

# Midwest Ohio Baseball

## Competition Based Divisions

Mission: To provide a format which provides select baseball teams the opportunity to compete at the highest, team appropriate, competition level in the area.

Concept: In order to accomplish this mission, age levels from 10U and older will be divided into competition based divisions. More specifically, 8U & 9U will not have competition based divisions, 10U will be divided into two competition based divisions (Division I & Division II) and 11U and older will be divided into three divisions (Division I, Division II & Division III) if the number and caliber of teams warrants the third division.

Theoretical distribution of competitive divisions:

1. In a three (3) division structure (Division I, Division II and Division III), the Division I division would be comprised of no more than 1/4 of the total teams in that age group and in a two (2) division structure (Division I and Division II), the Division I division would be comprised of no more than 1/3 of the total teams in that age group
2. If the number of teams in any division justify splitting the division into multiple divisions (ie. 24 Division II teams could be split into 12 Division II North & 12 Division II South teams), the age level coordinator can split them geographically or randomly, at his sole discretion

Expectations/Requirements of teams

1. In a three (3) division structure (Division I, Division II and Division III)

### Division I

*The intent is that Division I, in a three (3) division structure, shall be comprised of teams that are capable of being competitive on a regional or national level*

1. Play  $\geq$  40 games per year
2. Play in at least one (1) MOBL tournament
3. Play in at least two (2) sanctioned tournaments, in addition to #2, or top regional/national invitational tournaments

### Division II

*The intent is that Division I, in a three (3) division structure, shall be comprised of teams that are capable of being competitive on a state level*

1. Play  $\geq$  32 games per year
2. Play in at least one MOBL tournament
3. Play in at least one (1) sanctioned tournament, in addition to #2, or top regional/Division I invitational tournaments

### Division III

1. While there are no requirements to play games outside of the regular season league games, all Division III teams are encouraged to play non-league games and/or tournaments.

2. Expectations of teams in a two (2) division structure (Division I and Division II)

### Division I

*The intent is that Division I, in a two (2) division structure, shall be comprised of teams that are capable of being competitive on a state or national level*

1. Play  $\geq$  35 games per year
2. Play in at least one (1) MOBL tournament
3. Play in at least two (2) sanctioned tournaments, in addition to #2, or top regional/national invitational tournaments

## Division II

1. While there are no requirements to play games outside of the regular season league games, all Division II teams are encouraged to play non-league games and/or tournaments.

Distribution of teams across the divisions will be determined using the following criteria:

1. Returning teams with a record in the previous year:
  - ≥ .750 would move up a division
  - ≤ .500 in Division I would move down to Division II and ≤ .400 in Division II would move down to Division III
2. New teams to the league:
  - If not part of an organization with other teams in the league, then team enters in the lowest division
  - If part of an organization with other teams in the league, they may elect to enter the league in the division that the majority of their organizations' teams played in the previous year

Petitions:

Any team that believes they belong in a division other than the above criteria dictates will have the opportunity to appeal the decision. The steps for the appeal are:

1. File a petition, in writing utilizing the Division Assignment Petition Form, with the age level coordinator, outlining the following:
  - a. Their record both for league play and total games played during the previous season
    - i. This should include both a cumulate record (ie. 16-6 in league play & 24-10 overall) as well as a line item list of opponents and scores.
  - b. Their record from previous season against teams that would be in their desired division (ie. a team placed in the Division II division wishing to move up to Division I would include their previous season's record against teams placed in Division I for the upcoming season)
    - i. This should include both a cumulate record (ie. 16-6 in league play & 24-10 overall) as well as a line item list of opponents and scores (or they can be highlighted on #1a above)
  - c. Roster changes, along with brief narrative about skills of departing players and new players
  - d. Narrative describing change in coaching philosophy, intensity, practice schedule and/or game schedule
2. Age level coordinator will discuss petition with MOBL Board of Directors and decision will be made prior to next league meeting.
3. If coach is unsatisfied with decision, coach may request a brief hearing before a panel, comprised of the age level coordinator and two (2) members of the MOBL Board of Directors, to be held at next League meeting. No appeals may be made after the last league meeting and all decisions by this panel are final.