



Player Acceleration and Play-Down Policy

NOTE: THIS POLICY refers to all categories of athletes within Camrose Minor Ball Association. Decisions are on a year to year basis. **All CMBA Board decisions will be final.**

The Camrose Minor Ball Association supports the philosophy of continuing to challenge its athletes. CMBA believes that it is normally in the best interest of our athletes to continue to play within their given age groups. Safety is our primary concern. Even if 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 they are more likely to do so playing with their peers.

However, we recognize that there may be some exceptions due to skill level or other circumstances (i.e. matters of convenience) that requests may be made for players to play-up or play-down an age division.

1. Player Acceleration Requests

Player acceleration requests will be based primarily on roster space of affected age divisions, safety, skill level and maturity. Though other factors such as convenience, participation of the player within their own age group being unchallenging or presenting safety issues for other players, can be considerations. The fact that a player may have the skills necessary to play at a higher level is not sufficient reason alone to merit a player's acceleration. If a Player Acceleration request is made, the following process will apply.

- 1.1 The Player must register within the division as determined by their birth date.
- 1.2 The **"Player Acceleration Form"** must be filled out and submitted to the CMBA Board a minimum of 10 days prior to the tryout/evaluation dates. The Board will review the request and must provide approval prior to the player being allowed to participate in any tryouts or evaluations. ****The player will only be considered if they are one year younger than the age division they are applying to participate in****
- 1.3 If approval is provided for the player to move on to the evaluation process, the player will be subject to an evaluation that goes above and beyond the traditional process. An appointed person or group selected by the Board will carry out the evaluation process to ensure the player meets a criteria that may include, but is not limited to:
 - Defensive Skills: fielding and catching and the ability to protect one's self from throws and hits from kids one to two 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
 - Physical Ability: consistent ability demonstrated to match the physical strength, technical skill and speed of players within the receiving division
 - Mental Ability: consistent ability demonstrated that the player has the required tools or knowledge to be transferrable to competitive match situations and game awareness at a higher level. The player must also demonstrate that they have the emotional and social maturity to blend in with the older players of the receiving division
- 1.4 After completion of the evaluation, the selected evaluator(s) will then provide the board with their ranking and recommendations. The Board will review the provided information taking into consideration the following:
 - Whether the player meets the required criteria of the evaluation
 - Players requesting for acceleration to a Rep (AA or AAA) team must rank within the top 5 players of the team he is being evaluated for in order to supplant a player of appropriate age for the division. (**Exception:** If there are multiple teams in the division, the player can be placed to the lower level team for that division, but must still meet the top 5 ranking for that team)
 - Players requesting for acceleration to a Non-Rep (9U up to 18U) division must rank within the top 50% of players at the level to be accelerated into and must evaluate at a minimum overall average of 3 out of 5 at the player evaluation process in order to be considered for movement.
 - Recommendation of the evaluator(s)
 - The number of registered players within each of the **two** age groups the player wishes to move up to or is

eligible to play in

- The effect the player could potentially have on the “level of play” for the team he/she would be leaving vs the long-term development of that player
- At no time, can the movement of a player affect the min. or max. number of players required to form a team

- 1.5 After the review process is complete, the board will vote to approve or dismiss the application of acceleration. In the event of a tie in votes, the recommendation of the selected evaluator(s) will be used as the final decision.
- 1.6 The Director/Coordinator of that division will notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the decision.
- 1.7 In the event the Board approves the application for player acceleration, the Registrar will move that player to the higher division in the RAMP registration system and the additional registration fees will be applied at the “Regular Registration Fee” rate. These fees will need to be paid immediately for final acceptance into the program.

2. Play-Down Requests

Players are eligible to request to Play-Down to the next lower Division. All requests shall be reviewed by the CMBA Board. The general policy is to allow a player to play down one division at the request of the player’s parent(s)/guardian(s), if circumstances warrant. If a Play-Down request is made, the following process will apply.

- 2.1 The Player must register within the division as determined by their birth date.
- 2.2 The “**Player Play-Down Form**” must be filled out and submitted to the CMBA Board a minimum of 10 days prior to the tryout/evaluation dates. ****The player will only be considered if they are one year older than the age division they are applying to participate in****
- 2.3 The Board will review the request taking into consideration the following:
 - League Guidelines for eligibility as an overage player
 - Safety and skill level of the player and the players of the receiving division
 - If it is deemed an evaluation of the player is necessary, the board will appoint a person or group to carry out the evaluation process for recommendation to the board
 - The number of registered players within each of the **two** age groups the player wishes to move down to or is eligible to play in
 - At no time, can the movement of a player affect the min. or max. number of players required to form a team
- 2.4 After the review process is complete, the CMBA Board will vote to approve or dismiss the application to Play-Down. In the event of a tie in votes and an evaluation was completed, the ranking of the player and recommendation of the selected evaluator(s) will be used as the final decision. If no evaluation was completed, and a tie remains, the application will be dismissed, and the player will be required to play in the appropriate age division.
- 2.5 The Coordinator of that division will notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the decision.
- 2.6 In the event the Board approves the application for player play-down requests, the Registrar will move that player to the lower division in the RAMP registration system and any registration fee reimbursements will be applied immediately to the players account.

Note: Final approval on all requests lies with the CMBA Board, and ruling will be based on the best interests of the Association and the individual athlete. All CMBA Board Decisions are Final.