



## BPEI – APPENDIX – PLAYING EQUITY RULE

**Applies to: All Divisions where All Players Bat and Defensive Substitutions are Unlimited**

To ensure fairness and meaningful participation for all players, the following rules apply:

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### 1. Batting Inclusion

**Rule:**

All players who are physically able and eligible **must be included in the batting lineup** every game.

**Example:**

If your team has 12 players at the game, all 12 must be listed in the batting order and bat in turn, regardless of skill level or position. \*It is recommended that rotation of players in order is followed. A player who is consistently listed last on a batting order will get less at-bat's than those in the top of the order!

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### 2. Defensive Starts – One of Every Two Games

**Rule:**

Each player must **start defensively in at least one of every two consecutive games** they attend.

**Example:**

Player A attends two games in a row. If they do not start on defense in Game 1, they **must start** defensively in Game 2. Starting means being on the field for the first defensive inning.

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### 3. Equitable Defensive Playing Time

**Rule:**

Coaches must ensure that all players receive **fair and balanced defensive playing time**. Over two consecutive 6-inning games, a player should be on the field for **at least 6 defensive innings**, assuming full games are played.

**Example:**

Player B is in the field for 3 innings in Game 1 and 3 innings in Game 2 — this meets the rule. However, playing 1 inning in Game 1 and 2 innings in Game 2 (total 3 innings) would **not** meet the expected minimum.

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## 4. Exceptions & Game Interruptions

### Note:

Certain situations may prevent full application of the rules, including:

- Shortened games (mercy rule, darkness, weather, etc.)
- Ejections or disciplinary issues
- Player injury
- Home/away status affecting number of innings played

**Even in these cases, coaches are expected to honour the spirit of the rule — making every effort to ensure all players play fairly. If a player is shorted innings due to the mercy rule, ensure it is made up in the next game.**

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## 5. Disciplinary Benchings

### Rule:

If a player is being benched for disciplinary reasons, coaches **must inform the player's parents**, and it is **recommended** to inform the opposing coach **before the game begins**.

### Example:

If Player C is being benched due to repeated unexcused absences or misconduct, the coach must let the parent(s) know prior to or immediately following the game. A quick heads-up to the other coach helps avoid confusion or misinterpretation.

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## Reminder to Coaches:

This rule exists to **protect the right of every child to participate**. Equity in playing time is not just a policy — it is a commitment to the development, confidence, and enjoyment of all players, not just the most skilled.

Failure to comply with this rule will be taken seriously and may result in discipline or game protest.

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