

# 2012 MYBA Minor League Restructure

## WHY ARE WE RESTRUCTURING?

Due to the low number of players and the feedback received from past years, the Board of Directors has made the decision to restructure the Minor League for the 2012 season. The key concerns that drove this decision were, 1. With our current league structure, MYBA has not been able to have regularly scheduled practices for each team during the regular season. We feel practices are a vital part of teaching kids the game of baseball. 2. There were too many younger players (8 year old) playing with much older kids (11 or 12 year old) at the same level. 3. A lot of the 8 year old players who were playing up in minors were not ready (physically, mentally, or skill wise) to play at that level. 4. The overall number of players in the league has dropped significantly over the last 3 years. With this drop in numbers it will not be possible to field as many teams as we have in the past. We feel the following restructure addresses these issues and provides a safer and more competitive experience at each level for the players of all ages. An additional benefit of the restructure will be the creation of openings in the field scheduling which will facilitate scheduled practices for each team at every level.

## Step 1 - Form 2 levels out of the old Minor League

- The new levels will be Called "Minor League" and "Majors Prep"
  - With this change we will have players of closer ages playing together. For instance, 8 and 9 year olds playing together instead of 8,9,10, and 11 year olds ALL playing together.
- There will be 8 Major League Prep teams. (one in each color)
- We will have buffers in place if league numbers go up or down each year.

## **Majors Structure – NO CHANGE FROM LAST YEAR**

- Minimum 11 player roster (12 max.)
- Majors will play a 14 game regular season (each team twice) and a double elimination playoff.
- **Ages:** 12's and some 11's – same as last year
  - No 10 y.o. players on the permanent roster - same as before
  - 10 y.o. players may be called up to play - normal call-up rules are in effect

## **Majors Prep Structure** (Very similar to the old minors)

- Minimum 11 player roster (12 max.)
- Majors Prep will play a 14 game regular season (each team twice) and a double elimination playoff.
- **Ages:** 11's, 10's and some 9's (12's can play down at the parent's request, but the 12 y.o. can not pitch)
  - 9 y.o. players may be called up to play - normal call-up rules are in effect
  - No 8 y.o. players can play up in Majors Prep
- Coaches are required to attend a pre-season coaches clinic and be certified prior to the start of the season.

## Step 2 – Reduce the number of Minor League Teams

### **New Minor League Structure**

- There will only be 4 Minor League teams this year (because of low numbers)
- Each team will be required to carry 12 player rosters
- Teams will be a combination of 2 organizations (for instance black and gold)
- Equal numbers of players from the 2 orgs. will make up the teams (within reason)
- Minors will play each team 4 times during the regular season for a total of 12 games.
- Minors will have a double elimination playoff.
- **Ages:** 9's, 8's (10's and 11's can play down at the parent's request, but the 10 or 11 y.o. can not pitch. No 7 y.o. players in the Minors.)
- Coaches are required to attend a pre-season coaches clinic and be certified prior to the start of

the season.

**Additional Minor League Rules:**

- Pitching appearances - same rules as Majors Prep.
- 5 run limit per inning instead of the 10 batter rule
- Sportsmanship rule - 12 runs after 4 complete innings
- 1 umpire instead of 2
- Pull up from AAA players without a limit.

The following rules will be in place with the provision they can be removed ½ way through the season after review. At which time the Minor League Director will meet with the coaches and determine whether the rules are still beneficial or not.

- No walks (To keep the games fast paced, we will use summer ball rules and have coaches soft toss to players for remaining strikes)
  - *When a player reaches 4 balls, a coach will simply walk to the plate and throw soft toss pitches equal to the number of strikes left in the count. For Instance, if the hitter had a 1 and 4 count, the hitter could get up to 2 soft toss pitches. If the player gets a hit, player resumes, if he/she strikes out, he/she is out....next batter.*

**Coaching/Training**

- Coaches will be required to attend a pre-season coaching clinic and become certified
- Professionals will demonstrate ways to run an fun, efficient, worthwhile practice.
- Learn proper soft toss techniques (Minors coaches)