

Osseo-Maple Grove Athletic Association

AGE OF PLAY POLICY

(OMGAA Policy 2001.01)

Section 1 - Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to establish enforceable rules regarding participation in OMGAA programs relating to players age, set procedures for the OMGAA Board of director to grant exception to these rules, set penalties for willful violation of these rules and establish their enforcement.

Section 2 - Authority:

The authority to establish this policy is provided by Section 10 - General Duties and Responsibilities of the Board of Directors Item 5 of the Osseo-Maple Grove Athletic Association - By Laws.

Section 3 - Age/Grade Groups Defined:

OMGAA programs are limited to players between the ages of 8 and 18 years of age. For the purpose of this policy, OMGAA shall define Age/Grade Groups and assign their appropriate playing level as follows (it is recognized that age/grade may vary, and this section is meant to establish policy guidelines):

<u>League</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Grade</u>
House Baseball Leagues:		
Pitching Machine	9	3
10/11 Year Old American and National	10	4
12/13 Year Old American and National	12	6
14/15 Year Old American and National	14	8
Traveling Baseball		
10 Year Old	10	4
11 Year Old	11	5
12 Year Old	12	6
13 Year Old	13	7
14 Year Old	14	8
15 Year Old	15	
16 U Traveling Baseball	15	9
18 U Gopher State Traveling Baseball	16	10-12
18 U Sr. Babe Ruth Traveling Baseball	16*	10-12

*SBR – Senior Babe Ruth must be at least 16 years of age prior to the first game of the season for which they are registered (National SBR Rules).

<u>League</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Grade</u>
House Fastpitch Softball		
4-6th Grade	9	3
7-9th Grade	12	7
10-12th Grade	15	9
Traveling Fastpitch Softball		
U10	9	3
U12	11	5
U14	13	7
U16	15	9
U18	17	11

Section 4 - Policy:

All players in an OMGAA Baseball house program must play in an identified program age/grade group determined by the player's actual age as of August 1st or grade as of March 1st during the year of play for which he/she is registered.

All players in an OMGAA Fast Pitch Softball house program must play in an identified program age group determined by the player's actual age as of December 31st during the year of play for which she is registered.

Exceptions:

- 1) **Players in OMGAA house leagues will be allowed to play up or down one (1) age group for the purpose of playing with school/grade classmates.**
- 2) **League Directors, by way of motion and approval from the Board of Directors, may allow players in OMGAA house leagues to play down to an appropriate level on the basis of physical or mental challenges.**
- 3) **Players in OMGAA Traveling Baseball or Fast Pitch Softball Programs are governed by the age rules of their affiliated leagues. OMGAA Traveling Program players may play at their current grade level provided age requirements of the governing affiliated league permits. OMGAA traveling program players who wish to play up both one (1) age and grade level must rank in the top five players for that age group tryouts as determined by independent, non OMGAA evaluators.**
- 4) **Players in OMGAA Traveling Baseball or Traveling Fast Pitch Softball Programs may play up one age level, when a need is demonstrated by the Program Director and approval is granted by the Board of Directors. Such exceptions will be granted on a case by case basis only, and players must finish among the top 12 candidates trying out at the older age.**

(Example : An 11 year old/sixth grade player may play at the 12/13 year old sixth / seventh grade house program, or the 12 year old sixth

grade traveling level. An 11 year old/fifth grade player must play at the 10/11 year old fourth / fifth grade level or may play at the 12 year old/sixth grade traveling level only if he/she ranks in the top five players trying out for 12 year old traveling teams).

Section 5 - Enforcement:

Where as parents or guardians are required to register all players for participation in OMGAA programs, responsibility for compliance with this policy shall fall upon the honor of those parents or guardians. All first time registrants must provide a photocopy of their player's birth certificate for inspection at registration time. When questions of age eligibility arise, the OMGAA Board may require presentation of a certified birth certificate to the League Director as a condition for play. When questions of Grade eligibility arise, the OMGAA Board may require presentation of the most recent school grade report as a condition for play.

Section 6 - Penalties for Violation:

Where players are discovered in violation of this policy, the OMGAA Board of Directors may impose one or more of the following penalties:

Penalty options:

- 1) Re-assignment - By direction of the League Director and/or the board, the player may be re-assigned to a team in an appropriate league without further penalty.**
- 2) Removal from Program - By direction of the board the player may be removed from the program.**
- 3) Prohibition from future play - By direction of the board, the player may be forbidden to participate in OMGAA Baseball and/or Fast Pitch programs for a period of time to be established by the board at imposition of this penalty.**
- 4) Forfeiture of fees - By direction of the board, the Treasures may be instructed to retain all (or a portion of) fees and considerations paid by the violating member, for registration into the OMGAA.**

Where coaches are discovered to recruit, or encourage players to register in violation of this policy, the OMGAA Board of Directors may impose one or more of the following penalties:

Penalty options:

- 1) Removal from position - By direction of the board, the coach may be removed from his/her coaching position. By the further direction of the board, the coach may also be prohibited from involvement as an assistant to the new head coach.**

- 2) **Prohibition from future coaching - By direction of the board, the coach may be forbidden from coaching or assistant coaching an OMGAA Baseball or Fast Pitch program for a period of time to be established by the board at imposition of this penalty.**

**Adopted by the OMGAA Board of Directors
October 16th, 2001**

END OF DOCUMENT

Revised by the OMGAA Board of Directors April 16, 2002
Revised by the OMGAA Board of Directors December 19, 2006
Revised by the OMGAA Board of Directors January 16, 2007
Revised by the OMGAA Board of Directors September 29, 2009