

AABC Quality of Play Policy

Background:

Ultimately, each member organization and its coaches determine the appropriate competitive level and placement for their teams — whether in the AABC or any other local travel league. It should be understood that the responsibility of AABC administrators is to implement policies and direction that support the best interests of the league and its membership collectively.

Based on the feedback administrators have received, there is a consistent theme: our travel division coaches want a structure that ensures they are competing against teams of comparable ability and commitment. We believe this outcome is achievable; however, it requires a collaborative effort between the AABC and its member organizations. By establishing clear policies and standards, we can work toward maintaining competitive balance while minimizing the need for AABC administrators to make subjective evaluations for each team seeking entry.

AABC Division Structure & Team Placement Policy

1. Division Format

1.1 The AABC shall establish A and B divisions in all age groups that have eight (8) or more registered teams.

1.2 The creation of divisions shall not reduce the total number of games played. In smaller divisions, teams may be scheduled to play each divisional opponent three (3) to four (4) times in lieu of the standard two-game series format.

2. Organizational Team Entry Limits

2.1 Within any age group divided into A and B divisions, each member organization may register one (1) team per division.

2.2 Organizations fielding more than two (2) teams in an age group may request that their additional team/s participate in a higher age group division ("playing up"), subject to availability and league approval.

2.3 Organizations may have two teams compete in the same division only if they are of different ages. (ie a junior team is playing up into a senior age group).

3. Organizational Responsibility

3.1 Member organizations are responsible for internal roster management and team placement decisions.

3.2 Organizations shall evaluate whether fielding additional teams in an age group justifies potential placement impacts (e.g., requiring their higher-level team/s to play up to accommodate league limits).

3.3 This policy is intended to minimize subjective placement decisions by AABC administrators by requiring organizations to self-manage program structures.

4. Minimum Team Threshold

4.1 If fewer than eight (8) teams register in an age group, no limit shall be placed on the number of teams an organization may enter in that age group.

4.2 Limits will apply once the number of registered teams reaches eight (8), triggering division formation.

5. Registration & Division Placement Process

5.1 Teams shall self-report their desired division (A or B) during registration.

5.2 AABC travel program administrators shall review submissions and notify organization commissioners of any conflicts or concerns. Organizations are responsible for resolving internal placement issues.

5.3 If the number of requested placements does not support balanced division formation, league administrators shall assign divisions based on objective competitive data, including but not limited to:

- Previous spring and fall season standings
- Head-to-head results
- Common opponent results

5.4 League administrators shall make placement decisions that best support competitive integrity and balance within the age group.

Example:

If five (5) teams request Division A and three (3) request Division B, administrators may reassign one team to form two four-team divisions.

6. Out-of-Division Competition

6.1 Teams are permitted and encouraged to schedule games against teams outside their assigned division. This should be requested during the registration process.

6.2 Out-of-division games will be played in addition to (not to replace) divisional game schedules.

6.3 Out-of-division results may be considered as supporting evidence for future placement evaluations.

7. Review & Adjustment

7.1 The league reserves the right to review the competitive balance of divisions at any time.

7.2 Adjustments may be made in subsequent seasons based on demonstrated team performance.

8. Examples of Approved Placement

Example 1: Severna Park wants to register two 11U teams

11U Severna Park (Green) - 11U American League

11U Severna Park (White) - 11U National League

OR

11U Severna Park (Green) - 12U National League

11U Severna Park (White) - 11U American League

OR

11U Severna Park (Green) - 12U National League

11U Severna Park (White) - 11U National League

Example 2: Severna Park wants to register three 11U teams

11U Severna Park (Green) - 12U National League

11U Severna Park (White) - 11U American League

11U Severna Park (Gold) - 11U National League