

# **Hastings Youth Athletic Association Player Move Up Policy for 2026 Season**

## **In-House Baseball & Softball Levels**

- All players will participate at their appropriate age levels set forth by the Age & Division chart provided during registration by HYAA. (See Chart on In-House Page)
- If a player's age is eligible for a higher level than their grade, the player must participate at the appropriate age level and cannot move down with their grade.
- If a player requests to move to a higher In-House level and is not age eligible, it will be at the discretion of the Level Director(s) and HYAA Board of Directors to approve the move up.

## **Travel Baseball & Softball Levels**

- All players will participate at their appropriate age levels set forth by Minnesota Softball and MN Metro Baseball League.
- A player must be 8 by May 1<sup>st</sup> in order to tryout for U9
- If a player is age eligible for a higher level than their grade, the player must participate at the appropriate age level and cannot move down with their grade.
- If a player requests to move to a higher travel level and is not age eligible, it will be at the discretion of the Level Director(s) and HYAA Board of Directors to approve the move up.

## **VFW & Legion Levels**

- If a player requests to move to a higher travel level and is not age eligible, it will be at the discretion of the Level Director(s) and Hastings High School Baseball Coaching Staff to approve the move up.

**Note: The Hastings Youth Athletic Association highly recommends that players participate at the appropriate age and grade levels set**

**forth by these guidelines to best suit the long-term development of the player.**

### **Move Up Application Process**

- Parents who request their player to move up must submit an application via email to the corresponding Level Director no later than February 15th of that calendar year before registration closes. The application must include the requested level of play and the reasoning for the move up request. Board of Directors contact information can be found on the HYAA website at <https://www.hyaa.info/board>
- The Level Director(s) will review the application. Following their review, the request will be forwarded to the remainder of the HYAA Board of Directors for final approval before registration closes to allow for registration.
- The criteria for allowing a player to move up will be based on an evaluation of the player's skill, ability to contribute to the older team, and their emotional and physical maturity relative to the older team. Additionally, the presence of similarly talented players at the player's current age level will be considered. "Like talent" refers to players within their appropriate age level teams. If such talent exists, the HYAA Board of Directors will generally opt against moving the player up.
- If the application is approved by the HYAA Board of Directors for an in-house level, the player will be rostered to a team at the higher level.
- If the application is approved by the HYAA Board of Directors for a travel team, the player will be required to try out at the requested higher level.
- For Travel Baseball, If the player is not one of the top 9(if one team at that age or top 18(if 2 or more teams) after tryouts/evaluations, they will be asked to move back down to their age-appropriate travel level.

## **General Policy**

- It is important to remember that a player who seems to have superior skills at their current level may not have mastered the skills to stay competitive at a higher level. Physical skill is not the only barometer; mental development and maturity are equally important.
- The intent of the program is to let players develop to their highest potential at their current level. However, if a player demonstrates exceptional skill and mental maturity, they can be considered for a move up. Each request will be considered on a case-by-case basis according to the principles and procedures outlined.

## **Additional HYAA Board of Directors generated move up requests**

- On occasion there may be a need to move players to a higher level based on team sizes and/or age range of players.
- The selection of player(s) to move up will first be recommended by the appropriate level Director(s).
- Upon recommendation by the level Director(s), the HYAA Board of Directors will review the recommended move up for approval.
- The final decision for the move-up will be made collectively by the player and their parents and/or legal guardians.