



Baseball PEI Policy on Downward Player Movement (Over-Age Players) 2026

1. Purpose

This policy establishes the process and criteria under which players may be permitted to play in a lower age division within Baseball PEI. The intent is to ensure fairness, player safety, and appropriate development opportunities in circumstances where playing down is the only viable or most appropriate option.

2. Authority

Decisions regarding downward player movement are made at the discretion of the **Level Director and Committee**. Each request for male players must be approved by the player's local association and will be reviewed on a **case-by-case basis**.

3. Eligibility Criteria

3.1 Male Players

Requests for downward player movement will only be considered if the following conditions are met:

1. **No Other Place to Play** – Applies only when there is no available recreational or age-appropriate team for the player.
2. **Risk and Safety Management** – Consideration of physical size, skill level, and potential for injury to self or others.
3. **Medical Grounds** – Documentation may be required to support medical needs impacting participation at the player's assigned age group.
4. **Compassionate Grounds** – Exceptional personal circumstances may be considered.
5. **Player Development** – Determination of whether playing down best supports the continued development of the player.

3.2 Female Players

- Female athletes may **automatically register in an age group one year younger** than their chronological age.
- This does **not require evaluation, assessment, or commissioner approval**.
- This flexibility is intended to support female athlete development and retention.



4. Player Evaluation (Male Players Only)

- Male players must be evaluated and determined to be at **comparable ability** of players on the team to which they are applying to be rostered.
- Evaluation must include pitching ability.
- Evaluation results must be documented and submitted to the Division Director and Executive Director for review.

5. Conditions of Approval

If downward movement is approved (or automatic for eligible female athletes):

- The player must comply with the **pitch count rules of the lower division**.
- Both male and female players are eligible to participate in **Provincial Championships** at that lower division.
- BPEI reserves the right to restrict what defensive position a male athlete may play in a lower division during provincial play.
- Approval applies **only to the season requested** and must be renewed annually for male players requiring exception.

6. Costs

If Baseball PEI (or its designate) incurs costs while conducting an evaluation, the requesting association may be required to pay a **fee** to cover associated expenses, including but not limited to mileage, meals, and per diem allowances.

7. Appeals

Appeals of a Division Director and Committee decision (for male player requests) must be submitted in writing to the **Executive Director** within 14 days of the decision and comply with all other APPEAL process requirements. The Board's ruling will be final.

8. Implementation Note

- All **local associations** must communicate the option for **female athletes to register one year younger** during their registration process and in all relevant player/parent information packages.
- This ensures that families are fully aware of this development pathway option and can make informed decisions.