

LWF Fair Play Policy

RECREATIONAL HOUSE TEAMS

1) There should be equal innings for all players, at various times during the season and at the end of the year the total innings every player plays should be very close. This is meant to be innings available to play (minus not being able to play, i.e. injury/away/discipline/etc).

2) Batting order should be varied so all players get to bat first, second etc.

3) During the first half of the season (at the least) there should be equal opportunity to try various positions (i.e. pitcher/catcher/infield/etc). There are of course safety issues here and a coach must feel the player can try a position without getting hurt but if a player would like to try pitching, let them try. We realize new kids may struggle with new positions but that's how they learn and we do have the five run rule plus the new pitching "no walk" rule in Mosquito. The whole idea is to develop players and let the kids have fun.

4) In recreational ball all players in the line-up bat and there is free inning by inning substitution.

5) Baseball Nova Scotia has recognized the need for fair play and has made a special category for House teams to play in Provincials in the new category "R". The rules are basically the same as in our House leagues (free substitution/everyone bats/5 run rule/etc). Entries for provincials must be made by July 1st through your Association.

6) The concept of fair play reduces the emphasis on winning "at all cost" and focuses more on letting the kids have fun and having them develop their skills. **THIS GOAL SHOULD ALSO INCLUDE UMPIRES.** While we have made great progress in this area the past few years and while we are probably the best area in the province for not having abuse of umpires **WE STILL AREN'T THERE YET.** We continue to have some coaches, parents and players verbally abusing our young umpires and **ONE IS TOO MANY.** Please remember, just as our young players make mistakes in learning the game so will our young umpires, be patient - be encouraging and **BE HELPFULL.**

*** We are asking every team to have a coach or manager keep a chart sheet of every game showing which players were available to play a game and how many innings each one played, this should be available to parents/players if they ask.