

# Colonial Little League

## "Playing Up" Policy/ Guidelines

### Objective

It is the intent of Colonial LL that each player be matched their appropriate division to provide both a safe, enjoyable experience for the player and his team, and to foster a love of baseball and a desire to return the following season.

### Scope/Background

Colonial Little League does not typically allow players to play outside of their age group and strongly recommends that all player members play within their correct age groups. We have found that even though some players may exhibit some natural talents toward the game and their parents think they are ready to play baseball with older players; most kids will benefit greatly by playing in their actual age group. However, there may be some players who could be advanced in size, strength and skills to the point where playing within their correct age group could present a safety problem to the others, or where the child could truly benefit from play at an older level. On the contrary, the skill and strength level of some kids may be such that playing with children their own age could possibly injure them. In either case, it may be possible to make an exception and give the child a chance to show that he or she should or can play in a different age group. These guidelines are designed to aid players and their families make appropriate decisions for player placement. The recommended divisions are outlined as follows;

### **Division / League Age**

T-Ball	5-6
Rookies	7-8
Minors	9-10
Majors	11-12
Juniors	13-14

### Younger Players/"Playing Up"

For younger players who wish to play up a division (e.g., a 6-year-old who would like to play Rookies, an 8-year-old who would like to play Minors etc.), Colonial LL highly recommends the player and his/her family consider the following questions: **\*\*Please keep this in mind... if a player moves up a division, they will end up playing 3 consecutive years in a certain division at some point whether it is 3 years in Rookies/Coach Pitch, Minors, Majors or Juniors.**

1. Given the size, strength and abilities of the **oldest** players in the division being considered, are the player's baseball safety skills (e.g., proper pitch evasion, quick reflexes and defensive/glove skills) properly developed so that he/she can play confidently?

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2. Given the skill level and abilities of the **oldest** players in the division being considered, are the player's general baseball skills (throwing, fielding, batting) developed enough so that the season long experience will be enjoyable, and not overly frustrating or discouraging?
3. Is this what the player wants? And will he/she be comfortable playing baseball with older children?

If the answers to these questions are "yes", Colonial LL requires that the younger player and his family take the following steps:

1. The player must be registered and initially pay the appropriate fee for his or her correct division/age group.
2. Notify the Player Agent of the intent to play up (Dave Donlon, [playeragent@coloniallittleleague.org](mailto:playeragent@coloniallittleleague.org))
3. **All players** requesting to play in a different age group **must** be present and participate in the appropriate evaluation sessions in February/March. 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.
4. To play-up in an older division, 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 10% of the division/age group originally assigned.
5. If the child demonstrates the ability to play up, there must be space available for him or her in the older program. If the older program is full/closed, play-ups will not be allowed.
6. **Players selected to play up to will be required to pay any additional fee as set in the pricing structure for the older baseball age group before being drafted onto a team.**
7. The number of players that will be approved to play up will be infrequent and the decision will be final.

### Late registrants

If players miss the tryout evaluations and wish to play up a division, CLL, in the absence of any other third-party knowledge of the player's abilities (e.g., participation in the previous season's Fall Ball or tournament teams, whether inside or outside CLL), will recommend that the player be placed in his/her age appropriate division.

### In-Season Accommodations/"Call Ups"

Between divisions, at the discretion of the Player Agent, alternate in-season opportunities for players to play up in the next division may be available on a game-by-game basis for regular season games. Call-ups might be made for a younger player to move up to an older division (e.g., an 8-year-old Rookie could play a game(s) in the Minors) or an older player who may want to try moving up to the age-appropriate division (e.g., a 11-year-old Minors player who wants to try Majors). Families of players

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interested in such an arrangement should notify their Team Manager, who can in turn notify the Player Agent so that the player can be placed on any call-up list, if any.

### **Placement Decision Appeals**

The Colonial LL Player Agent will use all resources available (e.g. previous team managers/coaches, coaches who are present at evaluations, Board members etc.) to assess each request for alternate division placements on a case-by-case basis and make recommendations for appropriate player placement based on the guidelines as outlined above; it is the intent of Colonial LL that these guidelines can help a player and his/her family determine and agree on the most appropriate level for the baseball season. If, however, the player's family wishes to appeal the Player Agents decision, they may request a review by the Colonial Little League Board of Directors, who will issue a final recommendation based on the input of all interested parties.