

## **Buffalo Baseball Association Grade Level and Playing Up Policy**

USSSA/ USA Baseball uses a May 1st cutoff birthdate to determine eligibility for travel teams. This means whatever age a player is on April 30th of the current year will be their age for the current baseball season.

In addition to this, the BBA will allow for all players to play with their grade level. Grade level policy is as stated below, there is no special requirements for a player to play with their age or grade.

If any player has a May through August birthday (5/1 - 8/31) and was not held back a grade in school, they will be allowed to play with their age group instead of their grade level with no special requirements. They may try out for their current age travel teams OR their grade level teams. Please note what level the player is trying out for on registration forms.

For example, if a player was born on 5/27/2008 and started school when they turned age 5:

- Their legal travel baseball age for 2019 is age 11
- They are in the 6th grade.
- Thus, they can try out for the 11U travel teams (their current age) OR the 12U travel teams (grade level)
- Whichever level they try out at will be the level which they will play for the duration of the season. The BBA reserves the right to reach out the parents of the player to discuss possible moving up or down depending on team sizes and tryout results. They will not be moved to the top team at either or any level.
- Once a Player reaches the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, they will have to play with their grade level and they will be required to tryout with the 13U age level.

**Playing up not described above-** Player/ players wanting to play up not grade level playing up-

- Player's parent will/ must notify the BBA by sending an email to [buffalobaseballassociation@gmail.com](mailto:buffalobaseballassociation@gmail.com) stating players name has requested to play up. The BBA board will gather as much information as possible on player's skill level from coaches, umpires, and others as needed to make an informed decision for the player.
  - If player is approved to play up, they will tryout with that age level.
    - Player is not guaranteed to make the top team.
    - Player will have to play at that age level for that season.

**BBA Board Decisions are final**

Any questions?

Please contact the Buffalo Baseball Association Board  
[buffalobaseballassociation@gmail.com](mailto:buffalobaseballassociation@gmail.com)