



## San Marcos Youth Baseball (SMYB)

### Play Up Protocol – Spring Season Only

#### Overview

San Marcos Youth Baseball (SMYB) recognizes that some players may benefit from participating in a division **above** their league-age group. To support player development while maintaining fairness and safety, the following **Play Up 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 higher division (e.g., registering in Pinto allows them to request to play up to Mustang).

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

#### Eligible Divisions

Play Ups are allowed in the following divisions:

- Shetland (6U) \*Foal to Shetland is not eligible for play up\*
- Pinto (7U–8U)
- Mustang (9U–10U)
- Bronco (11U–12U)
- Pony (13U–14U)

#### Submission Requirements

- All **Play Up** 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 up or down may be requested per season**.

## Evaluation & Decision Criteria

### Play Up Evaluations

- Players must attend evaluations in both:
  - Their league age-appropriate division, **AND**
  - The division they are requesting to play up into
- **Attendance at both evaluations is required.**
- Players will be evaluated and scored according to the league standard scoring system, relative to all other players in the division.

### Play Up Approval Criteria

- Players must rank in the **top 25%** of all players in the older division based on SMYB evaluation scores.
  - If ranked in top 25%: **Request is approved**, and player is **drafted** into the older division.
  - If not ranked in top 25%: Player is **drafted into their age-appropriate division**.

*Top 25% is calculated from official SMYB evaluation results.*

### Coaching Restrictions

- If a player is granted a **Play Up**, their **parent or guardian may not coach** (head or 1<sup>st</sup> assistant) in the division the player moves into. You may assist as a 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> assistant coach.

This ensures fairness in both the **evaluation and draft process**.