

Mattawan Little League

Policy for Advancement of Players

As Approved January 16, 2014
Attachment 3

Players will be drafted into the appropriate Divisions in accordance with Article 3.0 - Organizational Structure and Age Alignment of the Mattawan Little League Bylaws. Placement is based upon Little League age as defined in Little League Official Regulations and Playing Rules for Baseball and Softball – Article IV – (e). Although Little League establishes the “Little League Division” as players age 9 to 12 years of age, local leagues are provided with flexibility to delineate Divisions by ages should player numbers support separation. Mattawan Little League Bylaws, Article 3.0 – Organization Structure and Age Alignment, delineates Divisions based upon age with overlapping age groups. There will be NO EXCEPTIONS to these age Divisions as the age groups are formatted to accommodate differences in player ability. The first year of each age group will require the permission of the Division Director, the Player Agent and the VP. Evaluations will be made. Providing exceptions to Article 3.0 - Organizational Structure and Age Alignment, requires a written policy. Thus, Mattawan Little League has approved the following two (2) exceptions for “Advancement of Players”:

In accordance with Little League Official Regulations and Playing Rules for Baseball and Softball – Article III – (c), Mattawan Little League permits players who are Little League age 6 to advance to A Baseball and Minor Softball Divisions after participation in Tee Ball for one year. Requests shall be made by the parent to the appropriate Players Agent of Baseball or Softball via telephone or e-mail prior to the draft process. Under no circumstances shall a player Little League age 5 be permitted to advance to the A Baseball and Minor Softball Divisions.

Requests may not be approved due to league considerations (space within the Division, balanced teams etc.). Convenience factors due to transportation, allowing sibling to advance to enable them to participate with another sibling within the same Division, etc. are not considerations for advancement.

Approval of first year advancement of a player to the AA, AAA, Little Major, Major, 50/70 or Junior Baseball and Softball Divisions shall be made only due to appropriate skill level and ability (not minimum skill level and ability) for the Division in which the player is being considered. A request for first year advancement due to appropriate skill level and ability shall be submitted by a parent to the appropriate Players Agent of Baseball or Softball prior to the draft. The request shall include at minimum:

1. Written request or e-mail from Parent(s);
2. Signed written letters or e-mails of recommendation from:
 - a) Past Manager and/or Coaches;
 - b) Division Director (current and past);
 - c) Appropriate Vice President of Baseball or Softball

When making a determination in regard to first year advancement due to appropriate skill level and ability, the Players Agent shall consider:

- a. The best interest of the league (i.e. overall and Divisionally);
- b. The best interest of the players within the affected Divisions;

- c. Maturity of the player;
- d. Letters or e-mails of Recommendation and initiating individuals;
- e. Past Player Evaluation(s), if available;
- f. Review of player skill level based upon proposed Division;
- g. Only players who have demonstrated an appropriate skill level will be considered for first year advancement. **However, he/she may not be approved due to other league considerations (space within the Division, balanced teams etc.). Convenience factors due to transportation, allowing a sibling to advance to enable them to participate with another sibling within the same Division, etc. are not considerations for advancement.**

Once a determination is made by the Player Agent, the Player Agent shall:

- a. Communicate the determination prior to the Draft (when applicable) to the Parent(s), League President, Division Director, Vice President and League Information Officer.
- b. Provide the original Request and Letters of Recommendations (when applicable) to the League Information Officer for league files. Player Agent shall retain copy of same.

All inquiries in regard to first year advancement shall be referred to the appropriate Player Agent. In lieu of no Player Agent, request shall be referred to the appropriate Vice President of Baseball or Softball. Managers, Coaches, Division Directors or Board Members are not authorized to approve advancement to another Division. The intent of the "Advancement of Player" policy is to be used as the formal process of determining appropriate Divisions. If while instituting this policy, it becomes abused or burdensome, it will be reviewed by the Mattawan Little League Board of Directors for cancellation. Cancellation of the "Advancement of Player" policy will require players to remain within their respective age Divisions as described within the Mattawan Little League Bylaws or Little League Official Regulations and Playing Rules.

Circumstances not covered by this policy will be discussed between the respective Player Agent, respective Vice President and the League President. Decisions in regard to circumstances not covered by this policy will be made by the League President and are considered final.