

## Policy Statement and Playing Time Guidelines for Summer Travel.

### Policy Statement

The Summer Travel Leagues offers an experience for kids to play baseball in a more competitive environment than the Town Spring Leagues. For example:

- Teams will be coached and players will be utilized during a game as conditions warrant with the objective of putting the team in the best position to win and promoting individual and team development within this context.
- Development of skills at a variety of infield and outfield positions will be emphasized over the course of the summer season, rather than game by game.
- During a travel game it should not be expected that defensive positions will be rotated inning by inning, as may be the case in Spring Baseball – as players will gravitate towards certain positions based on performance and ability.
- For each travel game, the minimum playing time guidelines listed below will be used. Additionally, coaches may use playing time, line up and positions to emphasize the importance of practice attendance, adherence to team rules and timeliness.

#### Minimum Playing Time Parameters by Age Group

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade U8 (must be born between 5/1/00 and 4/30/01)  
Same as AL/NL rules (attached)

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade U9 (must be born between 5/1/99 and 4/30/00)  
All kids play at least 4 innings in the field – at least 2 innings in infield\*\*

4<sup>th</sup> Grade U10 (must be born between 5/1/98 and 4/30/99)  
All kids play at least 4 innings in field – at least 1 inning in infield\*\*

5<sup>th</sup> Grade U11 (all 5<sup>th</sup> graders eligible and 6<sup>th</sup> graders born between 5/1/97 and 4/30/98)  
All kids play at least 4 innings in field – no infield/outfield minimums

6<sup>th</sup> Grade U12 (Williamsport - all AL or NL players born before 5/1/98;  
(D8 – all AL/NL 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade players)  
Same as U11 with exception for the Williamsport Team.  
For Williamsport – straight Little League rules apply with no additional playing time rules

\*\*For U9 and U10 Pitcher and Catcher will count as “infield”

### Team Selection

Each team will have at least 12 Players on the roster. This means that not all kids trying out will make the most competitive team. Selections for each grade will be made by a Selection Committee comprised of at least 2 of the Coaches for the team, plus an individual who coached that Grade during Spring Season whose son will not be playing on the Travel Team that Summer, and a member of SYBSA’s Executive Board. The Vice President of Baseball shall select the members of each Selection Committee. Team selection is based on the following factors:

- Actual performance during the Spring League
- Historical performance on previous Summer Travel Teams
- Formal tryout as evaluated by coaches from other grades
- Summer camp/vacation schedule

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade - U8 Attachment

### **2009 SYBSA AL/NL Playing Time Rules** *For use with U8 Summer Travel - Friendship League*

#### **3- Rosters, Line Ups, and Defensive Positioning**

- The batting order must include all players present for the game including rostered players and substitutes.
- All players must be placed in fielding positions for at least 3 innings, unless there is an extenuating reason pertaining to an individual player.
- Players must be placed in defensive positions equitably during the course of a game. No player may play more than one additional defensive half inning compared to any other player on the roster. For example, a coach may not play Johnny defensively for five innings and play Timmy defensively for three innings. Coaches should plan each game accordingly. Extenuating circumstances and injuries accepted. A coach or team is not penalized in the event the bottom of the sixth inning is not played.
- Players arriving late will be placed at the bottom of the batting order and wait for their assigned turn to hit. Players arriving late for the start of the game shall not be subject to being played equitably defensively. This rule is to ease the burden for a coach and NOT to be used as a strategic mechanism to gain any advantage.
- No player shall play more than one additional defensive inning in the infield as compared to the outfield. Pitcher and catcher are NOT considered infield positions. For example, Johnny could NOT play outfield for four innings, and infield for two innings. Johnny can play pitcher for two innings, catcher for one inning, infield for two innings and outfield for one inning. Johnny can pitch for five innings and play infield for one. Johnny can play catcher for four innings, sit for one inning and play infield for one inning. **EXCEPTION:** With a nine player roster any player that did not play catcher or pitcher shall only be required to play two innings in the outfield. A coach or team is not penalized in the event the bottom of the sixth inning is not played.