

Pine Bush Little League - Minor B Baseball Division (7 & 8 Year Olds)

General Expectations:

Minor-B baseball is first and foremost a teaching division. There will be kids on each team that have played in this division last year, and there will be others coming right from T-Ball. To the best of everyone's abilities, our job is to teach the kids the fundamentals and skills associated with youth baseball to include; how to play baseball, how to properly play a position and what plays to make, good sportsmanship, how to work towards a goal, and how to work as a team and be supportive of each other.

Success in Minor-B will NOT be measured in the win-loss column. In fact, no standings are kept in Minor B, and NO scores are to be kept for each game. Success in Minor-B is measured by how well the kids improve throughout the year on an individual and team basis. It will also be measured by how well the kids learn to play as part of a team and how much fun they have doing so. Success in this division is measured by how well the kids transition from the T-ball environment to the more competitive environments they will experience in Minor-A and above. This transition involves learning how to play positions, where to make plays, and how to run bases. The two years spent in Minor-B should be spent learning the basics of how the game is played at all positions. The two years spent in Minor-B are NOT to be spent on focused development of a child's skills in only one or two positions.

Every year during registration, calls are made to families that do not re-register their children for PBL. Almost without exception, those children that do not come back after playing in Minor-B choose not to do so because they were bored. When we have inquired further, their boredom almost invariably comes down to having played on a team where the same 3 or 4 kids pitched, caught, and or played first or shortstop every game, and or in every game those handful of kids batted at the top of the order. At the Minor B level the expectation is that all the children – if it is safe for them to do so – are given the opportunity to play all positions and bat in different spots in a batting order throughout the season.*

*SAFETY is **key** in Minor-B. When it comes to playing positions in the field – while the goal is for kids to play all positions – this can only be done to the extent it is safe to do so. In Minor-B there are sometimes kids that just can't safely field a hard hit or hard thrown ball, or lack enough focus to remain aware when a hard hit or hard thrown ball is coming at them. In order to pitch, play 1st base, catch when there is a "harder throwing" kid pitching – and to a lesser extent 3rd base and shortstop – a child must be able to demonstrate an ability to at least get the glove in front of himself on a hard thrown or hit ball and pay attention during a game. We don't expect the kids to be able to make all the plays, we just have to be sure they aren't going to be standing there doing nothing while a ball comes back fast at their faces! Throughout the season these are skills that should be developed – however – the kids must demonstrate proper awareness and reactions to safely play the positions that are known for the occasional high-speed ball coming at them. Minor-B does use a softer baseball for all games and practices, however, it can still be hit or thrown hard.

Responsibilities of the "Home" team:

The home team uses the bench on the 1st base side, and is responsible for getting the bases beforehand, umpire equipment, and returning the bases and umpire equipment after the game to the storage shed next to concessions. The "Home" team is responsible for providing an umpire and ensuring there are at least 2 decent balls available for the game (balls MUST be the softer "t-ball" ball). The PBL does not "automatically" provide 2 new balls for each game (they are expensive!) but if you do not have two good balls and need them, they are stored in the announcing booth above the concession stand.

Local Rules and Decorum in Minor-B:

Pitching: A child may pitch up to 2 innings per game, and up to a maximum of 20 pitches per inning. Innings pitched must be consecutive. As soon as a child throws 4 balls to any one batter, a coach from the batting team comes out to finish pitching to that batter (there are no walks & no hit-by-pitch in Minor-B). Once a pitcher reaches 20 pitches, a coach from the batting team comes out to finish pitching that inning. The child who was pitching becomes an additional infielder whenever a coach is pitching. There is NO bullpen. Pitches should be thrown from the pre-installed rubber in the mound. If a particular child is unable to reach the plate from the rubber, on a case-by-case basis that child may take a few steps closer to pitch. Each team is responsible for maintaining its own pitch count. A child can **not** pitch two days in a row.

Batting: A batting order should be made consisting of all the team's children at the game. Batting is then continuous (no substitutions) throughout the game. The inning ends on 3 outs or when a team bats once through its order. There is no 5 run rule as runs are NOT counted. There is NO on-deck circle. Little league rules REQUIRE that all bats stay **untouched** until a child is walking up to the plate.

Base Running: Overthrows are very common in this division. A maximum of one base should be taken on an overthrow. There is no stealing in Minor-B.

Fielders: A team may play with 10 in the field (4 outfielders) if they wish. A team may play with less than 9 players if less than 9 show up for a game. Teams may have coaches in the field to assist and teach the players.

Team Size / Rosters: If a team is short players at a game they may "borrow" players from the team they are playing to even out the teams for that game if it's ok with both managers. Proper decorum is to have the borrowed players bat at the top of the order. A team can NOT bring in a player from a 3rd team or another division. ONLY players listed on your official roster are part of your team. ONLY players on your official roster are to be on the bench. No friends / relatives / siblings are to be on the bench during any part of the game.

Time Limits: During weeknight games, a new inning can NOT be started after 7:30 PM. During weekend games, you MUST stop playing 10 minutes prior to the official start of a game being played after yours. So as to help ensure games are played to the fullest extent possible, please require your kids to be at the field and ready to play at least 15 minutes prior to the official start time. Also, be sure the umpire has an "extra" ball. When the catcher misses a pitch, the umpire can hand the "spare" ball to the catcher and retrieve the passed ball for the next time. This saves a LOT of time in the game. Games are 6 innings long. The home team always bats in the bottom of the 6th if time permits (remember, no score is kept!).

Other Items:

ONLY those children on your official roster may play for your team. If there are any questions about a child's eligibility to play in Minor-B those questions should be brought to the attention of the PBLL Player Agent (Jeff Winsper) or the Minor-B rep (Dr. John Yelle). Only the player agent has the authority to place children on rosters – no one else. Only approved volunteers may manage, coach, pitch, and or umpire. In order to receive a work bond refund a person MUST be an approved volunteer. ONLY the safety officer (Jamie Glasspoole) can approve a volunteer – no one else. Rain outs will be rescheduled by the Minor-B rep. Teams that are rained out are free to work out a mutually-acceptable date to make up a game, however, this date must be approved by the Minor-B rep so as to avoid scheduling conflicts.

Contact Information:

Minor-B Rep – Dr. John Yelle; C (845) 741-5174; H (845) 733-5254; john.yelle@actjv.com
Player Agent – Jeff Winsper; (845) 313-2127; jeffwinsper@gmail.com