



Policy Re: Playing "up" in a division above your age.

Season: Spring 2014 and future

Approved: Board Meeting 3/6/2014

Background:

It has been our long-standing policy that all players aged 8 and older are required to play in the division that matches their "league age" in any year. "League age" is your player's age as of April 30. Babe Ruth League, Inc uses this date to determine player eligibility. Cal Ripken Baseball is a division of Babe Ruth League Inc.

Additionally, in the past, we have allowed players aged 7 and younger to "play up" a division when requested by the player's parent/guardian. Once these players reached the Small Minor division (8's), they were required to play at that division until they reached the "league age" required to move up to the next division.

Policy Change:

In order to allow for maximum player development and betterment of the league as a whole, the Board approved, that beginning in the 2014 season, all players (ages 4-15) must use their "league age" to determine eligibility and play at the age appropriate division. This rule does not allow for any exceptions.

Grandfather Clause:

So that no players are forced to move backwards, if your child was included on a "player-pitch" Small Minor (8's) team in 2013, they will be eligible to *stay at that level until their age permits them to move forward*. Any players that played up in the Rookie division must play at his/her "league age" in 2014 and beyond. All Rookie divisions are "coach-pitch" with no distinguishable difference in rules.

Division Eligibility:

Cal Ripken Tee Ball/Rookie (ages 4-7)

Tee Ball\* - ages 4/5

Instructional\* - ages 5/6

Little Minor - age 7

Cal Ripken Minor/Major (ages 8-12)

Small Minor - age 8

Cal Ripken Minor - age 9/10

Cal Ripken Major - age 11/12

Babe Ruth (ages 13-15)

Babe Ruth Prep - age 13

Babe Ruth - age 14/15

\*If a child starts playing Tee Ball at age 4, he/she may play at the Instructional Level at age 5, but will be required to play this division for two years, until he/she reaches age 7.