

Negaunee Little League

Play Up/Play Down Petition Policy

To ensure we have balanced, fair, and equitable play, all players are required to register for the Division as determined by their birth date. The general policy is to never allow a player to skip a Division. Players will play within the level of play designated for their age. However, there are some players who, due to their skill level or other circumstances, may be granted an exception and allowed to play at a different level than their age specifies.

Petition to Play Up

Exceptions to playing within the level of play designated for age are granted on an individual, year-to-year basis and must be approved by the Player Agent and Division VP. If a family believes their child should play at a different level than their age designates then the parents must complete and submit a Petition to Play Up. A Petition to Play Up may be submitted for your child only if they have already completed a season in the Division they would otherwise be registered for.

For all Petitions to Play Up, experience outside Negaunee Little League in the prior season will be reviewed by the Player Agent and Division VP to determine equivalency and will be treated accordingly.

Play Up requests are evaluated based primarily on roster space at the requested level and the skill level of the player. Negaunee Little League considers not only whether the player is sufficiently skilled to compete at the requested level, but also whether their skill level is such that participating in the level with their contemporaries would be unchallenging or present safety issues for other players. Some of the other factors that NLL considers are the player's school grade, the proximity of their birthday to the August 31st age cutoff for baseball and the December 31st cutoff for softball, and any family circumstances that may exist. The fact that a player may have the skills necessary to play in the higher level is not sufficient reason alone to merit a "play-up" exception. NLL typically permits only a small number of "play-up" requests each season.

- T-Ball
 - Players under the minimum league age will only be considered if a parent agrees to always be on the field with the player.
- Developmental
 - Players must be at least league age 6 and have played in T-Ball the prior year to be eligible for consideration to play up.
- Minors
 - Players must be at least league age 8 and have played in Developmental the prior year to be eligible for consideration to play up.
- Majors
 - Players must be at least league age 10 and have played in Minors the prior year to be eligible for consideration to play up.
- Juniors
 - Players must be at least league age 12 and have played in Majors the prior year to be eligible for consideration to play up.

- Seniors
 - Players must be at least league at 14 and have played in Juniors the prior year to be eligible for consideration to play up.

Petition to Play Down

Parents may submit a Petition to Play Down to the next lower Division. All Petitions are heard by the Board for review and approval. The general policy is to allow a player to play down one division at the request of their Parents, if circumstances warrant. Depending on the players size and ability, they may not be permitted to pitch.

Skills Evaluation

Skills Evaluations are used by Negaunee Little League to evaluate player requests to play up. Player's skills will be evaluated based on their requested playing level.

Any exceptions to this policy require a unanimous vote by the voting members of the board.

Effective Date: January 1, 2025