

Playing Time Policy

As a baseball organization, supporting the local area youth is included in our mission. MAYBA will support, develop, and, strive to make each player's baseball experience a positive one. Each coach will attempt to accomplish this and to pass on his/her knowledge to develop each player. One area that can be difficult for a coach to manage in the pursuit of this mission is the distribution of playing time.

This organization has communicated to each coach the need to be as fair as possible when determining playing time. However, parents and players should keep in mind that scheduling even relatively equal playing time is a very difficult task, especially when factors beyond a coach's control come into play such as rain out, 10-run rule, etc. If a parent or player feels that playing time is not evenly distributed and/or fair, please communicate to the coach off the field and preferably at a place and time where both parties can have a constructive conversation. Please refer to the Grievance Resolution Procedures to handle these situations.

The allocation of playing time and positions will be decided by the coaches. When and where you play is up to the coach of your team. Be aware that telling your coach that you won't play a certain position may be considered the same as saying that you don't want to play at all.

Coaches can reduce playing times for reasons such as missing or disrupting practices, being late to practice, not notifying coaches in advance regarding absences from practices or games, being absent for more than one week from practices and games, lack of effort, arguing, being disrespectful, being disruptive or not following coach directions. Coaches also have the discretion to award more playing time to those who have earned it through outstanding play, hustle, and attitude.

We realize players probably will not be able to attend every practice and game; therefore, we have developed some guidelines on attendance and absences. The following EXAMPLES of excused and unexcused absences are only meant to be a guide, not a comprehensive list. Therefore, it will be the coaches' discretion to determine on a case-by-case basis whether the absence is excused or unexcused.

Excused Absences

Death in the family
Illness or injury
Family function
(wedding, anniversary, etc)
Community service
School/Religious activities

Unexcused Absences

Forgot
Other sport activities
Could not get a ride

Participation on a traveling baseball team is a commitment of time and resources during the summer months. Therefore families are strongly encouraged to schedule family vacations that do not conflict with practice or game schedules, or after the season is completed. These situations however, are to be handled by the coach on an individual basis.

The consequence for an unexcused absence is that the player will see reduced playing time in a subsequent game. Each coach has the discretion to determine the timing of this consequence (i.e. during the next game vs. two games later). Each coach must communicate to the athlete and his parents the level of the offense and the consequence. As an organization, we are recommending that each coach document both excused and unexcused absences.

Parents and players should show common courtesy and communicate to the coach if players will be late or cannot attend a game or practice. Written communication given to the coach helps support verbal communication and would be appreciated.

Traveling Program Specific Playing Time Rules:

Ages 10 – 13 by Metro Baseball League Rules must have entire roster batting. Ages 14 – 15 follow regular nine man batting line-up.

13 year-old traveling: We want our teams to have success, but also want to continue developing the player's skills.

We still want coaches to develop player's defensive skills by allowing them to learn and play an infield and outfield position throughout the season but only to the extent of a player being able to play that position with a degree of success and safety. Coaches have the discretion to assign players to positions where they have a chance to succeed as well as the team having success while doing so. **Below are playing rules for league and tournament play.**

▶ **For League Play:**

- **Based on Players Year-End Average Innings Played Per Game;** Coach will make every effort to insure participants **play at least an average of 4 out of 7 innings per league game by season's end.** That doesn't mean a minimum of 4 innings per game but an average of 4 innings per game by end of season.
- This will be calculated by season statistics. The goal is to have all players on the roster with playing time statistics that are greater than or equal to 60% of the participant with the most playing time (as judged by innings played and plate appearances). $4/7=57\%$, so 60% is a reasonable figure to aim for.
- The batting order in league games is at coach's discretion. He should create a line-up that offers the team the best possible chance to score runs.

- The above guidelines will not apply in the event of a weather-related postponement, cancellation or abbreviated game.
 - The above guidelines will not apply in the event that any disciplinary sanctions have to be applied by the coach and served by the player.
- ▶ **For Tournament Play:**
- **Players will earn their playing time** but the coach will make every effort to insure kids **play at least an average of 4 of 7 innings per tournament game by tournament's end.** That doesn't mean a minimum of 4 innings per game but an average of 4 innings per game by end of tournament.
 - The batting order in tournaments is at coach's discretion. He should create a line-up that offers the team the best possible chance to score runs.
 - The above guidelines will not apply in the event of a weather-related postponement, cancellation or abbreviated game.
 - The above guidelines will not apply in the event that any disciplinary sanctions have to be applied by the coach and served by the player.

14 –15 year old and 16AA (B) Traveling: There is no longer full roster batting or free substitution, therefore playing time and at bats will be earned through outstanding performance, attitude and hustle and may not be equal. Coaches should attempt to play players an amount of innings and at bats that will help each player continue to develop their defensive and offensive skills for High School Baseball.

We still want coaches to develop player's defensive skills by allowing them to play an infield and outfield position throughout the season but only to the extent of a player being able to play that position with success. **Below are playing rules for league and tournament play.**

For League Play:

- **Players will earn their playing time. Based on Players Year-End Average Innings Played Per Game**; the coach will make every effort to insure kids **play at least an average of 4 of 7 innings in league games.** That doesn't mean a minimum of 4 innings per game but an average of 4 innings per game by end of season.
- **Single game minimum: Two defensive innings and one at bat.**
- **Double header:** Coach's discretion applies, using the above as a guideline.
- This will be calculated by season statistics. The goal is to have all players on the roster with playing time statistics that are greater than or equal to 60% of the participant with the most playing time (as judged by innings played and plate appearances). $4/7=57\%$, so 60% is a reasonable figure to aim for.
- The batting order in league games is at coach's discretion. He should create a line-up that offers the team the best possible chance to score runs.
- The above guidelines will not apply in the event of a weather-related postponement, cancellation or abbreviated game.
- The above guidelines will not apply in the event that any disciplinary sanctions have to be applied by the coach and served by the player.

For Tournament Play:

- **Players will earn their playing time** but the coach will make every effort to insure participants **play an average of at least 3 of 7 innings per tournament game.** That doesn't mean a minimum of 3 innings per game but an average of 3 innings per game by end of tournament.
- **Single game minimum: There is no single game minimum playing time rule for tournament play similar to the rule for league play. It is recommended but not required that a participant have one at bat and two defensive innings minimum.**
- The batting order in tournaments is at coach's discretion. He should create a line-up that offers the team the best possible chance to score runs.
- The above guidelines will not apply in the event of a weather-related postponement, cancellation or abbreviated game.
- The above guidelines will not apply in the event that any disciplinary sanctions have to be applied by the coach and served by the player.

16AAA (A) Traveling: There is no longer full roster batting or free substitution, therefore playing time and at bats will be earned through outstanding performance, attitude and hustle and may not be equal. Coaches should attempt to play players an amount of innings and at bats that will help each player continue to develop their defensive and offensive skills for High School Baseball. However, the coaching emphasis and level of competition will be similar to high school varsity baseball, especially during VFW district and state tournament play. Coaches will allocate playing time at their discretion.