

## **Carmel Youth Baseball “And Under” Guidelines**

Carmel Youth Baseball has become an “And Under” League, within the guidelines of PONY Baseball. While we do not necessarily recommend playing up for our players, we do understand under some circumstances it may be appropriate. There are two ways a player could move up- Grade Appropriate (GA) or Advanced Placement via Skills Evaluation (AP). To see if your player is eligible for either, please see our [League Age Key](#).

### **For Grade Appropriate play up, please review this section-**

The first instance where playing up will be possible is for those players who are "Grade Appropriate" or GA. The players who will fall into this category are those who, because of a later birthdate, do not make the cutoff to move up to the next division, while most of their classmates do. While not moving up can be a healthy and positive experience (providing leadership, skill and confidence building opportunities, not to mention potentially being one of the stronger players on the field), we realize there are circumstances where players may want to simply play with the kids in their same grade. We, as a league, understand this and support those who have the desire to play with their classmates. Our registration system will allow for this choice if desired. Note: The League reserves the right to protect the player from moving up if doing so presents a significant safety concern.

### **For Advanced Placement via Skills Evaluation (AP), please review this section-**

The second circumstance where playing up is possible is for those players who desire a higher level of competition, and are *not* grade appropriate to do so. This option is only available to those entering what would be, based on PONY playing age, their last year in the Pinto, Mustang and Bronco divisions. For these players the process is quite involved and should not be taken lightly. Families of these players must agree to be counseled by the league to help determine if it is in the best interest of the player to play at a higher level. This may involve attending a mandatory meeting to discuss this and other concerns/considerations.

These players will go through a separate registration and more involved evaluation process. Prior to team placement, these players will be required to attend *two* levels of skills' evaluations on skills' evaluation day (and be at least 15 minutes early to meet with Division Directors on that day). These players must then be selected in the top half of the player draft of the division they desire to play within. If they are not drafted high enough, they will play in the younger division. Please note that due to our strong emphasis on parity in the league, these players are not guaranteed to play on the same team as their siblings, although every effort would be made to do so.

If you have further questions about our And Under Guidelines and how this could affect your player and their experience in our league, please contact us at [info@carmelyouthbaseball.com](mailto:info@carmelyouthbaseball.com)