



BRANDON MINOR BASEBALL

AGE ADVANCEMENT POLICY

The Brandon Minor Baseball Association (BMBA) believes that it is normally in the best interest of young athletes to play in their age-appropriate divisions.

Safety is our primary concern. Even if young players have the physical skills to play safely with older children, many lack the emotional or social maturity to do so successfully.

We believe it is always desirable for young athletes to succeed to the best of their abilities, and that they are much more likely to do so playing with peers than with older athletes.

We recognize that there may be extraordinary circumstances in which it may be preferable for children to “play up” to the next age level. In such cases, we will entertain a petition from players and parents to do so. These written requests are to be made to the President of the BMBA. Permission will be granted or denied by the convenors of the respective age groups in conjunction with the High Performance committee of the BMBA. All requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Evaluators who are in a perceived conflict of interest will be removed from the evaluation process.

Permission will be denied if based on a preseason skills assessment, the player does not exhibit talent in the following facets of the game above and beyond his/her age class. These skills include but are not limited to:

- **Defensive skills** (fielding and catching and the ability to protect one’s self from throws and hits from kids two to three years older)
- **Hitting** (consistent ability and confidence demonstrated against velocity similar to what pitchers throw at the level of the receiving division)
- **Pitching** (consistent ability demonstrated at rubber to plate distance in the receiving division)
- **Throwing** (consistent ability demonstrated at third to first throwing distance in the receiving division)

It is expected that players wishing to “play up” demonstrate an ability that is superior to the appropriately-aged players who are an average or below average player in the receiving division.

Grand Slam 9U to Mosquito 11U

The BMBA recognizes that age advancement will be requested more often between the younger age divisions.

Requests will only be considered if:

- The player has at least one season of experience in organized baseball
- is not more than one year younger than player in the division to which advancement is requested.

PeeWee 15U to Older Age Divisions

For PeeWee and older age divisions, only in a very rare circumstances will the BMBA allow a player to age advance

- unlike the difference between Mosquito and Grand Slam, all older divisions play under very similar rules; and
- as players journey through puberty they vary greatly in size and strength, exacerbating concerns about safety and social maturity.

In addition to the policy the following official rules of Baseball Manitoba (page 67 of the Baseball Manitoba handbook) will apply.

6.01.03 Any player age advanced and being recorded on a roster at the next highest level (e.g. 13U (PeeWee) aged player being recorded as an 15U (Bantam) aged player), will be eligible to be picked up at the level they are recorded at only. Any exception would have to be in writing to the Vice-President of Competition by July 1.

6.01.04 Pitching rules for age advanced players: the pitching restriction for age advanced pitchers will be followed pending on the date of birth of the pitcher, not the age category the pitcher is playing. Thus an age advanced pitcher will be bound by the eligible number of innings for their chronological age, not for the category they are playing. (Example: a 15 year old 15U (Bantam)-aged pitcher who is age advanced to play 18U (Midget) will be limited to 90 pitches per game and the corresponding rest rule – the 15U (Bantam) limit, instead of unlimited innings- the 18U (Midget) limit.

For more information about age advancement please contact the BMBA President, Blake Stephens at stephens.blake@bsd.ca

www.brandonminorbaseball.ca

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