



# Age Advancement Policy

The Charleswood Minor Baseball Association (CMBA) 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 requests must be approved by the convenors of the respective age groups in conjunction with the executive committee of the CMBA on a case-by-case basis. Permission will not be granted if – based on a pre-season skills assessment – we believe that there may be significantly greater risk of injury for the child by playing with older players.

## **Rally Cap and Rookie Age Groups**

Age advancement is granted more often between the younger age divisions – specifically, from the Rally Cap to Rookie age division or from the Rookie to Mosquito age division.

Requests will be considered only if:

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

Any under-aged player moving up to Mosquito from Rookie will be eligible to play only on a Mosquito “A” team. We do not believe it is appropriate for under-aged players to usurp “AA” positions from kids of standard age for that division.

## **PeeWee and Older Age Divisions**

For PeeWee and older age divisions, only in a very rare circumstance will CMBA allow a player to age advance because:

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

In the unlikely event that such a request is granted, the age-advancing player will be required to play on an “A” team (if CMBA has an “A” team) in the more senior age division.

***Policy Revised by CMBA Board, February 16, 2012***