



Anoka Ramsey Athletic Association

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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. 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
Family vacation if communicated 2 wks in advance
Community service
School/Religious activities

Unexcused Absences

Forgot
Other sport activities
Could not get a ride

The consequence for an unexcused absence is that the player will see reduced playing time in a subsequent game. Each coach has the discretion to determine the timing of this consequence (i.e. during the next game vs. two games later), but players must play a minimum of two innings in that subsequent complete game. As an organization, we are recommending that each coach document both excused and unexcused absences.

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 March 1st, 2006 for all teams associated with Anoka-Ramsey Baseball which includes all levels of traveling and recreational teams.

James Rumpca
Baseball Commissioner