



San Marcos Youth Baseball (SMYB)

Play Down Protocol – Spring Season Only

Overview

San Marcos Youth Baseball (SMYB) recognizes that some players may benefit from participating in a division **below** their league-age group. To support player development while maintaining fairness and safety, the following **Play Down Protocol** applies **only during the Spring Season**.

Registration Requirements

Primary Registration is Mandatory: **A player must first be successfully registered in their age-qualified division** (the division their current age falls into). Only after registering in the primary, age-qualified division can the player then qualify to make a request to play in a lower division (e.g., registering in Mustang allows them to request to play down to Pinto).

Example: If the player's age qualifies them for the Mustang division, they must register for Mustang first. Then complete the submission request guidelines below.

Eligible Divisions

Play Downs are allowed in the following divisions:

- Pinto (7U–8U)
- Mustang (9U–10U)
- Bronco (11U–12U)
- Pony (13U–14U)

Submission Requirements

- All **Play Down** requests must be submitted using the official **SMYB Google Form**. Form will open on 11/1 along with registration.
- Deadline: Form will close when capacity is reached, as determined by the board but no less than **30 days prior to Spring Evaluations**.
- A new request must be submitted each **Spring season**. Requests do **not carry over**. **Only one division down may be requested per season**.

Evaluation & Decision Criteria

Play Down Evaluations

- Players must attend evaluations in their **league-age division**.
- Division Director and VP will review:
 - Player's evaluation results
 - Player safety and developmental concerns
 - Any supporting documentation provided by parents/guardians

Play Down requests are evaluated case-by-case and are not guaranteed.