

Ossining JCYS Baseball & Softball Play up and Play Down Policy

Introduction and Background:

Ossining JCYS has a policy regarding "play up" requests. We allow play up requests to be made and have a process to consider them which is outlined below. While we do have a policy, we are unable to guarantee all requests will be granted. It is our hope and expectation that parents, and players enter the process with an understanding of our policy as well as a willingness to have the player play in whatever division we determine is appropriate. It is our expectation that majority of our players will play in their age appropriate division however there may be a few (usually 2-3 per year) instances where a "play up" request is granted.

Process:

- 1) A request to "play up" or "play down" must be received in writing (e-mail is acceptable) by the Ossining JCYS President, Vice President and/or Player Agent. Failure to do so will automatically result in a player being denied a play up assessment.
- 2) Players who are seeking to "play up" must be assessed in BOTH divisions; their age-appropriate division as well as the division they are seeking to move to. If a child is not assessed in both divisions, we may reject the request. Any player requesting to "play up" from Tee Ball to Minors or Tee Ball to 1st/2nd Grade Softball will be observed during winter instructional sessions as provided by Ossining JCYS or at some other agreed upon organized Baseball or Softball activities. All other division "play up" requests are to be assessed during the annual JCYS Baseball and Softball assessments in March.
- 3) Players are assessed in throwing, fielding, and hitting. These assessments are not an exact science, but in previous years have generally given data that is very reliable and accurate for the purpose of ruling on the play up request. Ossining JCYS has a committee including President, Vice President, Player Agent, League Coordinators and if needed board members able to participate in the grading so no one person decides any child's entire score.
- 4) Decision Making: The President and Vice President will receive the official assessment scores from the Player Agent and review. The President and Vice President may consult with division coordinators and/or coaches who have worked with the child in question. The President and Vice President will use the data provided and make a ruling in consultation with the Player Agent. It is the goal of the decision makers to base their decisions solely on Baseball and Softball related information. In some instances, the President and Vice President may seek a board vote on whether a request is granted. The Board will be notified of play-up/play-down decisions at the next Board of Directors meeting.
- 5) If a parent wishes to discuss a decision, they may do so in front of the JCYS Board of Directors at a monthly meeting. The Board of Directors will not discuss any decisions in an independent or informal setting, nor shall they call any special meeting to discuss.
- 6) No individual coordinator or coach will decide whether a child's "play up" request is granted.

Factors Included in Assessments:

When the league receives a request that a player "play up," or play in a division above that player's age group, the process for determining whether the request is granted will include consideration of a variety of factors.

- 1) **Requests more likely to be granted for younger divisions:** When considering such requests, the level that the player is trying to play up into is important. Generally, a move from Tee-Ball (5-6 year old's) to Minors (7-8 year old's) or Tee-Ball to 1st/2nd Grade Softball is not as difficult, and thus if relevant factors are met an easier request to grant than a move from Minors to Majors/Intermediate or Majors/Intermediate (9-10 year old's) to Majors/Little League (11-12 year old's). In very rare

instances will we assess a player for a play up from Majors/Little League to Senior League (13-16 year old's) due to the large age range provided in our Senior Baseball League.

- 2) **Experience in division that player seeks to leave:** The player must have played at least one year in the division they are trying to leave; players cannot skip a division without ever having played in it. If the player has already played two years in the division, they are requesting to leave that will be weighed favorably toward granting the request. It is important to note that if a player has been permitted to play up, it does NOT mean that they will automatically be allowed to play up again when they complete two years of the division they have entered. Players and families who are granted a request to play up should expect that they will have to request permission again to play up after completing two years in a division and that such requests are not automatically granted and subject to the criteria outlined in the "play up" process.
- 3) **Player Ability:** In addition to the current year assessment, a player's ability may be considered by consulting their coach from the previous year as well as the coordinator from the league they are seeking to "play up" into and coordinator from the league the player is seeking to be assessed to leave. For a player's request to be granted the player's ability should be considerably above the league they are leaving. General guideline is they should grade out at the top end of the division they seek to "play up" into during assessments.
- 4) **Safety:** If a player is deemed to pose a potential safety concern for the other players in their division that will be considered favorably toward granting the request. If there is a concern for the safety of the player if they move up a division, that will be considered as a factor against granting the request.
- 5) **Age:** Ossining JCYS will only allow for assessment of a play up by one year. Players not within one year of the league they are attempting to play up into cannot be assessed and all requests will be denied unless players are within one year of the minimum age for the league they are assessing to play into.

Play Down Requests:

On occasions there are requests for a child to remain an additional year within a division for a variety of reasons. Given the general nature of these requests, they are handled in 1:1 discussion with the parents involved taking into consideration criteria 2,3,4 from the 'play up' section. In these situations, developmental progress is also a factor.