

House and Representative Team Policy

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General

1. Port Dover Minor Baseball Association Board (Board - Executive and Directors) wishes to provide the facility for individuals to participate in playing baseball at several levels.
2. Our House teams are governed by a league which is controlled by Simcoe Minor Baseball Association and are typically populated by individuals who are not only learning the basic skills but also by those persons that have good baseball skills but are not able to commit more time toward an OBA sanctioned Representative team.
3. Our Representative teams are controlled by rules imposed by both the Ontario Baseball Association and our affiliate the Southern Counties Baseball Association. These governing bodies have strict rules on where an individual is allowed to play based on a number of factors including that person's home address. For further information please visit PDMBA, SCBA and OBA Constitutions.
4. All Port Dover Minor Baseball players must comply with OBA and house team rules on uniform, also it is PDMBA policy that all players wear long pants during practices. This is a safety issue.
5. Players, both House and representative, that consistently breach codes of conduct, or for whom official complaints are received may be subject to expulsion from the team and or Association, or other disciplinary action. Such matters will be subject to formal consideration of the Executive of the Board, where the accused player and/or parents will be allowed to rebut any complaint or evidence of Code of Conduct breaches. The final decision as to expulsion or disciplinary action remains with the Executive of the Board.

House teams

1. Players are allowed to play in teams anywhere in Southern Counties area (For Example: Aylmer, Tillsonburg, Ingersoll, Delhi, Simcoe or Port Dover), without any form of Permission to Practice, however players are strongly encouraged to play for their own local center. It should also be noted that if a House player does play for a center that is not their local; any movement into Representative Ball would have to be via their home local, who hold their playing rights as defined within SCBA and PDMBA Constitutions.
2. The aims are to teach players the fundamentals of Baseball and at the same time improve their general understanding skills, and tactics of the game. It is essential that the players enjoy the sport and have fun, with each player having, where possible, equal playing time. However circumstances such as game attendances etc. will have a bearing on this.
3. The games played will be against teams within Southern Counties with the league being organised and controlled by Simcoe Minor Ball Association. The culmination of the season is a tournament held in Simcoe, again organised and controlled by Simcoe.
4. The ideal size of a team is around 12 players however this can vary from a minimum of 9 and upward depending on the players registered. It is accepted that the more players that are on the team lessens an individual's playing time.
5. There will be occasions when building teams at the start of the season, that there will be insufficient players to make teams of adequate numbers. In these circumstances the PDMBA Board will try and shuffle players up into the next player range, for example from Rookie to Mosquito, however if this is done it will be with the consent of the player and parent and the fee paid would be the fee that, that player would have normally paid for his or her age. It is usual for the

PDMBA Board to ask the Coach of the team that is accepting the younger players to ask them to try out first to ensure that they would be able to cope at the higher level. Unfortunately, there will be occasions where teams cannot be made even with the efforts of the Board and on these occasions the affected players can move to another local with their fees refunded within the Port Dover Minor Baseball Refund Policy.

Representative teams

1. Whereas the policy is still for each player to have fun and be taught skills and tactics of the game it is the nature of the representative team to be more competitive and at a higher level of play. To this end the coaches will require a higher level of commitment to attend both practices and games.
2. At Rookie, Mosquito and Peewee level, Port Dover tend to play within the Southern Counties area, whereas at Bantam and Midget level there are normally insufficient teams within Southern Counties to have a viable league. However, where there are sufficient teams within SCBA Port Dover may play Bantam and Midget within the SCBA boundaries
3. If there are insufficient teams to form a league within Southern Counties, Port Dover Representative teams may play in an Interlock league and play teams in Guelph, Dundas, Ancaster, Kitchener and other areas at Tier 2 that have competitive teams. We are an OBA 'D' Classified center and typically play A and B centers during an Interlock season which culminates in trying to reach the OBA finals for the Province of Ontario at C or D classification. Port Dover normally competes well against the higher classified teams which is good preparation for the OBA finals.
4. Representative players are selected by the coaches of the individual teams from those players wishing to try out. Players will be selected both on their individual skill level together with how they would fit in a competitive team.

5. Players will be offered to participate in at least 3 tryouts prior to a decision to offer them a position on a rep team or to deny that position. The coach is not required to put on further tryouts if a player is not able to attend.
6. There will be occasions when due to injury or late signing in our association that a coach may want to have a late decision tryout for an individual or group of players, this can be carried out during normal practice time but should be over a period of at least 3 occasions before a decision is made.
7. There will also be occasions that the number of persons registered for an age range is low for example 19 (Combination of House and Rep Players), in these circumstances the Board may indicate that the coach can only take 10 into the representative team thereby allowing the other 9 to form a house team. The purpose is not to disappoint players in having to fold a team when the representative team selects a total number of players that impinges on the numbers to form a second team. These decisions are difficult and each case relevant to numbers on the team will be decided on its own merits in discussions with the Board and the Head Coaches involved.
8. In general, the PDMBA does not support players playing above their own age group or age series. Players are requested to try out and play at their age division. An exception to the playing up rule will apply for players seeking to play up due to no PDMBA rep team position being available to them at their own age division.
9. If a Minor team is formed, players must try out for their appropriate age group being either the Major or Minor team.
10. In order to be eligible for a PDMBA Rep team, a player must attend the scheduled tryouts for the appropriate team for that player's age category and be in adherence with the policies and procedures outlined.
11. The recommended number of players for a representative team is 12, however a coach may decide at the initial try outs to only select a minimum of 10. The Coach has to be sure of players' commitment to

play before making that decision as attendances of teams at OBA finals is conditional on a minimum of 10 players.

12. When a coach is deciding to take less than 12 players any players cut as a result of this will be cut on the basis that their skill level and fit to the team is not to the required standard thereby possibly putting that player at risk of injury when considering the standard of the opposition they will face. It will not be purely on the basis that a reduced number in the team is preferred. OBA rules state that teams can be modified up to as late as June 30th therefore late sign-ups for the team will be allowed to try out and accepted onto the team up to midnight on that day, even though that coach initially only selected an amount of players which is less than 12.
13. Once a team is classified with the OBA's as wishing to attend the finals and is selected to attend, any failure to present the team, possibly due to lack of players, results in a fine having to be paid to the OBA by Port Dover Minor Baseball Association. The amount of the fine will be passed on to the Team members of the team(s) that defaulted unless extenuating circumstances can be shown. Coaches will speak to his/her players before classification and if a decision is made to attend, the OBA's fees should be collected at that time and prior to formal classification in the SCBA meeting in July and not wait until the date of the OBA's.
14. Some coaches may also want to exceed 12 players as when players get older there tends to be more call on a players time such as work commitments. The coach will also have to be mindful that the more players on the team results in more sitting time for players.
15. It is the policy of Port Dover Minor Baseball not to cut any representative players that have been told that they have been selected, based on the late sign up of a more skilled player; however, it is the coach's decision to play the players best suited to compete in the league and represent that team at the OBA finals.

16. If a team ends up with more players than are required by the coach due to late sign ups after the team has been selected, then a player can only be cut by consent of the player and parent after consultation with the coach. That player will have to realize that playing time may be limited if they stay on the team unless their work in their practice and game time improves their skill level allowing them to compete more easily than they did at the commencement of the season.
17. Coaches will be able to state that they will not take more than a number over 12 as they do not want players sitting for longer times than necessary. The coach will decide the number of players on his team based on their projected availability throughout the season and OBA finals. It is not unusual to have 14 or more players on a team especially when it is known that certain players have additional commitments throughout the season.
18. As coaches will be working toward developing a team to compete well or win the OBA provincial Championship there is no restrictions on equal game time of players, therefore a balance and understanding must be struck between Coach, players and their parents at the commencement of the season. However, whereas it is appreciated that due to numbers on the team that players will sit, it is recommended that Coaches should at the commencement of the season prior to end of year tournaments, consider where possible, to maximize game time for all players in order that player deficiencies and strengths can be identified and where necessary worked on to develop skills.
19. Those persons who do not make the Rep team in Port Dover at their age level will be offered a place in another Rep team in Port Dover within the player's age group if one is available, subject to successful tryouts. If that is not possible the player will be offered a House team position if available. If Port Dover Minor Baseball cannot accommodate the player at Representative Level and the player does not wish to play at House level, the player can request a Permission to Practice authorization to play Rep Ball at another local within the SCBA Boundaries, subject to PDMBA Constitution.

20. Those players whose playing rights are held by Port Dover Minor Baseball may wish to tryout with Tier 1 teams within the SCBA boundaries. Those players MUST apply for a Permission to Practice Authorisation from Port Dover prior to trying out at another Local's Tier 1 team and subject to Port Dover Minor Baseball Constitution.
21. Any player who has registered and paid, with Port Dover and then is allowed by way of Permission to practice to play in another local within SCBA boundaries will be offered a refund in line the Port Dover Minor Baseball Refund policy.
22. Persons who wish to apply to be Head Coach for teams in the following season should apply by the end of July of their current season. Selection of coaches for teams will be completed at Midget level the Monday following the completion of their OBA weekend (typically around the third week of August). In relation to all other teams the coaches will be selected on the Monday following Labor day weekend.
23. Tryouts for Representative teams to be carried out for team positions in the following season are to be completed by the end of the first week of September. However final positions for the teams will be decided up to June 30th of the following year, of the playing season as per OBA policies. It is the preference of Port Dover Minor Baseball Association that all representative players register with Port Dover stating their wish to play representative ball by April 1st for that playing season. This will allow coaches to finalise try outs in time for the commencement of the season. Port Dover Minor Baseball Association would prefer that their representative teams will be selected by May 1st of that playing season however final player selection can be as late as June 30th as per OBA policy .
24. Any player that is registered as a rep player in Port Dover cannot participate as a player in any house teams in Port Dover or other Local house teams, or any other Locals Rep teams. A player cannot play on multiple rep teams in one season.

Players Advancement to Higher Level/Age series (Call Ups) - General Policy

1. All Call ups must be from the same association
2. It is always a contentious issue when players are asked to sit through games due to the number of players that are on a team. However this is inevitable as reserves are necessary to allow for sickness, injury or players being excluded from a game by the umpires. The absolute minimum of players for OBA finals is 10 which does not allow a lot of scope for missing players. As mentioned previously 12 is the ideal size of a team to allow for player issues without having to experience too much sitting time.
3. The general principle is that regular team members should not sit if they are available to play, to allow a call up to play, but there will be odd occasions when this principal is not adhered to. The purpose of bringing in players from one team to another is to ensure that the initial number of the team is maintained. So where a team say has 12 players and one is not able to attend a game for whatever reason then the Coach will be able to “Call Up” (bring up a player from another team). It also follows that if the team number was initially 11 and for a particular game only 8 were available that the coach could call up 3 players to make up the numbers, if it was deemed to be required. A coach does not have to use “Call Ups” if it is deemed unnecessary. The question arises as to whether a Coach can exceed the number of players in the team by utilizing call ups which would have an adverse effect on the playing time of existing team members. The situation is complicated as team players could have notified their non-attendance resulting in the coach calling up players. The players that stated they could not attend then show prior to game time. It is for the Coach to decide in these circumstances as to whether to utilize the “Call Ups” or not.

4. The question arises as to when a team is formally formed to determine the initial number on the team. Whereas final registration normally falls in the last week of March, teams tend not to be finalised until May 1st, however OBA rules allow modifications to teams up to midnight on June 30th. Therefore teams will be deemed finalised for these purposes on May 1st, however as extra players are allowed onto the team during the season, (in line with the policy previously described in this document) that number on the team will be amended accordingly.
5. In relation to Representative teams June 30th at Midnight is the final date for team modifications. In respect to House team registrations, these are accepted throughout the season.

Representative team “Call Up” rules

1. “Call Up” players can be called up from a team, by their consent, that is in a lesser age range, for example from Mosquito to Peewee or Bantam to Midget, they cannot be called up from the same age range where our Association has two or more representative teams in the same age series. However if our association has a house league and representative team of the same age range, let’s say Peewee House and Peewee Rep then as long as the players in the Peewee House team are included on the Peewee Rep roster but not on the Rep team then a “Call Up” player will be allowed to move sideways in this circumstance, when and if the Coach deems it necessary to do so in line with Players Advancement to Higher Level/Age series (Call Ups) - General Policy above. This is conditional on that player having to play for his/ her own team if the game falls at the same time as the game for which there is a call up request.

House League call up rules

1. Port Dover tries to keep in step with the host association (Simcoe) in relation to this. In past years “Call Ups” have been allowed both from a lesser age and at the same age, for example

from Rookie to Mosquito and from Rookie to Rookie. Again this is conditional that the player must play for their own team if the games fall on the same date and time. This is only allowed for league games but not for tournaments. You cannot have a player playing down a division. If for example a player has been placed on a Mosquito team, that player cannot then play at Rookie level and this applies to all divisions.

2. This section is for guidance as each year this policy may be amended by the host association for the house league which is Simcoe. Simcoe house rules will take precedence in this matter.

Diamond time

1. Port Dover Minor Baseball values both its House and Rep teams equally. The nature of house league is such that games are played on the weekdays only, as specified by Simcoe Minor Ball.
2. Any games cancelled due to weather or other reasons are rarely able to be re-scheduled due to the diamond time being so tight during the week. Rep teams when their games are cancelled have allocated time on the weekends to make up their games.
3. There are going to be occasions when the weather interrupts scheduled games which can cause delays for following games and practices. Games will always have a priority over practices whether it is a house league game over a rep practice or any other combination. If there is a delay in a preceding game then the next game or practice will suffer that delay. Where the next event is a practice the coaches will have to decide whether to have a shortened practice or reschedule it on a weekend or any other slot that becomes available.

Parent Representative

1. After teams are formed (House or Representative) there are a number of questions, concerns or issues that occur during the season which parents may want to approach the coaching staff to answer. A number of these queries can tend to be repetitive in regard to differing players. In an attempt to answer queries in a more efficient manner the coach

during his initial parent meeting will ask the parents/ Guardians of the players to nominate a Parent Representative who will be the focal point of any issues parents have with coaches, playing time etc. The parent representative will be the only one to channel these queries to the Coaches and respond accordingly to the concerned parents. On the rare occasion that this process does not work to the satisfaction of the concerned parent then direct contact can be made. This process will enable the Coaching staff to focus on skill development of the team.