



**Anoka Ramsey Athletic Association**  
PO Box 265 Anoka, MN 55303 Hotline 763.422.9555 www.arsports.org

**Playing Time Policy  
Traveling and Recreational Baseball**

As a baseball organization supporting the local area youth, it is our mission to support, develop, and make each player's baseball experience a positive one. Each coach will strive to accomplish this and to pass on his/her knowledge to develop each player. One area that is particularly difficult for a coach to manage is equal playing time.

This organization has communicated to each coach the need to be as fair as possible when determining playing time. Coaches are expected to make every effort to ensure playing time is equal, unless the player has unexcused absences as described below and will be enforced for all league games. Each coach however, will be given a little more flexibility during tournament play if he or she chooses. Parents and players should keep in mind that scheduling equal playing time is a very difficult task, especially when factors outside the coach's control come into play, such as rain out, 10-run rule, etc. Additionally, at the 14 year old traveling age group and older, it is even more difficult since the lineup is in accordance to High School rules. If a parent or player feels that playing time is not evenly distributed and/or fair, please communicate to the coach off the field and preferably at a place and time where both parties can have a constructive conversation.

We realize players probably will not be able to attend every practice and game; therefore, we have developed some guidelines on attendance and absences. The following examples of excused and unexcused absences are only meant to be a guide, not a comprehensive list. Therefore, it will be the coaches' discretion to determine on a case-by-case basis whether the absence is excused or unexcused.

**Excused Absences**

Death in the family  
Illness or injury  
One Family vacation if communicated 2 wks in advance  
Community service  
School/Religious activities

**Unexcused Absences**

Forgot  
Other sport activities  
Could not get a ride  
Two or more family vacations

For the 13 year old and younger, the consequence for an unexcused absence is that the player will see reduced playing time the next subsequent game, but each player must play a minimum of two innings. At the 14 year old and older, the consequence of an unexcused absence is that player will not be allowed to play in the field but may be used as a DH or EH hitter. Multiple infractions may result in the player to be removed from the team. As an organization, we are recommending that each coach document both excused and unexcused absences. In addition, any player who displays undesired behavior reflecting poorly on Anoka Ramsey Baseball and/or the player's team, the consequences of reduced playing time may be enforced at the discretion of his/her coach.

Parents and players should show common courtesy and communicate to the coach if players will be late or cannot attend a game or practice. Written communication given to the coach helps support verbal communication and would be appreciated.

This policy is effective as of December 15, 2008 for all teams associated with Anoka-Ramsey Baseball which includes all levels of traveling and recreational teams.

Rob Germinaro  
Baseball Commissioner