

NETHER SWARTHMORE BASEBALL U12 PLAYING UP POLICY

Intent

It is the intent of NSB that each intramural player be matched appropriately to the division in order to provide both a safe and enjoyable experience for the child and his team, and foster a love of baseball and a desire to return again the following season.

Scope/Background

These guidelines are designed to aid players and their families make appropriate decisions for player placement in the following intramural divisions, as outlined below. As has been the experience of NSB in the past, we expect that the vast majority of players and their families will opt for, and prefer, placement in these recommended, established age brackets:

Division	Opening Day (4/1) Age
T-Ball	5-6
Rookies	7-8
Minors	9-10
Majors	11-12

Younger Players/"Playing Up"

For younger players who wish to play up a division (e.g., a 6-year-old who would like to play Rookies), NSB highly recommends the player and his/her family consider:

- Given the size, strength and abilities of the oldest players in the division being considered, are the player's baseball safety skills (e.g., proper pitch evasion, quick reflexes and defensive/glove skills) properly developed so that he/she can play confidently?
- Given the skill level and abilities of the oldest players in the division being considered, are the player's general baseball skills (throwing, fielding, batting) developed enough so that the season long experience will be enjoyable, and not overly frustrating or discouraging?
- Is this what the player wants, and will he/she be comfortable playing baseball with other, older children not in his grade/at his school?

If the answers to these considerations are yes, NSB recommends that the younger player and his family take the following steps:

1. Notify the Division commissioner of the intent to play up [list commissioners, contact information].
2. Attend the tryouts for the older division. If possible, attend the tryout for the age-appropriate division as well, and ask the child where he/she felt more comfortable.

NSB will make allowances for younger players who wish to play up if any two of the following conditions are met:

1. Talent. Based on the tryout evaluations, the player performs at a level at least above the lowest quartile of the younger players of the "older" division (i.e., an 8-year-old would need to be evaluated at a level above the bottom quartile of 9-year-olds. Our intent here is to ensure that the player can "hold his/her own" with and against other players he/she will practice and play with during the season.
2. Family Considerations. NSB families with multiple children in different age divisions can request that siblings close in age be placed in the same division. To ensure player safety and proper team placement (as most siblings in this situation will be placed on the same team), the younger player must take part in the tryout for shared/older division.
3. Program Support. Whenever a younger player plays up an age division, NSB recommends that his/her family member provide additional coaching support, whether at the head coach or assistant level, for the younger player's team and his/her coaching staff. If that is not possible or feasible, the family should work with the division commissioner/NSB leadership to provide alternate forms of program support (e.g., volunteer).

Late registrants: If players miss the tryout evaluations and wish to play up a division, NSB, in the absence of any other third-party knowledge of the player's abilities (e.g., participation in the previous season's Fall Ball or tournament teams, whether inside or outside NSB), will recommend that the player be placed in his/her age appropriate division.

In-Season Accommodations/"Call Ups"

Between divisions, at the discretion of the commissioners of the divisions, alternate in-season opportunities for players to play in the next division up may be made available on a game-by-game basis for regular season games. Call-ups might be made for a younger player to move up to an older division (e.g., an 8-year-old Rookie could play a game in the Minors) or an older player who may want to try moving to the age-appropriate division (e.g., a 11-year-old Minors player who wants to try Majors). Families of players interested in such an arrangement should notify their player's coach, who can in turn notify the commissioners of the two divisions so that the player can be placed on any call-up list, if any. Unless permitted by the division's commissioner, call-ups are not used for playoff games.

Placement Decision Appeals

Division commissioners will assess each request for alternate division placements on a case-by-case basis and make recommendations for appropriate player placement based on the guidelines as outlined above; it is the intent of NSB that these guidelines can help a player and his/her family determine and agree on the most appropriate level for the baseball season. If, however, the player's family wishes to appeal the division commissioner's decision, they may request a review by the NSB President/Officers, who will issue a final recommendation based on the input of all interested parties.

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