

Adopted June 2017

## **Mount Laurel Baseball District & Tournament Team playing time guidelines:**

Mount Laurel Baseball views player development as a fundamental mission/goal of the program. As such, we strongly believe that playing time is a critical component of any young player's growth and improvement in baseball. Effective immediately, the following guidelines with regard to playing time have been established. These guidelines specifically apply to Summer District and Tournament teams.

- For non-Cal Ripken District Tournaments (or any other summer games) in which free substitution and/or universal line-ups are allowed, it is expected that all players sit one inning before any player sits a second inning. This guideline is consistent with Mount Laurel Baseball's playing time requirements for Rec Baseball. In addition, Mount Laurel Baseball strongly encourages the use of free substitution and universal line-ups when available.
- For Cal Ripken District, State, Regional, or World Series Tournament games, Mount Laurel Baseball understands that the Cal Ripken tournament rules preclude the use of free substitution/universal line-ups and only allows the re-entry of a starting player once during a game. In addition, once a substitute player leaves the game, he may not re-enter. This effectively means that, by definition, playing time will not be equal in that 6 of the 12 players will play the entire game while the remaining 6 players must share innings. If an Extra Hitter (EH) is utilized, 8 players will play the entire game while the remaining 4 share. Please note that Mount Laurel Baseball strongly encourages the use of the EH (if/when available), however, it is not mandatory.

Mount Laurel Baseball's guideline for playing time in Cal Ripken tournaments is that every player who is sharing innings in a game should expect to play roughly one half of that game.

**Please note that the guidelines above reflect Mount Laurel Baseball's philosophy on playing time. It is expected that District & Tournament coaches will generally follow these guidelines over the course of the District/Tournament season. That said, it should be understood that exceptions may occur on occasion due to game time situations or extenuating circumstances. Exceptions on a persistent basis should be avoided unless previously reviewed/approved by the Mount Laurel Baseball Board.**

**Failure of a coach to follow the spirit of these guidelines should be brought to the attention of the Mount Laurel Baseball Board for review.**