

Newfound Babe Ruth By-Laws

The name of this organization shall be Newfound Babe Ruth, hereafter know as the NBR.

I. Objectives: The purposes of Newfound Babe Ruth (NBR) are:

1. To establish a system whereby children may learn the fundamentals of baseball/softball, good sportsmanship and citizenship with an emphasis on teaching & participation rather than on winning.
2. To provide an opportunity for competitive baseball/softball at a level commensurate with the ability of the players in the form of travel teams to compete in State & National Tournament.
3. To acquaint the community with the purposes of the NBR.
4. To raise funds for the operating costs of the NBR program.

II. Charter: These by-laws govern the NBR Program. The NBR program is a chartered member of Babe Ruth League Inc. and under the direction of the Tapply-Thompson Community Center and shall abide by those rules, guidelines, criteria and age requirements except as noted herein.

III. General: Membership in the NBR shall consist of the families or guardians of each enrolling member as well as any volunteer. Voting shall be by secret ballot conducted at the annual awards ceremony at the close of each season. Each member shall be allowed one vote per family.

These by-laws are used for the management of the NBR and to ensure a stable, continuous program from year-to-year. The by-laws can be modified once a year with the consent of the Board Members, which shall meet each Fall in the off season for the purpose or addressing by-law changes as well as to conduct other business.

IV. Conflict of Interest Statement: Pursuant to RSA 293-A: 8.31, the NBR hereby adopts the following procedure when managing conflict of interest transactions:

1. A conflict of interest transaction is defined as a transaction in which a director of the NBR has a direct or indirect interest. A conflict exists if a director (1) has a material financial interest or in which he is a general party in another entity which is party to a transaction or (2) he is a director, officer, or trustee of another entity which is a party to the transaction and the transaction is or should be considered by the board of directors of the NBR.
2. The director having the direct or indirect conflict shall notify all other directors of the conflict, state for the record his interest when said matters are brought before the directors, and refrain from participating in the discussion as a director or voting on the matter.
3. A conflict of interest transaction shall be approved if it receives the affirmative vote of a majority of the directors on the board that has no direct or indirect interest in the transaction.

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IV. Organization

Membership: The NBR shall consist of Active members. Each active member shall be entitled to one vote. Active members shall consist of parents and/or guardians of all children in the NBR and of individuals on the coaching staff or any other full-time volunteer. Membership shall begin at the time of registration of the following year providing all fees are paid when due. Fees will be as established and due by the date specified by the Board of Directors. Members not in good standing due to unpaid dues may not vote or hold office

Members of the NBR shall conduct themselves in a proper manner at NBR events or when representing the NBR in any way. Members shall be subject to the same guidelines as team members concerning behavior, abusive language, alcohol, tobacco and drug use. Members shall have no alcoholic beverages at a fundraising event sponsored by the NBR which involves team members. Violators shall be subject to a fine of \$50.00. Members also agree that by its alliance with Babe Ruth League Inc. and any Leagues the NBR Board of Directors chooses to enroll, whether for League or Tournament play to abide by those By-Laws and to conduct themselves in a manner at all times and at an appropriate level that best represents the NBR and Babe Ruth League Inc.

Board of Directors: The day-to-day management of the Program is overseen by a Board of Directors consisting of the following voting positions:

President - Nominated by the NBR Board of Directors or NBR Membership and elected by the Membership has overall responsibility for the Baseball/Softball program; sets NBR Board meeting times and agenda and represents the interests of the NBR Board of Directors and the NBR program within the community and across the district, state & country; ensures the fair and equitable application of the by-laws for the benefit of the players. The President, with the assistance of the Vice President shall be responsible for attending all State & District meetings as required by League and/or Babe Ruth Inc.

Vice President - Nominated by the NBR Board of Directors or NBR Membership and elected by the Membership has responsibility for assisting the President and League Representative in the application of their duties as well as soliciting sponsorships and representing the interests of the NBR Board of Directors and the NBR program within the community and across the district, state & country. The Vice President, along with the President shall be responsible for attending all State & District meetings as required by League and/or Babe Ruth Inc.

Commissioner – Nominated by the NBR Board of Directors or NBR Membership and elected by the Membership shall serve the Board and President as an impartial arbiter of disputes and helps to assure fairness and objectivity during try-outs and player drafts, helps to conduct the draft, reviews all divisional rules.

TTCC Representative – Appointed by the Tapply-Thompson Community Center (TTCC) In addition, to representing the goals and objectives of the TTCC, the Community Center Representative shall provide day to day oversight, identify coaching candidates and distribute information to the players, coaches etc. and assist the NBR Board of Directors in carry out the objectives of the NBR League.

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IV. Organization (continued)

Babe Ruth Representatives / Liaisons - Nominated by the NBR Board of Directors or NBR Membership and elected by the Membership, shall represent the NBR at all Babe Ruth League meetings and events in which the NBR actively participates and where required, for the reporting of game scores to the league.

Treasurer - Nominated by the NBR Board of Directors or NBR Membership and elected by the Membership maintains the budget of the NBR Program and responsible for reconciling that budget with the NBR operating budget, maintaining accounting records, filing all necessary tax returns and maintaining the check book.

Secretary - Nominated by the NBR Board of Directors or NBR Membership and elected by the Membership is responsible for governing documents such as the by-laws, general rules, and league rules as well as the taking and reporting of all minutes in each meeting of the NBR Board of Directors.

Baseball Representative – Nominated by the NBR Board of Directors or NBR Membership and elected by the Membership, shall represent the players & parents, soliciting input and feedback and act as a liaison between the NBR Board of Directors and the parents and/or players. In addition, the Baseball Representative shall also assist and advise the Coaching Coordinator on Manager recommendations at each level.

Softball Representative - Nominated by the NBR Board of Directors or NBR Membership and elected by the Membership, shall represent the players & parents, soliciting input and feedback and act as a liaison between the NBR Board of Directors and the parents and/or players. In addition, the Softball Representative shall also assist and advise the Coaching Coordinator on Manager recommendations at each level.

Fundraising Coordinator – Nominated by the NBR Board of Directors or NBR Membership and elected by the Membership responsible for obtaining sponsors for teams. The Fundraising Coordinator is also responsible for developing and organizing fundraising activities throughout the year and meeting the fund raising requirements of the NBR Board of Directors.

Umpire in Chief - Nominated by the NBR Board of Directors and appointed by the Board responsible for obtaining referees for all games as well as recruiting and assisting in training new umpires and conducting regular training sessions/ clinics with all levels of umpires.

Equipment Manager / Coordinator - Nominated by the NBR Board of Directors and appointed by the Board is responsible for ensuring that players and teams are properly outfitted with the necessary equipment, ensures the proper maintenance of all equipment during the off-seasons as well as helps to ensure that all equipment is maintained in a safe environment; ensures that proper equipment and supplies (balls, catching equipment, first aid kits, water bottles, etc.) are deployed for each team; makes recommendations to the NBR Board of Directors for additional or replacement equipment each season.

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IV. Organization (continued)

Coaching Coordinators: Nominated by the NBR Board of Directors and appointed by the Board is responsible for assisting and overseeing the Managers/Coaches. At the discretion of the NBR Board, there shall be one Coaching Coordinator for Softball and One for Baseball. TBall may be placed under either coordinator depending on work load. The Coaching Coordinator shall conduct at a minimum one annual coaches meeting prior to the start of the season and shall maintain a list of qualified coaches, assure that all coaches have met the required certification and provide assistance to the coaches at all levels. The Coaching Coordinator, in conjunction with the appropriate Baseball or Softball Representative shall make recommendation to the NBR Board of Directors for the Managers of each team.

Tournament Director: Nominated by the NBR Board of Directors and appointed by the Board is responsible for overseeing and organizing all aspects of the Tournament Trail including representing the NBR at all Tournaments, organizing and hosting tournaments and forming of sub-committees (subject to NBR Board approval) to assist in Tournaments.

Meetings: The NBR Board of Directors meets once per month (date determined by the President in consultation with other Board members), but may elect not to hold a meeting during some months of the off season depending on workload and issues. Board members receive no compensation for their service. In registering their children to participate, however, they need only pay the fees required by the NBR Board of Directors. The NBR Board absorbs all other fees in recognition of the many hours of service these volunteers provide to the program.

NBR Board Member Removal: All or any of the members of the Board Members may be removed from office without assigning any cause by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the NBR Board of Directors, provided that written notice of the intention to consider removal of such Member(s) has been included in the notice of the meeting. A Director shall not be removed without having the opportunity to be heard at such meeting, but a formal hearing procedure need not be followed. In the event that the NBR Board or any one or more Member is so removed new Members may be appointed at the same meeting. Board Members who are frequently absent from meetings or Board Members who miss three consecutive Board Meetings shall be considered for removal at the next Board Meeting. While an advance notice to be heard may be granted to such Board Members, no such notice in these circumstances is required.

Quorum: At any meeting a Quorum shall consist of a majority of the Board of Directors. At any meeting a Majority consists of one more than half of the Board members present and voting.

Special Committees: With the exception of the Disciplinary Committee, Special Committees as deemed necessary by the President shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the NBR Board of Directors as needed and for a duration not to exceed the President's elected term of office of two (2) years. Such committees may include but are not limited to, Placements, Nominations, Tournament Coordination and By-Laws.

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IV. Organization (continued)

Disciplinary Committee: The Disciplinary Committee shall consist of the President, Vice President and TTCC Representative. If any member of the disciplinary has a conflict of interest and must be step down, the NBR Board of Directors shall appoint another member to replace the recused member. The Disciplinary Committee may warn, suspend or terminate any coach or player based on its findings. Players suspended or terminated will not be refunded and shall pay all remaining fees owed the NBR. Player's suspension can include serving that suspension by being dressed in \ game jersey and serving the suspension on the bench or in the stands at the field. Players refusing to serve suspensions in this manner will be terminated and may be reported to the appropriate league and Babe Ruth League Inc. as determined by the NBR Board of Directors. Any NBR Disciplinary decision can be appealed to the full NBR Board of Directors.

Elections: Elections take place in the spring of each year at the annual awards ceremony with new members assuming office on September 1st of that year. All Board Members, whether appointed or elected to the NBR Board of Directors shall be voting positions. Elected Board members may only hold one elected position at a time. Elected Board Members may also hold an appointed position, but in so doing, will not be allowed more than one vote at any NBR Board of Directors meetings.

If any elected position is left vacant for more than 30 days, the NBR Board of Directors will nominate and appoint a person to fill said position. The NBR Board of Directors is also responsible for filling vacancies that occur during the year. Any NBR Board of Directors appointment of an elected member that wishes to remain on the NBR Board of Directors must run for election at the next voting period. This election will be for the remaining term of the candidate said appointment has replaced or if said term has ended, for a new term. This requirement shall be met in order to keep the staggered terms as required in these by-laws and as noted above.

In order to maintain stability and experience on the NBR Board of Directors, terms in office will be two years except as noted and staggered by odd and even years and as follows:

Elections (continued)

Office	Term Length	Election Year
President	Two Year	Even Year
Vice President	Two Year	Odd Year
Commissioner	Two Year	Even Year
Secretary	Two Year	Odd Year
Treasurer	Two Year	Even Year
Babe Ruth Representative	Two Year	Odd Year
Baseball Representative	Two Year	Even Year
Softball Representative	Two Year	Odd Year
Equipment Manager	Two Year	Even Year
All other positions	One Year	Annual

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IV. Organization (continued)

Registration: Registrations take place concurrent with NBR general registrations. Mail-in registrations are accepted; however, they must be received before the final registration date to avoid an increase in registration fees. Age determination shall be in accordance with Babe Ruth League rules for all teams. Exception to any non-travel teams can be made with NBR Board of Directors approval. Any exception should keep in mind the intent by Babe Ruth League and the NBR to achieve both the developmental and social goals as appropriate to that age group and will be maintained as closely as practical to Babe Ruth League and NBR guidelines, depending on the number of players registered in each age group. For more extensive criteria on exceptions see *Player Assessment* below.

Fees: All fees (including late fees) are determined by the NBR Board of Directors prior to each season. Fees are based on anticipated costs including insurance, league fees, uniforms, equipment replacement, and umpires. Fees may not necessarily be uniform across leagues due to varying costs (e.g., cost of umpires).

Amendments: These By-Laws may be amended at any NBR meeting by a two-thirds vote of those present providing the membership has received the proposed changes in writing two weeks prior to the meeting.

Dissolution: In the event of dissolution of the NBR, any property or money remaining after all debts have been paid, shall be donated to the Tapply-Thompson Community Center.

V. League Structure

The leagues are organized in a manner that allows for maximum development opportunities for players and recognizes their social needs as set forth by the NBR Board of Directors and Babe Ruth guidelines.

Discipline: After verified complaints concerning a coach's unacceptable behavior, lack of coaching or teaching ability, demeanor, attendance, etc., the NBR Board of Directors can recommend to the disciplinary committee that the individual be removed for cause. All players, coaches, parents' guardians and members are subject to the code of conduct and failure to comply can result in action by the Disciplinary Committee. A coach or player considered for removal or disciplinary action will be given the opportunity to present witnesses in his or her behalf before the disciplinary votes on the recommendation for removal. A majority vote of attending Board members is necessary for any disciplinary action. Any NBR Disciplinary decision can be appealed to the NBR Board of Directors.

Divisions: It is the intent of the league to provide organized baseball for interested youth between the ages of 4 to 18. Our ability to do so depends on the number of player registrations and volunteers to assist with each age group. Age determination is based on criteria and dates set forth by Babe Ruth League Inc. The following are the divisions and the league ages of the players in each division:

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V. League Structure (continued)

Divisions (continued)

Baseball		
<u>Division</u>	<u>League</u>	<u>League Age</u>
T-Ball	Cal Ripken	4 – 6
Rookie	Cal Ripken	7 & 8
Minors	Cal Ripken	9&10
Majors	Cal Ripken	11 & 12
Prep	Babe Ruth	13
Babe Ruth	Babe Ruth	13-15
Babe Ruth Sr.	Babe Ruth	16-18
Softball		
<u>Division</u>	<u>League</u>	<u>League Age</u>
8U	Babe Ruth	8 & under
10U	Babe Ruth	9&10
12U	Babe Ruth	11&12
14U	Babe Ruth	13&14 (may be combined with 16U)
16U	Babe Ruth	15&16

Travel Teams: Travel or Tournament teams can be formed in order to create teams eligible for competitive play or to insure enough teams for inter team play whereas there is not enough participation for Non-Travel or town league play. These teams shall be governed by Babe Ruth League Inc. rules and the leagues that they participate.

Non-Travel Teams: Non-Travel teams or NBR league teams shall be governed by Babe Ruth League Inc. rules accept as noted in the NBR League Rules with an emphasis on skill development, fun and equal participation. In all games, *All* players are place in the batting order and batting order is maintained throughout the game. Positional line ups can be changed at the end of any inning with free substitution. All Managers should make sure that all players do not sit on the bench more than one inning at a time and no more than three innings per game. With the exception of disciplinary action, injury or player absence, failure to follow these criteria will result in disciplinary action including but not limited to suspension or game forfeiture. Managers must maintain accurate scorebooks as to player participation and document all absenteeism, injury or discipline in the scorebooks in order to insure that all players are allowed as close to equal participation throughout the season as the season allows.

Placement: Teams placement is at the sole discretion of the NBR. The goal of the NBR on Non-Travel teams will be to attempt to establish competitive balance. In order to best achieve this goal for Non-Travel teams, Managers for these teams will be selected following the placement process. Consideration may be given for special circumstances such as ride sharing etc. but requests for special consideration must be made prior to placements. Teams will not be selected based on Managers and their prior Coaching Staff continuing to work together.

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V. League Structure (continued)

Players: Players are expected to maintain appropriate levels of behavior as outlined in the Players Code of Conduct statement. Players are accountable for their behavior while engaged in any activity involving other players, Officials and coaches. Unacceptable behavior includes, but is not limited to, use of alcohol, drugs or tobacco, swearing, uncontrolled temper, inappropriate contact and rude treatment of other players, parents or coaches. A parent/guardian is required to attend the parent meeting held by each team Managers/Coach prior to the start of each playing season. Failure to attend such a meeting can result in player not being able to participate in games until such a meeting has taken place.

If a player does not attend the assessment, or is unable to attend assessments, every effort will be made to place that player on the appropriate team. Players should be fully aware however that attending assessments (with the exception of extenuating circumstances – i.e. medical etc.) is required and can be used as a consideration in evaluation. No player shall be placed on a team merely because they were recruited by a coach.

Team Coordinator: Team Coordinator shall be responsible for keeping the scorebook and for all off field activities of their respective team. At the discretion of the Team Manager, Team Coordinators shall also be responsible for distributing and collecting all game uniforms at the beginning and end of each season and shall perform all other duties as promulgated and adjusted from time-to-time by the NBR Board of Directors. Team Coordinators will assist the Coach Staff wherever necessary and will act as liaison between the Team and the Baseball/Softball Representative or TTCC if so requested by the Team Manager.

Managers/Coaches: Managers shall be designated by the Coaching Coordinator and approved by the NBR Board of Directors. Managers will be allowed to choose their own Coaches/Assistants providing they are approved by the Coaching Coordinator and have completed any background checks or coaching requirements designated by the NBR Board of Directors. Coaches/Assistant Coaches should complete a NBR sanctioned training course before taking on the responsibility to coach a team. Managers selected in any season are not guaranteed to retain their coaching position from year to year. Final approval for a Managers/Coaching positions is at the sole discretion of the NBR Board of Directors. All Coaches/Assistants must be certified at the appropriate level with Babe Ruth League Inc. as directed by the NBR Board of Directors.

Coaches/Assistant Coaches are expected to maintain appropriate levels of behavior as an example to the players. Coaches/Assistant Coaches are accountable for their behavior while engaged in any activity involving the players, referees, parents and opposing teams. Unacceptable behavior includes, but is not limited to, smoking or using tobacco products (including smokeless or chewing tobacco products), drinking alcohol in the players' presence, swearing, uncontrolled temper, inappropriate contact with the players, and rude treatment of parents. Coaches/Assistant Coaches must read and sign the appropriate Code of Conduct statement as designated by the NBR Board of Directors. Coaches are also responsible for holding a team meeting to review the Player Code of Conduct as well as outlining any expectations at the start of each season. Coaches are also required to hold a similar meeting with the parents/guardians of each player. Any parent/guardian refusing to attend shall be reported to the NBR Board or Directors.

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V. League Structure (continued)

Manager / Coaches (continued)

Coaches shall also be required to report any misconduct or inappropriate behavior or any incident that results in the ejection of an NBR Coach, Player, Manager, fan or spectator or any other inappropriate conduct and to do so in the appropriate format as designated in the coaching manual provided by the NBR and by telephone to the NBR Board of Directors through the TTCC Representative or League Representative.

Player assessments are held for all Non Travel and Travel Teams at a time designated by the NBR Board prior to the season. Following assessments, Managers will be given their rosters and will contact each team member to welcome them and inform them of the teams practice schedule. As soon as possible after the assessments, and at a time designated by the Coaching Coordinator and League Representative, Managers and Coaches will meet with the Coaching Coordinator and League Representative to go over the guidelines and coaching procedures for the upcoming season.

Unless excused, all Managers are required to attend all Coaches Meetings designated by the Coaching Coordinator.

Rules: The General and Non-Travel team league rules are maintained by the NBR Board. Changes to the rules must be approved by the Board. Unless otherwise stated in approved rules or the NBR By-laws, Babe Ruth League Inc. will govern the games. See NBR Approved Rules Appendix A.

Uniforms: Uniforms will consist of Team Jerseys provided by the NBR. Every player on a team is required to wear the same uniform during the season. The strict adherence to this for Non-Travel teams will be at the discretion of the NBR Board of Directors. The NBR Board of Directors may also provide other equipment as deemed appropriate by the NBR Board of Directors on an individual or team basis. All equipment must be returned to the NBR unless otherwise stated by the board through the registration process. The NBR shall have full vote as to the uniform colors and emblems.

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VI. Player Assessments

Preamble: The following criteria may be used by evaluators observing players for placement on various teams in the NBR League. The evaluation factors listed below have been divided into categories based on level of play. A player may place onto the highest level team that a particular age group without being rated #1 player in all of the categories. That particular player, however, may be more exceptional at another skill criterion than other players.

Playing up or down in age group is discouraged except under special circumstances and with the approval of the NBR Board of Directors and the Commissioner. A parent or guardian must formally request, in writing, that their child play up or down and state the reasons for their request. The player will be evaluated based on the criteria below and must be a clear cut selection for the upper level team in the upper age group in order to play up. Players considered to be “on the bubble” or not a clear cut choice for the upper level team of that age group shall play in their appropriate age group. Players cannot play up or down just to accommodate car pooling or special requests for coaches.

Criteria: The below listed placement factors are meant to give parents and players an idea of what evaluators may be looking for.

8U & Rookie League Criteria

All games will be coach-pitch for all innings. A safety ball will be used at this level since this will be the first-time children will be pitched to versus hitting off of a tee.

- Batting skill and technique
- Proper throwing technique
- Proper catching technique of ground balls and pop ups (may use waffle or tennis balls for safety in assessments).
- Proper Ready Position
- Base Running
- Where to throw the ball when fielding a ground ball or pop up. (i.e. throwing to first base etc)
- Fielding techniques (proper down and ready position)
- Uses both hands to catch the ball vs. one handed or trapped catches
- Defensive understanding
- Backing up

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VI. Player Assessments (continued)

10U & Minor League Criteria

At this level, all games will be player-pitch and will use a Little League approved, hard ball. The Minor league level is where the players should begin to understand why they are making certain plays.

- Batting
- Proper throwing technique
- Proper catching technique of ground balls and pop ups (may use waffle or tennis balls for safety in assessments).
- Proper Ready Position
- Base Running
- Where to throw the ball when fielding a ground ball or pop up. (i.e. throwing to first base etc)
- Fielding techniques (proper down and ready position)
- Uses both hands to catch the ball vs. one handed or trapped catches
- Defensive understanding
- Backing up
- TEAM concept
- Proper sliding
- The ball is always live concept
- Communication
 - Calling for the ball (“I got it”)
- Pitching mechanics
- Contact hitting and/or Bunting

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VI. Player Assessments (continued)

12U, 16U, 18U, Major League & Babe Ruth Sr. Criteria

The Majors level is both competitive and instructional with admittedly more emphasis on the competitive aspects of the game than at the Minors level.

- Batting - Show proper batting stance, bat position, and swing execution
- Proper throwing technique
- Proper catching technique of ground balls and pop ups (may use waffle or tennis balls for safety in assessments).
- Proper Ready Position
- Demonstrate proper base running techniques including:
 - Exploding off the base after the ball crosses the plate
 - When to tag up vs. going half way
 - Proper sliding techniques
- Where to throw the ball when fielding a ground ball or pop up. (i.e. throwing to first base etc)
- Fielding techniques (proper down and ready position)
- Uses both hands to catch the ball vs. one handed or trapped catches
- Defensive understanding & playmaking
- Backing up
- TEAM concept
- Proper sliding
- Offensive understanding
- Communication
 - Calling for the ball
 - Letting infielders and catcher know when someone is stealing
 - Letting cut off or outfielders know where to throw.
- Pitching mechanics
- Contact hitting and/or Bunting
- Use Catching skills (blocking plate, blocking wild pitches, throwing out runners)
- Cover bases correctly when receiving a throw or fielding a ball
- Understand how to go back on a fly ball
- Understand and execute cutoffs
- Understand and execute signs
- Properly execute a double play
- Execute a run down - both as a runner and a fielder
- Know what can happen after a ball is caught in foul territory
- Cover all bases and backs up other players after a hit

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VI. Player Assessments (continued)

Placement Exceptions

NBR Policy Regarding Lower Level Eligible Players Playing at a Higher Age Classification

Over the period of its existence, the NBR has promoted certain players to play in older age groups. The board has promoted these players on a case by case basis and will continue to do so.

The board has established the following written criteria that will be employed in determining whether a player is qualified to advance and play at a higher level.

The primary factor that will be considered by the board:

- The player must possess the skill level and athletic ability to be equal to peers playing at the higher level.

The secondary factors that the board will consider include:

- A vast majority of the players from the applicant's prior years' team are moving to a new age classification leaving the player remaining behind without teammates of equal skill to play with.
- The applicant moving up can help fill out a team with thin membership.

Parents wishing for their children to move up need to consider factors outlined above in making a written request of the board that their son or daughter be considered for early advancement. The board will make its decision based upon the player's overall performance during the placement period while considering the factors listed above.