

# Guidelines for Grade Waivers in MBGLL

## Background

MBGLL leagues are grade-based. Our current leagues are:

- 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Grade
- 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Grade
- 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade
- 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade
- 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> Grade

By rule, girls are allowed to “play up” to a higher-grade league but are not allowed to “play down” to a lower-grade league. For example: Any 6<sup>th</sup> grader is allowed to play on a 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade team but a 7<sup>th</sup> grader cannot (without a grade waiver) play on a 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade team.

## Grade Waivers

A grade waiver is permission for a girl to “play down”.

- Grade waivers will only be granted to Town Programs that are new to MBGLL (in their first two years of fielding teams) and, without a waiver, would be in jeopardy of not being able to field a team. (See the first example below.)
- Grade waivers are **not** intended to allow Town Programs to move girls from an older team to a younger team strictly to balance team sizes. Towns should monitor registrations and use waiting lists to ensure that teams are not too large.

## Examples:

- A brand new Town Program (entering it's first year in MBGLL) has a total of 24 girls registered. 18 girls are 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> graders and 6 are 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> graders. None have played lacrosse before. The town has two choices: It could create one 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade team (no waivers required) or it could request grade waivers for the six 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> graders and create one 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade team. MBGLL would **grant** these waivers if requested.
- An established Town Program (entering it's fifth year in MBGLL) has a total of 50 girls registered. 30 are 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> graders and 20 are 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> graders. The program might think it could get grade waivers for five of the 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> graders, but MBGLL would likely **deny** this request.

## **Grade Waiver Request Process**

Grade waivers go through a two-or-three-step process:

1. The Town Program makes a written (email) request to their Division Director. If the Division Director believes the waiver request is merited, it is forwarded to the Rules and Competition Director for approval.
2. If the Rules and Competition Director approves, the Division Director and the Town Program are notified. If the Rules and Competition Director denies the request, the Town Program can, through the Division Director, appeal the decision to the full Board of Directors.