood of injuries by having an older player playing with younger players who may not be as physically developed.

The proposed rule change also encourages players to play with teams and players at the same developmental and skill appropriate levels. This maximizes the learning and development of players who meet the criteria of this proposed rule.

## **Potential Complications of Change**

This rule could have potential complications by having parents and players make a decision that choosing to play up is appropriate and in the best interest of their child when it may not be.

## **Additional Comments or Concerns**

## **Feedback from JMFA Board and Areas**