



## Langley Baseball Division Expectations

### **Mission Statement**

Langley Baseball shall promote participation and instil in the children of the community the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty and courage so that they may grow to be responsible, healthy adults. Langley Baseball will provide a safe learning environment through competitive baseball games. The people in authority shall bear in mind that the attainment of exceptional athletic skill or the winning of games is secondary to the concept of moulding future adults.

### **Division Expectations**

#### **Blastball (4 - 5 Year Olds)**

##### ***Philosophy & Objectives:***

Langley Baseball operates a Blastball Division for the purpose of introducing boys and girls to the game of baseball. The focus at this level is to promote fun and enjoyment in an entirely non-competitive environment. Great steps are taken to ensure that the child achieves success on a small scale, whereby skills can gradually be introduced and mastered in future years. Parent participation on the field is mandatory for this age group to ensure all players have success. There are 2 x 30 min games held per week with a 30 minute practice prior to every game (one weeknight and one on the weekend), all held at City Park, and a year-end Jamboree is held in June.

##### ***Key Initiatives:***

- a) Learning to throw and catch
- b) Learning safety
- c) Introduce basic game rules
- d) Introduce basic fielding and hitting
- e) Introduce team play and sportsmanship
- f) Tee is used to hit during all innings
- g) Bat entire line up
- h) There are no strike outs
- i) Dragon race at end of game

#### **T-Ball (6 Year Olds)**

##### ***Philosophy & Objectives:***

Langley Baseball operates a T-ball Division to further introduce boys and girls to the game of baseball. The focus at this level remains to promote fun and enjoyment in an entirely non-competitive environment. Great steps are taken to ensure that the child achieves success on a small scale, whereby skills can gradually be introduced and mastered in future years. There are 2 x 1 hour games held per week with a 30 minute practice prior to every game (one weeknight and one on the weekend), all held at City Park, and a year-end Jamboree is held in June.

##### ***Key Initiatives:***

- a) Learning to throw and catch
- b) Learning safety

- c) Introduce basic game rules
- d) Introduce basic fielding and hitting
- e) Introduce team play and sportsmanship
- f) Tee is used to hit until May 1<sup>st</sup>; after May 1<sup>st</sup>, coach pitches 3 balls. If all 3 pitches are missed, tee is brought back in for player to hit from
- g) Bat entire line up
- h) There are no strike outs
- i) Dragon race at end of game

### **7 year olds**

#### ***Philosophy & Objectives:***

To promote an environment of fun and enjoyment first. This level continues to function in a completely non-competitive environment. No score or statistics of any kind are kept and coaches are again expected to play all players in all positions regardless of their individual skill levels. Our objective is to expand the player's understanding of game rules, basic position recognition and to introduce base running concepts. There are 2 x 1½ hour games held per week (one weeknight and one on the weekend) at Milner Park, and a year-end Jamboree is held in June.

#### ***Key Initiatives:***

- a) Expand on proper throwing and catching techniques
- b) Expand on proper hitting concepts and stances in batter's box
- c) Working as a team and sportsmanship
- d) Developing positive player attitudes
- e) Defensive play is introduced
- f) Positional play is introduced
- g) Pitching fundamentals is introduced
- h) Catcher introduced
- i) All players on field for 3 innings per game (minimum)
- j) Coach pitch before May 1<sup>st</sup>; pitching machine after May 1<sup>st</sup>
- k) No one strikes out
- l) Dragon race at end of game

### **8 Year Olds**

#### ***Philosophy & Objectives:***

At this level of baseball, for the first time, a competitive situation is introduced as score keeping begins. All players will continue to play a variety of positions throughout the year. The emphasis is placed on teaching and advancing a player's baseball skills and knowledge of the game through various drills. There are 2 x 2 hour games held per week (one weeknight and one on the weekend) at Milner Park (or City Park) with playoffs at City Park, and a year-end Jamboree is held. Post season play is available.

#### ***Key Initiatives:***

- a) Expand on proper throwing and catching techniques
- b) Expand on proper hitting concepts
- c) Working as a team and sportsmanship

- d) Developing positive player attitudes
- e) Pitching fundamentals are expanded on
- f) All players on field for 3 innings per game (minimum)
- g) Base Running
- h) Catching of ground and fly balls
- i) Positional fielding techniques and coverage
- j) Pitching machine is used for all innings until May 1<sup>st</sup>; live pitching after May 1<sup>st</sup> for first 2 innings followed by 4 innings with the pitching machine
- k) Stealing of 3rd base after May 1<sup>st</sup>
- l) Run limit is 4 runs per inning with pitching machine; 2 run limit for innings with live pitching
- m) Dragon race at end of game

### **9/10 year olds**

#### ***Philosophy & Objectives:***

The players involved in this division are diverse both in terms of age and skills. A full competitive game of baseball is played (6 innings, with 3 outs). Pitching and catching skills are improved at this level. Fair and equitable playing time for all players is to be maintained. Umpires are also a part of the game now. A minimum of 12 games are played and post season play is available.

We have a major/minor system for teams. Major Teams are more competitive and travel to play other associations within the league. Minors have an in-house league (play teams within club) and all game are played at City Park.

#### ***Key Initiatives:***

- a) Developing positive player attitudes
- b) Expanding on hitting techniques, bunting is introduced
- c) Position specific defensive skills developed
- d) Communication between players and coaches
- e) Expanding on pitching skills and techniques
- f) Expand on proper throwing and catching techniques
- g) Base running and sliding
- h) All players on field for 3 innings per game (minimum)
- i) Team standings are recorded
- j) Working as a team and sportsmanship
- k) Umpires call games
- l) No new innings after 1hr 45 minutes until May 1<sup>st</sup> , after May 1<sup>st</sup> , 2 hr 15 minutes. During month of April games may start at 5:30pm
- m) 6th inning is open inning, unless time constraint, then umpire will decide and advise coaches
- n) 9 year olds should pitch 2 innings per game minimum
- o) All little league pitch count rules to be adhered to

#### ***Majors:***

- a) 6 innings of pitching
- b) 6th inning is open inning – once through the batting order
- c) 10 run mercy rule after 4 ½ innings

**Minors:**

- a) 6 innings of pitching; coach pitch after 4 balls
- b) Innings #1, 2 & 3: 2 run limit and no stealing home
- c) Innings #4 & 5: 4 run limit
- d) Inning #6 is open inning – once through the batting order
- e) Ball is dead from a hit once pitcher has possession
- f) Only 1 base allowed on an overthrow
- g) Stealing of 3rd and home only allowed – no stealing of 2nd base

**11/12 year olds (Majors A & B)**

***Philosophy & Objectives:***

Our objectives at this level are to assist the players in refining and mastering the skills that have been presented thus far. An emphasis is placed on accomplishment and player positioning is becoming more defined. We continue to encourage fair and equitable play time. We have a Major A & B system for teams with a minimum of 12 games. Post season play is available.

***Key Initiatives:***

- a) Developing positive player attitudes
- b) Expanding on hitting, catching and throwing skills and techniques
- c) Introduction of different type of pitches
- d) Communication between players and coaches
- e) Mastering defensive ability
- f) All players on field for 3 innings per game
- g) Mental aspects of hitting and pitching
- h) Developing multi-position capabilities of players
- i) Base stealing
- j) Game strategy
- k) Team play and sportsmanship
- l) Umpires call games
- m) No new innings after 1hr 45 minutes until May 1st, after May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2 hr 15 minutes. During month of April games may start at 5:30pm
- n) All little league pitch count rules to be adhered to
- o) 6th inning is open inning, unless time constraint then umpire will decide and advise coaches

**Majors B**

- a) Innings #1 & 2: 3 run limit
- b) Innings #3, 4, & 5: 5 run limit
- c) Inning #6 is open inning – once through the batting order
- d) Ball is dead from a hit once pitcher has possession
- e) Only 1 base allowed on an overthrow

**Intermediate/Junior (13 & 14 year olds)**

***Philosophy & Objectives:***

Our junior division is where players, age 13 & up, can adjust to a larger, regulation size diamond. At this time, the player is introduced to a variety of new rules and requirements. Games are now 7 innings and sometimes played under the lights. Metal cleats are also allowed. Post season play available. Youth in this age division are encouraged to participate with skill development in the younger divisions by providing leadership, mentoring and encouragement to the young players who admire them.

### ***Key Initiatives:***

- a) Lead offs and base stealing
- b) Pick offs and hot boxes
- c) Communication between players and coaches
- d) Diving for bases introduced, sliding skills expanded
- e) All players on field for 4 innings per game
- f) Holding runners on base
- g) Changing speed and location of pitches
- h) Hitting various types of pitches
- i) Catchers begin to call the game
- j) Wood bat tournaments
- k) Large barrel bat used
- l) Team play and sportsmanship
- m) Pitching from 54' and 60'
- n) 90' base path
- o) Metal cleats allowed

### **Senior Division (15 & 16 year olds)**

#### ***Philosophy & Objectives:***

The typical player that continues to participate will have mastered most of the skills and mental requirements that have been introduced and reinforced over the past 8 or 9 years. Player positioning is determined by ability to perform the requirements of the position consistently and successfully. It is ever important to remember that by and large, this is a recreational baseball program. Once again, playing time will be earned by the player through ability, positive attitude, good effort and sportsmanship. Post season play is available. Youth in this age division are encouraged to participate with skill development in the younger divisions by providing leadership, mentoring and encouragement to the young players who admire them.

#### ***Key Initiatives:***

- a) Mastering the art of pitching
- b) Hitter recognition of breaking ball pitches
- c) Mastering outfield position skills
- d) Further development of the catcher's skills
- e) Team play and sportsmanship