



Playing Up & Down Policy (effective August 3, 2023)

Purpose:

The intent of this document is to define the PGSL process by which parents may petition to have their child play up or down before a season begins. This includes outlining the application process/requirements as well as the PGSL board review and decision steps.

Background:

1. PGSL's core mission is centered on providing a positive, fair, instructional and safety-oriented environment for girls 6 to 14 years of age. PGSL is a recreational league focused on development and fun. So with that focus, PGSL wants to ensure that girls are divided appropriately into our 6U, 8U, 10U, 12U, and 14U divisions
2. By dividing the girls into the appropriate groups, we have a greater chance of ensuring that:
 - a. The skill levels in those age brackets are as similar as possible
 - b. The social interaction between players is positive, friendly, and conducive to the age development

Process:

1. Parents/Guardians may elect to request their child be able to play up or down one age division
2. In order to submit that request, the parent or guardian must:
 - a. Complete the normal registration application process that is requested by PGSL, enrolling their child in their regular age defined division
 - b. Complete and submit the PGSL "[Playing Up & Down Questionnaire](#)" Google form



- c. Player will then attend a mandatory playing assessment to determine the playing ability and evaluate any safety concerns
 - i. Assessment will include evaluation of basic skills including hitting, fielding, catch/throwing, and if applicable pitching/catching
 - ii. The PGSL Board may decide to bypass the assessment if current, and direct knowledge of the player's ability is known by internal coaches and/or board members
 - d. The PGSL President, VP, and Coaching coordinator will review the "Playing Up & Down Questionnaire" responses as well as the assessment performance after the final registration cut-off date has passed
 - e. A vote will occur after final registration, but before team drafting and selection occurs. A majority vote will be required to approve the player moving up or down, only by one age division
 - i. The decision makers / voters will be the PGSL President, VP, and Coaching Coordinator
 - ii. Board members that are relatives of the requestor/player should abstain from voting and be replaced with another board member
 - iii. The Coaching Coordinator will notify the PGSL board of all requests made and final decisions
 - iv. The core deciding factor is safety for both the player electing to play up or down, and the players in their current or proposed player bracket. Safety is evaluated based on the player's performance in the past two seasons, including the age divisions they played in. Emphasis will be placed on hitting, pitching (if applicable), and throwing speed based on coaches feedback and/or the playing assessment for new players.
3. The parents/guardians will be notified of the board decision prior to the team selection and drafting. All decisions are final, once teams are set there will be no changes
- a. The board's decision to allow a player to play up or down is very important. Legitimate safety concerns for a player or for those with whom she will be



playing are the most compelling reasons to allow a girl to play up or down. All other reasons provided should be considered very carefully, if not skeptically. Convenience or an over-zealous emphasis on skills development should almost never be considered appropriate reasons to allow a child to play up or down.

- b. The President, Vice-President, or Coaching Coordinator may approach parents and coaches about specific players playing up or down in order to optimize team size, but this is a secondary factor to player safety. This will be based on player experience, skill level, and maturity. Parents have the right to decline to have their player play up or down.
- c. Any mid-season requests for players to play up as a temporary fill-in for specific games, will be decided by the respective coaches.