



## Age Advancement Policy

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

**\*\* Baseball Canada uses the Calendar Year to determine age group. Because baseball is a spring/summer sport, many children will still be one year younger than their official baseball age. \*\***  
*(example: many children in the 9-year-old age group will still be 8 years old throughout the entire baseball season, but will be turning 9 sometime during the calendar year)*

Safety is our primary concern. Even if younger players have the physical skills to play safely with older children, some 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 do recognize that there are circumstances where young athletes want to, and are ready to, move up to the next age level one year early. In such cases we will consider a request from players and parents to do so. These requests will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

**If a child has played at least one season of 7U (Rally Caps), and is in the 7-year-old age group** (*already is, or will be, age 7 this calendar year*) parents can freely choose whether to have their child play 7U (Rally Cap) or 9U (Grand Slam) baseball.

**Age Advancement Requests for older players will be considered only if:**

- 1) the child has already played at least one season of organized baseball at their age-appropriate level, AND**
- 2) the child is not more than one year younger than the minimum standard age for the older age division.** Example: must be in the 9-year-old age group (*already is, or will be, age 9 this calendar year*) to request age advancement to 11U-A (*standard 11U age is 10-11*).

**Age advancement requests are most often approved between 9U (Grand Slam) and 11U-A.** They are much less common among older age divisions because all the older divisions play under very similar rules.

**For 11U and older:**

- **all age-advancing players will be assigned to an A-League team.** We believe all spaces on the AA-League teams should be filled with players of the standard ages for that age division.
- **age-advancing players must follow the pitch count limits of their actual-age division** (Baseball Manitoba rule). This applies to all age divisions, *except* that 9-year-olds age-advancing to 11U have the same pitch count limits as 11U. The head coach must notify the umpires and opposing head coach before every game where the younger player might be pitching, except at 11U.