



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 (5 - 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 1st; after May 1st, 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 1st; pitching machine after May 1st
- 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 1st; live pitching after May 1st for first 2 innings followed by 4 innings with the pitching machine
- k) Stealing of 3rd base after May 1st
- 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

MINORS (9-11 year olds)

Philosophy & Objectives:

The players placed in this division are diverse both in terms of age and skills, and will be open to *all* 9 yr old players, *most* 10 yr old players (pending evaluations) and *some* 11 yr old players (pending evaluations).

A full competitive game of baseball is played (6 innings, with 3 outs). Pitching and catching skills are introduced and/or improved at this level. Fair and equitable playing time for all players is to be maintained. (All players must be on the field for a minimum of 3 defensive innings.)

All games will have umpires, and parents are all expected to keep proper scores, pitch counts and to set up and take down the field before and after each game. All games will be played in Langley, either at Conder Park or City Park against other teams in the division. The schedule will consist of 2 games (1 weekday and 1 weekend) and at least 1 practice a week. Players will be expected to show up 30-45 minutes before scheduled game times to properly warm up. Team standings will be recorded and used to seed teams during playoffs at the end of the regular season. Tryouts for postseason teams are open to all players from this division.

The Mother's Day tournament will be reintroduced as an in-house tournament for the Minors division. (All Minors teams will have a berth in the tournament and teams will be responsible for all tournament duties)

Key Initiatives:

- a) Expand on proper throwing and catching techniques
- b) Expand on hitting techniques, bunting is introduced
- c) Develop position specific defensive skills
- d) Expand on pitching skills and techniques
- e) Reinforce proper base running and sliding skills
- f) Illustrate the importance of good communication between players and coaches
- g) Develop positive player attitudes
- h) Learn to work as a team and encourage good sportsmanship

MAJORS B (10-12 year olds)

Philosophy & Objectives:

This division will feature a more competitive atmosphere and will be open to highly skilled 10 yr olds, and moderately skilled 11 and 12 yr olds (all pending evaluations). Occasionally, a 9 yr old **that can compete at this level** may be considered.

Games will be player pitch only and will feature all typical Little League rules for this age group (stealing, dropped 3rd strike, etc.) Players will have the flexibility to try different positions and all players will be given the opportunity to pitch at the coach's discretion. We continue to encourage fair and equitable play time. (All players must be on the field for a minimum of 3 defensive innings.)

All games will have umpires, and parents are all expected to keep proper scores, pitch counts and to set up and take down the field before and after each game. Teams will be entered into an interlock schedule with other leagues and will travel to other parks for games, as well as host other clubs at our City Park fields. The schedule will consist of 2-3 games and 1-2 practices a week. Players will be expected to show up 45-60 minutes before scheduled game times to properly warm up. Teams will have the opportunity to enter other Majors B Tournaments. Tryouts for postseason teams are open to all players from this division.

Key Initiatives:

- a) Expand on hitting, catching and throwing skills and techniques
- b) Develop position specific defensive skills
- c) Developing multi-position capabilities of players
- d) Expand on pitching skills and techniques
- e) Utilization of bunting and base stealing
- f) Introduction of different types of pitches
- g) Illustrate the importance of good communication between players and coaches
- h) Develop positive player attitudes
- i) Learn to work as a team and encourage good sportsmanship

MAJORS A (11 & 12 year olds)

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. This division will feature our most competitive atmosphere and will be open to our highest skilled 11 and 12 yr old players (pending evaluations). Occasionally, a 10 yr old **that can compete at this level** may be considered.

Players will begin to narrow their focus on a few positions where the majority of their in game time will be. There is mandatory play at the Major A level but it does not have to be comparable innings in the infield/outfield and there is no guarantee that players will pitch or catch in games. Players will be expected to make at least 80% of all games and practices.

All games will have umpires, and parents are all expected to keep proper scores, pitch counts and to set up and take down the field before and after each game. Teams will be entered into an interlock schedule with other leagues and will travel to other parks for games, as well as host other clubs at our City Park fields. The schedule

will consist of 3 games and 1-3 practices a week. Teams will have the opportunity to enter other Majors A tournaments.

Key Initiatives:

- a) Attention to the mental aspects of hitting and pitching
- b) Introduction of game strategy
- c) Continued work on mastering defensive ability
- d) Continued focus on position specific defensive skills
- e) Continued development of hitting and pitching techniques
- f) Illustrate the importance of good communication between players and coaches
- g) Develop positive player attitudes
- h) Learn to work as a team and encourage good sportsmanship

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