

DDMBA – Recreation Rules - 2024

January, 2024 REVISED Proposed Rule change [to be placed after “1.0 General”]

1.1.1 Recreation Balancing – Multiple Teams Within Same Age Group

1.1.2 DDMBA states the goal of recreation level baseball is to allow as many players as possible to play the sport. The primary focus is to be on enjoyment of the baseball experience, developing knowledge and skills and being a good teammate with less of a focus on wins and losses as is found at the competitive level.

1.1.3 DDMBA recognizes due to registration numbers within a member club there may be multiple teams fielded at the same age group. Reflecting DDMBA’s recreation baseball philosophy, it is a goal of each club fielding multiple teams at the same age group to ensure the teams are as close as possible to being evenly balanced. This balance is to occur through evenly assigning player talent to each team as well as by creating equivalent team roster sizes. DDMBA believes these factors will foster better game competition and overall enjoyment of the baseball experience for each team as well as the individual player experience.

1.1.4 At pre-season team balancing member club presidents are to consider the following factors when balancing teams:

- Roster numbers for each team should be as equal as possible before team rosters are finalized;
- An assessment of players by overall ability will be made taking into account all baseball skills, athleticism and attitude;
- An even distribution of players by overall ability will be made before rosters are finalized;
- Requests for players to play with other players will be taken into account but not to the detriment of division of players by overall ability;
- The number of 1st and 2nd year players on each roster will be reviewed to ensure balancing;
- A head coach will be permitted to coach his son[s]/daughter[s];
- Assistant coaches may assist as necessary in carrying out club balancing activities but their team assignment will be determined after the team balancing process is finalized.

- 1.1.5 Before recreation rosters are finalized each team is to play exhibition games against teams within its age group. The period of time for exhibition games may vary depending upon factors such as field availability and weather but should be for either the first two weeks of the season or by way of a pre-season tournament. The goal of the exhibition games overall is to prepare teams for the regular season but also for clubs/associations fielding multiple teams at the same age level to ensure those teams have been balanced and to adjust rosters as necessary to ensure balancing has taken place. The results of these exhibition games shall not count in the league standings.
- 1.1.6 The Recreation Co-ordinator shall retain a supervisory role over the Recreation level and report to the DDMBA Executive when it appears member club balancing at the same age group has not effectively taken place after the exhibition games have been played and the regular season commenced.
- 1.1.7 Ineffective balancing is stated to have occurred when the win/loss records of multiple teams in the same age group in a member club have a disparity of .600 percentage points or more in their win/loss records after half the regular season schedule has been played.
- 1.1.8 If this disparity exists a committee shall be struck including the DDMBA President, the Recreation Co-ordinator and the Club President of the club involved who will meet and determine the best course of action to take to address the disparity taking into account several factors including but not necessarily limited to head coach feedback, relative player talent assessment, in-season player absences and the wishes of the multiple teams in the same club to stay together or not.
- 1.1.9 Once the committee has met and the balancing issue addressed there shall be no further balancing efforts made for that season. Club rosters at that age group will be locked for that season through the playoffs with exceptions for newly registered players on a case-by-case basis or callups deemed necessary to field a team for any given game as per the Recreation Rules.
- 1.1.10 Where the number of players and teams in each level permits, the Recreation Co-ordinator may tier regular season and playoff play to ensure competitive balance and game play enjoyment. The Recreation co-ordinator shall strive to have the same number of teams at each tier if that is possible.