



Little League Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division

Divisional Structure





Overview of the Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division

The Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division of baseball utilizes a modified baseball field using a 50-foot pitching distance and 70-foot base paths. This new division will be structured for league age 11-13 year olds.

Most competitive travel ball programs as well as Little League competitors such as Babe Ruth (Cal Ripken) offer opportunities to play on a 50/70 size field.





Objective of the Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division

1. Provide an opportunity for players to transition incrementally from a 46/60 field to a full size 60/90 baseball field.
2. Provide an opportunity for local leagues to offer a more competitive level of baseball during the regular season for advanced players.
3. Allows Little League to adapt with the changing environment of youth baseball.





Proposed Structure of the Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division

- The key to the success of the Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division will be flexibility. Our research during the pilot program phase indicates that local leagues differ on the ideal structure for the Intermediate Division.
- As a result, multiple alternatives in structure will provide more competitive opportunities for advanced players as well as allow local leagues the ability to offer the Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division of play to all participants within their league regardless of ability if they so choose.





Local League Structure Options for the Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division

- **District-wide Competitive Structure**

- Each local league in a district could register a Intermediate team. The District Administrator will develop a schedule that will allow all teams to play against one another in a competitive regular season Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division.

- **Local League Structure – “in house”**

- A local league will offer a Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division that will consist of players from within their league who choose to participate in the Intermediate Division regardless of ability.

****Note: In either structure, tournament teams must be formed by individual leagues or in a combination of leagues with regional approval.***





Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division Structure

- **Other key notes about proposed structure**
 - Allows areas/leagues that do not have the ability to adjust their fields to participate in the Intermediate Division by working with other leagues who do have 50/70 fields
 - Gives local leagues the ability to offer more competitive regular season play
 - Does not require local leagues to limit the Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division program to more advanced/competitive players if they are interested in offering the division to all players regardless of ability



Local League Age Structure of the Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division

- In order to provide local leagues the greatest amount of flexibility when offering the Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division, the league age structure will be 11-13.
- Leagues will have the authority to structure the program in the following ways:
 - 11-13
 - 12-13
 - 11-12
 - 13 only
 - 12 only



Local League Age Structure for the Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division

Players will be permitted to be selected to and participate in multiple divisions during the early stages of the Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division.

For example: This structure will allow a player league age 12 to participate in a competitive Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division as well as providing him/her the ability to play in the major league division of their local league.

Information from the pilot program indicates that players in this age group prefer to play both with their friends and also in a competitive environment.



Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division

- Regulation IV – The Players

- A player league age 11 or 12 may be selected to participate in one or more regular season games on a Major League team and/or a Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division team. If a player participates in sixty (60) percent of the regular season games in each division as of June 15, he/she will be eligible to participate in either the Major (*10-11 tournament team for players league age 11*) or Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division for tournament play.



Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division

- Regulation IV – The Players

- A player league age 12 or 13 may be selected to participate in one or more regular season games on a Junior League team and/or a Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division team. If a player participates in sixty (60) percent of the regular season games in each division as of June 15, he/she will be eligible to participate in either the Junior or Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division for tournament



Pitching Guidelines for the Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division

Pitching

Similar to all other baseball divisions, players who pitch in the Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division program will be required to follow the Little League Pitch Count prescribed for their age.

League Age:

League age 13 - 95 pitches per day

League age 11-12 - 85 pitches per day

NOTE: *Players participating in multiple divisions will not be permitted to stray from the pitch count regulation. We will provide guidance to leagues on how best to administer within their local league or district.*



Tournament Play in the Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division

- Players who participate in the Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division will have access to a Intermediate tournament that will culminate with a Intermediate World Series
- By providing flexibility in allowing players to participate in multiple divisions during the regular season, players will have the ability to choose the division they would like to participate in for tournament play.
- Feedback from local leagues has shown that some players would like the ability to play Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division during the regular season as long it did not restrict them from playing in the Little League Division that culminates at the Little League World Series in Williamsport, PA.



Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division

- **Other Conditions**

- Players will be permitted to “lead off.”
- Participating leagues and districts will be permitted to organize tournaments using a Special Games Request Form for players in the Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division.



Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division

- **Regulation VII – Schedules**

- The schedule of games for the regular season shall be prepared by the Board of Directors of the league (or district, if the Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division is administered as a district operation) and must provide for not less than twelve (12) games per team per regular season



Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division

- Other Conditions
 - Every rostered player present at the start of a game will participate in each game for a minimum of six (6) defensive outs and bat at least one (1) time.
 - A regulation game consists of 7 innings.
 - Pitch count will be based on league age.
 - The maximum diameter of bats in the Intermediate Division cannot exceed $2 \frac{5}{8}$ inches. $2 \frac{1}{4}$ composite bats are not permitted to be used in the Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division.
 - In the Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division, the on deck batter is permitted.



Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division

- **Field Requirements**

- 50 foot pitching distance. The height of the pitcher's plate, in relation to the level of home plate must not exceed 8 inches.
- Portable pitching mounds can be used in regular season. Use in tournament play would require permission from the Tournament Committee
- 70 foot base paths
- The fence distance in the Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division must be at least 200 feet



Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division Testimonials

“ In our league, all players league age 11-12 participate in the 50/70 Division. Our kids have more fun participating on a 50/70 size field and playing the game the way they see the pros play on TV. This division has allowed us to retain players of all abilities and the kids really enjoy it”

– *Darrin Chonos – Woodstock American Little League, Harvard, IL*



Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division Testimonials

“The Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division program has allowed us to offer a more competitive level of baseball for our more talented players. As a result, we have seen players return to our league who have left for other programs including travel ball”

– *Mark Chapman – Murphy Candler Little League, Atlanta, GA*

