



Explanation of Minors Divisional Change

Summary:

Due to the considerable skill variance and duration of games in the minors division, Sabattus Rec Baseball will divide the players into two subdivisions for minors; (AAA) and (AA) and add the (A) indication to the Rookie league.

When:

These subdivisions will be active for the 2016 season, and likely stay into effect for at least 3 seasons in order to gauge effectiveness of the program.

Why:

There are many influential factors surrounding this decision. It's primarily based on improving the safety, skills, and level of fun during the games at each level.

There is an incredible skill jump from Rookie – coach pitch, into the Minor's division - all kid pitch. What we've observed is typically a strong start that slows very quickly. Kids go to bat expecting to walk, rather than really attempting to get a hit. This leads to very long games, less skill efforts on offense, less fielding opportunities, and excessive base running. This divisional shift corrects all these items in a unique way:

Rookie (A): No Change. This system is currently functioning as needed with coach pitching and coach on field instruction. Ages (6, 7)

Minors (AA): Kid pitching. After 4 balls, the hitting's team coach steps on the mound and delivers pitches until the batter legally puts a ball in play, or strikes out. The innings are limited to 4 runs per team per inning. All other rules remain unchanged; passed balls, base running, you can only take home plate once per inning on a passed ball etc....7*, 8

**It should be very obvious this will align the length of these games back to a much more reasonable standard. Games will not bump into each other as often, and we won't be struggling with daylight. Kids will really be encouraged to SWING THE BAT!! – After which, more skillful fielding and base running will take place.

Minors (AAA): Kid pitching, no modification. Kids in this division are typically a bit stronger in the skill set and need less basic instruction. They are more aggressive at the plate and can more easily be taught situational advanced play such as field shifting, hit n run, sacrifice plays and advanced base running. Ages 9, 10

*team rosters (level) adjusted as deemed appropriate by Coaches and Directors

Overall this levels the playing field. This allows for a smoother transition into kid pitch. The AA kids feel better about hitting and will take that with them to AAA. The AAA division will get more advanced instruction. All teams should have more concise rosters for easier and better coaching.