

Town Hall Meeting: Intermediate Pilot for Spring 2024

December 20, 2023; 8:00 p.m.; 31 participants

Question and Answer Session

1. For 13 year olds specifically, how much playing time can they expect if there are dually rostered Majors players who might be better at baseball?
 - a. This pilot season is still a developmentally appropriate place for players to learn the sport of baseball. You should expect that coaches are still doing due diligence by making sure kids have the opportunity to experience all positions.
2. Has anyone spoken to the family whose home sits behind Parkwood Ballfield? Is the distance for 13 year olds an issue?
 - a. During the fall 2023 pilot season, there were kids who hit home runs and it did not interfere with the family's property line. However, we will do our best to mitigate this issue prior to the beginning of the season.
3. How will we handle pitching?
 - a. Majors coaches will be required to update pitch count sheets on Friday evening. By doing so, this allows the Intermediate coaching staff to best select a pitcher(s) for Saturday's games. Players can pitch up to 20 on Friday without jeopardizing pitching on Saturday.
 - b. Pitching and arm care will be a large component of our spring coaches' training.
 - c. Families need to advocate for their child and pitch count rules regardless of coaching.
4. Why cap the Intermediate 13 year olds at 36 and then use 11 & 12 year olds? Why can't we play every Intermediate player who is 13 first?
 - a. The intent of the division was to allow some more developed players to play with older players. We also stress this is a pilot season and we do not know how much interest there will be in this division? The hope is that we can accommodate all but we are also trying to be mindful of field accessibility.
5. What is the timing of the Intermediate draft? Can a player drop out if they make a middle school team?
 - a. The player evaluations are scheduled for February 3rd (rain date of February 10th).
 - b. The player draft will be held on February 17th. Kids will be locked onto a team at that point. Player refunds will not be given after registration.
6. If an 11/12 year old player is playing Majors and Intermediate, are they playing 6 days a week?
 - a. Majors/Intermediate players would prioritize Majors with M, W, F. It would be ideal if they could come to a T or TH practice. Double header Intermediate games are on Saturday. Thus, they could play 5 or 6 days a week.

- b. Intermediate players only will practice on T/TH and play double header games on Saturday.
- 7. How does this schedule align with Durham Public Schools?
 - a. Durham Public schools now prioritize games on Monday and Thursday. Thus, only Thursday would be an issue for those playing middle school and Intermediate.
- 8. Is this too much baseball? What is our intent here or what do we hope to achieve? Is this an addendum to Majors?
 - a. Only players and parents can gauge whether this is too much baseball. There are many players who play on travel teams who are already playing 6-7 days per week.
 - b. We hope to bridge a gap between two groups of players; 13 year olds who may not be physically mature enough to play on a seniors field and 11/12 year olds who would like to and can play with more mature players. So players are evidently more prepared to play on a larger field than a Little League® sized field.
 - c. Also, the player and parent are responsible for communicating to their coach(es) if they need a break/rest and have burnout. There should never be a situation where player safety is jeopardized for the game.
- 9. Can a player only play Intermediate?
 - a. Only 13 year olds play Intermediate only.
 - b. 11/12 year olds are required to dual-enroll.
- 10. Should a player do Intermediate before Middle School tryouts?
 - a. We cannot answer that question for your child and his or her abilities.
- 11. Can an Intermediate dual-roster with Seniors baseball?
 - a. Technically, yes. However, the Seniors division is being run by Bull City Little League for spring 2024, and we are not combining efforts to make sure practices and games are not competing.
- 12. Do players have difficulty switching between field sizes and rules when playing between Majors and Intermediate?
 - a. Anecdotally, as a coach, I have found that the majority of players adapt very well when moving between field sizes and rules.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

If you have additional questions, please email us at sdllboard@gmail.com