



Hampton Athletic Association

Lower Age Baseball Group Cutoff Determination

Outlined below is a system that meets the social benefits of kids playing with their class as well as the physical safety concerns of playing out of their age group.

In-house seasons:

Cutoff is by **GRADE**. The point here would be to keep grades together.

Exceptions:

- Playing **up** a grade level due to age: If a player was held back 1 year for their grade, they will be allowed to play with their grade. However, the player cannot be held back more than 1 year and still be allowed to play with their grade. If the player was held back and is more than 1 year older than typical oldest ages for the grade, then the player must move up a grade level division. (see chart below)

Division	Grade	Typical Age	Max Age for Grade as of 4/30
Foal	Pre K	6 and Under	6
Shetland	K	6-7	7
Pinto	1-2	7-9	9
Mustang	3-4	9-11	11
Bronco	5-6	11-13	13

- Exceptions to play **down** a grade level must be received as a request in writing and reviewed and approved by HAA board. These exceptions will be for the health and safety of the player **only**.

Scenarios not covered herein are subject to HAA board review and approval and must be made as a parental request to the HAA board in writing.

Hampton Athletic Association



Lower Age Baseball Group Cutoff Determination

Tournament Ball Seasons:

Cutoff is by **GRADE**.

The HAA will make its best effort to ensure at least 1 tournament team exists for each age level; especially if rosters are only in need of 1 or 2 more additional players.

Exceptions:

- **Birthday Cutoff Ineligible:** Player(s) must attend tryouts with a grade “up” if they are too old for their grade as determined by a 4/30 birthday age cutoff. See chart below:

Division	Grade	Max Age for Grade as of 4/30
Pinto 7U	1	7
Pinto 8U	2	8
Mustang 9U	3	9
Mustang 10U	4	10
Bronco 11U	5	11
Bronco 12U	6	12

- **Not enough players are available to fill out a team at an age group:** The HAA will consider moving age eligible players **up or down** in order to adequately fill out a team roster. The HAA will consider moving players so each grade age group has at least 1 team. The player(s) moved must express interest in moving and must still be age eligible for the team assigned so they will be able to be rostered in tournaments.
 - The definition of an adequate roster size for a tournament team is 1 more player than the maximum number of kids allowed on a field. In Mustang and below that number is 11 players. In Bronco that number is 10 players.
 - This option to move players **will not** apply to teams that have adequate roster sizes to play a tournament season as defined above. If the team has an adequate roster size, then no grade age group moved players will be permitted to be added to the roster.
 - No players in the proper grade age group will be cut so that a player outside of the grade age group can be moved and added to the roster. Coaches must take all players who attended tryouts with their grade age level first.
 - Any following seasons will be reassessed separately and any moved players will **not** be guaranteed to play outside of their age group for following seasons.

Hampton Athletic Association



Lower Age Baseball Group Cutoff Determination

- This rule applies to all teams for a grade age group, ex 1st, 2nd, 3rd, A, B, C, Blue, Gold, White, etc.
- **Only the HAA board will approve moving players.**
- **Players moving up to fill out 7U rosters:** The HAA will allow players not in 1st grade to play "up" a grade in order to fill out the 7U roster, the youngest age group for tournament baseball. We all know that the 7U roster for 1st grade is typically the hardest one to fill as most parents aren't yet considering tournament baseball.
 - Any player that is asked to fill out a team in the 7U division and is younger than 7 years old, would be required to stay at the 7U team level until they pass 1st grade and/or age out of the 7U division to the 8U division. The 6U or younger player will not move up along with the 7U team the following season.
 - Younger players can play up to the 7U team in order to fill out the team roster **ONLY. No 7U 1st grade players will be cut in favor of a younger grade player.**
- **Substitute players for tournaments:** Players are allowed to play as a sub "up" or "down" if rosters are depleted due to injury or vacations and if the player(s) is age eligible. This assumes the player's current tournament team does not have scheduled games and is available to play with the other team.
 - **Players cannot miss their current tournament team games to be a fill in substitute on another team.**
 - Abuse of this rule will be considered as double rostering a player, and will be grounds for disciplinary action to the coaches of the teams involved and player(s) filling in.

Scenarios not covered herein are subject to HAA board review and approval and must be made as a parental request to the HAA board in writing.

NOTE: If there are any scenarios not covered herein that require the player to be evaluated then the following shall be followed to ensure an unbiased approach:

The evaluation group will consist of at least: The age group commissioner, **at least 1** coach who has coached at the player "to be evaluated" grade level **and** higher, and the VP of the age group. No one from the evaluation group can be a parent or relative of the player being evaluated. No one from the evaluation group can be a current tournament coach of the player's age group team or of the team the player wishes to join. The evaluations must then be HAA board accepted and approved for the final determination.