



Process and Position Statement for a Player Request to Play “Up”

This document describes Hopkins Fastpitch philosophy on, and the process for, a Player’s request to play “up”, (to play at an older age level than where the player is age appropriate).

I. Hopkins Fastpitch Philosophy

It has been our experience and remains our fervent belief that players develop and prosper when they play on an age appropriate team. This allows the player to develop their skills at a natural pace. Occasionally the organization has asked (and may well have to in the future) players to play for a season at an older level. This only occurs when team formation is in jeopardy due to inadequate numbers and is an action of last resort. Though we clearly do not encourage players to seek to play “up”, we recognize that on occasion, there may be a player who believes it is in her best personal interest to do so. For this situation we have established a process that will evaluate the veracity of the player’s request, and reach a decision accordingly.

II. The Decision Parameters

Clearly, as an organization serving multiple teams per season, we must consider not only the player’s needs, but those of the teams that are potentially affected, and the organization as a whole. The request to play up **MUST** be for competitive or developmental reasons. Social (i.e. I want to play with my friends) or other rationale will not be considered. The Executive Committee will review each request. Each request must pass the prioritized criteria (see below), before a skills evaluation can take place. The prioritized criteria, which the evaluation committee will follow, are as follows:

- Affect on the organization
- Affect on the age appropriate team
- Affect on the team of the desired age
- Affect on the player

III. The Process (Summer Ball)

1. Complete “Play-up” [registration document](#) during registration. (Player should register at her current age level)
2. The request is reviewed by the Executive Committee and a member of the board will call and discuss the request with the family.
3. The Executive Committee will apply prioritized criteria to the request.
4. Review historical player information (previous year’s stats, coaches’ notes, etc).
5. Conduct a Skills Evaluation (If previous steps have been satisfied). Player will evaluate at both age groups.
6. Determination and Disposition of the request.

If a skills evaluation is granted, the player must evaluate in the top 5 of the play “up” age group to be accepted (or top 2 at pitcher or catcher if that is listed as her primary position).

The process can be ended at any one of the process steps by the Executive Committee, continuing directly to step #6. Every effort will be made to expedite a request in a timely manner.

Please Note: At the 14U level, if the association fields a team to play in the Gold League. 12U eligible players will not be able to be placed on this team due to Minnesota Softball rules. (Please call board president with any questions regarding this point)

IV. The Process (Fall Ball)

During the Fall Ball season, players will be allowed to “play up,” assuming that the coaches don't feel that there is a safety concern.