

St James Assiniboia Minor Baseball Association

Assiniboia West – Bord-Aire — Deer Lodge – Headingley -- Heritage Victoria – Kirkfield Westwood – Silver Heights – Sturgeon Creek

<http://sjamba.teamsnapsites.com/>

Coach's Fair Play Policy for Playing Time

MINOR BALL (A, AA) ALL AGES

The Coach's Fair Play Policy for Playing Time sets SJAMBA's guidelines for coaches to manage players' game play time and it will assist coaches in setting expectations to players and parents. Coaches are expected to administer this policy and communicate it and their intentions to their players and parents.

- SJAMBA mandates that **all** players receive balanced amounts of playing time and opportunity on a game-to-game basis.
- Rookie, Mosquito and PeeWee players must be given opportunities to play a variety of positions.
- Except for the purposes of discipline, a coach will be seen as being delinquent in his/her responsibilities, if they deny a player the opportunity to receive an equitable amount of playing time.
- SJAMBA expects coaches to discipline the behaviour of all players both on and off the field. It is therefore acceptable for a coach to use playing time as a consequence of inappropriate behavior – **when used as a last resort strategy only**. It is recommended that a summary log of when and why a player was benched be kept. Unacceptable behaviour may include unsportsmanlike conduct, being disrespectful, consistent failure to attend regularly scheduled team practises, inappropriate behaviour that is disrespectful of team goals, selfishness, actions that cause or have the intention to cause harm to individuals.
- Under some conditions, it may be necessary for a player to receive less playing time for health or safety considerations.
- Coaches must exercise good judgment for determining player positions and playing time during close, critical games and key situations. "Shortening the Bench" is the coach's decision but an age appropriate rotation must be implemented, and must be in accordance with WMBA and MBA rules and regulations. The coach must define his/her intention of this practice to the parents and players prior to the start of the season and prior to entering playoffs and tournaments. "Shortening the Bench" must only be implemented for a short duration during the game. Coaches are to provide additional opportunities in other games to players whose playing time is adversely affected in these situations.
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“Shortening the Bench” is to be an exception, not the norm, throughout the season (e.g. implemented only when a team is facing elimination from competition – playoffs or tournaments). It is recommended that a summary log be kept of when and why the bench was shortened.

- As a last resort, it may become necessary for a coach to use benching as a wake up call if a player demonstrates an “I don’t care attitude” through a consistent lack of effort or focus on a task that is reasonable for that player’s ability.
- SJAMBA recognizes the degree of difficulty in providing absolute equal playing time and opportunity on a game-to-game basis; however, in an effort to provide a clearer picture, the following situations will not be tolerated:
 - Consistently playing the same players only on a recurring basis.
 - Certain players consistently receiving longer playing time than other players.
 - Benching, sitting or giving less playing time to players because of a lack of confidence or inability to execute skills and tactics.
 - Giving more playing time to affiliate players (temporary promotion) over roster players.
 - Consistently starting the same 9 players every game.
- It is recommended that a log of playing time be kept – in addition to the score book – so information on each player can be quickly provided if requested.

Conclusion

Communication and the practice of setting expectations are vital to the success of a program. The Coach’s Fair Play policy intention is to inform coaches on how to treat players fairly so that players receive a balanced amount of playing time over the course of the baseball season.

The Fair Play policy is one of many tools and initiatives that the SJAMBA has developed to assist in fostering the relationships between, coaches, players, parents, and officials and to create an enjoyable and productive baseball experience for everyone.