



## Registration Policy

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON DECEMBER 17, 2013

All Members:

It is our duty as parents, coaches and volunteers to put what's in the child's best interest first, the parents of the league obviously have their kid's best interest at heart and the Director's share this as well. We are often asked, by parents to move their children to a division not in line with their age group. There has never been a formal policy and perhaps not fully explained to parents as to why we would or would not allow a child to play outside of their division.

Many players are capable of playing up, but the mere ability to do so should not be the only criteria. In fact, a player moving up should also be considered as one of the better players at the higher age group. In the past, while never properly documented, the YAO generally allowed a youngster to move up if he/she was amongst the top 10 players in the higher group at a minimum. Parents must consider, moving up may not be as beneficial as one may think, as it may result in less playing time. The maturity of a child, a child who may have just turned 9, playing with children on the verge of turning 13, may not be in their best interest, regardless of how many rules a coach has regarding dugout behavior. We would say the same of a 12-year-old playing with kids on the verge of turning 16.

The Y.A.O does understand, we may have that one or two special athletes who may benefit, by playing in a higher division, but this would be extraordinary circumstances and we will take these situations in to consideration when and if the time comes.

The Directors of the YAO provide the following policy, regarding our new "call up system" and our registration process:

### **CALL UP PROGRAM:**

The YAO, will institute a "call up system" for the Rookies, Cal Ripken and Babe Ruth Divisions. This will be voluntary. At the close of registration, the YAO will solicit interest of those players who wish to be included in this program, with a maximum of 5 per division. The Commissioners of the respective leagues will evaluate those who are interested and select 5 for each Division. We will rotate, if a player is called up and they are not able to make it, the next one in line will be called and the player declining the invitation will move to the bottom. The call up will be based purely on need by the team requesting the younger player. The first commitment, of the child being called up, will be to their Divisional games of the team they are originally assigned to. If there aren't any conflicts, a child will be allowed to be called up, upon request of a Cal Ripken or Babe Ruth Coach to play in a game, after receiving permission from the Commissioner of the respective leagues involved.

All Call up requests must be made by 5:00 on Friday before a Saturday or Sunday game.



### REGISTRATION:

The YAO currently has 5 divisions, broken up by age group. The YAO, is a chartered members of Babe Ruth Inc. and makes every effort to follow their by-laws regarding age brackets, which are based on the child's age as at May 1<sup>st</sup> of that current baseball season. While we do have some flexibility, we prefer to follow their standards and we have the following divisions set up as follows:

- Tee Ball Division- Ages 4 - 5
- CRL Rookie - Ages 6 - 7
- CRL Minors- Ages 8 - 9
- CRL Majors- Ages 10 - 12
- Babe Ruth Division- Ages 13-15.

Playing in a Division lower than their required age group, based on their date of birth. ("Moving Down")

- 1) Children will not be allowed to play in a division **lower** than the age group they are required to play in, based on their date of birth. Any parent found to knowingly register their child for a lower division, will be required to provide a copy of a birth certificate upon request and given an opportunity to correct the matter immediately by informing the President of the YAO or another Director. If a parent refuses to move their child to the proper division, they will forfeit their registration fee and their child will not be allowed to participate in our program for 1 year. No games will be played by the team assigned until the child has been removed from the team. It is up to the parents to do the right thing. Do not penalize the child or other children.
  - a. This is done for the safety of the children in all age groups
  - b. Provide consistency within the league.

Playing in a Division higher than their required age group, based on date of birth ("Moving Up")

- 1) The YAO will take into consideration and allow a child to Move Up earlier to a higher division, but the following requirements must be met.
  - a. There is available space and no child meeting the age requirement, by the close of the registration period, for the particular division in question has been turned away. (There is available space)
  - b. The following criteria must be met, only exception is in the event there is no Fall Ball program.
    - i. Child has completed the Fall Ball season in the division they have requested to move up to. (I.e. a Rookie, who wishes to move up to Cal Ripken, must have played Fall Ball the season prior to the start of the Spring season).
    - ii. At least 2 Directors and the Commissioner of the league the child has requested to move in to have reviewed the child's skill level and most importantly maturity level. Must be a unanimous decision by all 3. One "no" vote and the child must remain in their required division.
  - c. Both parents must agree in writing that the child is ready to move Move-up and the league will be held free and harmless from any injury as a result of the child Moving up early.



- i. Parents should take in to the account before they make any request to move their child up:
  - 1. It is more than about skill
  - 2. Staying their final year in their required division, the child can develop leadership skills, sportsmanship and assist with younger kids to improve their skills.
  - 3. There skill level will continue to improve, with more practice regardless of the group they are playing with.
  - 4. Safety of the child.
- d. Requests to move-up must be made by the parent. No Assistant Coach, Coach, Manager, Commissioner or Director can make the recommendation or request. This must come from the parent.

While we often times get caught up in our desire to see our children excel at a game they love and want the best for our children, decisions need to be made in what is in the best interest of the children and the league. I thank you for your time and support throughout the year.

Regards,

Damian Resnik  
President  
YAO Baseball Bermuda