

Chaska Youth Softball Rules and Guidelines for Playing Up in Age Division - Effective September 2024

Purpose: The Chaska Youth Softball Board strongly encourages players to remain in their designated age groups so playing up is not recommended. However, these guidelines are established to ensure that players who request to play in an older age division can do so safely and in a manner that benefits both the player and the teams involved.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. Skill Level:

- Players must demonstrate advanced skills that are above the average level of their current age division and be evaluated in the top 15% of the next age group.
- An evaluation by the board may be required to assess the player's skills.

2. Physical Readiness:

- The player must be physically capable of competing safely with older, typically larger, and stronger players. The player must be within one year of the next age level.

3. Emotional Maturity:

- The player should exhibit the emotional and psychological maturity necessary to handle the challenges of playing with older teammates and opponents.
- Feedback from current and previous coaches may be considered.

4. Team Balance:

- The board will consider the impact on team balance and competitiveness when approving requests.

5. Safety First:

- Safety is the top priority. Requests will not be approved if there is a concern for the player's safety or the safety of others.

6. Community Need:

- We determine our community need by looking at our pitchers and catchers at each age level. We will look at team numbers and create better roster sizes.
 - If there is a need numbers wise to fill out a roster, the board may reach out to capable players to gauge interest in playing up.
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Application Process:

1. Request Submission:

- A written request must be submitted by the player's parent or guardian **before** registering for evaluations. This request should include:
 - The reasons for requesting the age division change.
 - Any supporting documentation or evidence, such as performance records, coach recommendations, or skill assessments.

2. Review Committee:

- The board will consider factors including but not limited to the player's skill level, physical readiness, emotional maturity, and the impact on team dynamics.

3. Evaluation:

- The player may be required to participate in a tryout or evaluation session.
- Coaches from both the current and prospective age divisions may provide input.

4. Decision:

- The board will provide a decision within a specified timeframe, typically within two weeks of the request submission.
- If approved, the player will be allowed to join the older age group.

Conclusion:

These guidelines aim to ensure that playing up in age is done thoughtfully and responsibly, keeping the best interests of all players and teams in mind.