



## Langley Baseball Association Division Expectations

### MISSION STATEMENT

Langley Baseball shall promote participation and instill 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**

##### ***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 old's**

#### ***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 per week on Saturday and Sunday, 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 1<sup>st</sup>
- k) No one strikes out
- l) Dragon race at end of game

### **8 Year old's**

#### ***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 on Saturday and one on Sunday) and 1 practice per week on a weeknight. All games and practices are 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) Slinger is used for all games
- 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
- n) Begin to learn basic pitching and baseball mechanics at weekly development clinics
- o) Opportunity for summer play!

### **MINORS (9–11-year old's)**

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

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