



## Traveling Baseball Playing Definitions

**Playing time** is defined as consistent opportunities to participate and contribute during practices and games throughout the season.

Coaches will make a good-faith effort to ensure that all players receive opportunities to contribute in games over the course of the season.

Game starts, defensive positions, and batting order will be balanced as reasonably as possible across the season, considering player development, effort, attendance, and team needs.

Playing time, positional rotation, and batting order may be adjusted during tournaments, league playoffs, or competitive situations at the coach's discretion.

### Team Composition

- Teams will typically consist of approximately 10–12 players.
- If enough players fall into the same division, players will be split equally among teams within that division.

### General Guideline for Defensive Positions

- **9U–11U:** Emphasis on broad positional exposure and learning the fundamentals of **ALL** positions.
- **12U–13U:** Players will continue to rotate through several positions, with increasing emphasis on skill development and team roles.
- **14U and above:** Position assignments and rotation are determined at the coach's discretion based on development, experience, and competitive needs.
- Players will be given every reasonable opportunity during practice to develop skills at all positions that best support their individual development while contributing to the team.
- For safety reasons, certain positions may be assigned to players who demonstrate the awareness and skill level necessary to safely perform the responsibilities of that position.

### **General Guideline for Batting Order**

- **9U–11U:** Emphasis on balancing hitters from top to bottom rather than concentrating the strongest hitters at the top. The idea is to distribute strong hitters throughout the lineup and create offensive opportunities in every inning.
- **12U–13U:** Emphasis on balance throughout the lineup while allowing for more consistent placement as player performance is demonstrated.
- **14U and above:** Coach's discretion. Emphasis on performance-based approach, with batting orders established to maximize team success.
- Lineups may be adjusted throughout the season.

### **Additional Notes**

- **A team's record is NOT an indication of success**
- These guidelines are intended as general recommendations unless the Head Coach is informed by the player and/or parent of limitations and/or player preference regarding defensive positions or batting order placement.
- Coaches, players, and parents are encouraged to communicate openly regarding development goals, expectations, and team philosophy.

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