

2009 Metro Levels of Play

Level	Description
<p>T-Ball: Ages 5-7</p> <p>* typical age 6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ball is a T-Ball; a safety ball hit off a stationary tee. • Every player bats every inning. • Suggested team roster no more than 9 • Games are 3 innings or one hour • Neither score nor standings are kept • Generally 2 "baseball" days per week.
<p>Pioneer: Ages 7-9</p> <p>* typical age 7/8</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ball is a RIF-5, <i>significantly</i> harder than a T-Ball, softer than a regulation baseball. • Coach pitch and there are no walks. • Strikes are called, therefore, a player can "strike out". This encourages players to swing the bat. • Games are 4 innings are 1.5 hours • Neither score nor standings are kept • Typically, 2 "baseball" days per week.
<p>Farm: Ages 7*-11</p> <p>Typical age-8 & 9</p> <p>*Parental consent required</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ball is a RIF-10, softer than a regulation baseball. • Player and coach pitch. No walks. • Only 10 year-olds and younger may pitch. • Playing time and positions played shall be equal, with safety being the primary consideration. • Primary goal is to introduce players to as many positions as possible in a non-competitive atmosphere. • Continuous batting order • Games last approximately 2 hours or 6 innings • Typically, 3 "baseball" days per week • Neither score nor standings are kept.

Minors: Ages 8*-12

Typical age-9, 10, & 11

***Parental consent required**

- Our Minor League division will focus on good sportsmanship and team play. Batting skills will be developed and will include bunting, pitch selection, and reading signs given by the coach. Catchers will be developed and will learn how to block the ball, read signs, make good throws back to the pitcher, as well as making throws to second. Pitchers' development will focus on good mechanics and injury prevention. Fielding emphasis will be on getting in the proper position to field the ball and teaching where, when and how to make the throw. Base running skills and situation play will also be emphasized.
- Only players pitch using a regulation baseball.
- Division built by tryout & draft. All teams carry a 12-player roster.
- To move to this level, players must be able to demonstrate elementary baseball skills, have a general knowledge of the game, and be deemed able to protect themselves.
- Continuous batting order.
- Minors is considered more competitive, but still a developmental division of Metro. The goal of Minors is to prepare the players for Majors.
- **Minor players may be drafted mid-season to our Major league division.**
- Every attempt should be made to make playing time and positions played equal, with the goal being to introduce a variety of positions to each player.
- **12 year-olds are encouraged to remain in Minors unless they have demonstrated that they are prepared for our Major division.**
- 12 year-olds may not pitch in Minors.
- Game length is six innings or 1 hr., 45 minutes.
- End of season tournament winner will advance to district TOC tournament.
- All star tournament opportunities.
- Typically, 3 to 4 "baseball" days.

Majors: Ages 9*-12

-Competitive level of play-

Typical age-11 & 12

***Parental consent required**

- Our Major Division is the most competitive level Metro offers. Majors will continue to develop, reinforce, and sharpen the skills the player was introduced to in the Minor Division. Batting mechanics such as bunting, driving, ball placement, timing pitches and recognizing pitches will be emphasized. Players will be instructed to make accurate throws from the outfield to the proper cut-off person. Once the ball is properly fielded, the player will know where to make the throw and how to get it there. There will be an emphasis on fielding strategies based on specific situations. The players will continue to learn how to take signals from the coaches and implement the directives. Majors will continue to develop pitchers and emphasize pitch variety (fastball 2-seam/4-seam, change-up, slider, cutter, etc.) while being sensitive to injury prevention. Catching skills will be further developed and include pitch calling, accurate throws to all bases, minimizing pass balls, situational play, and leadership skills.
- Players pitch a regulation baseball and throw a variety of pitches.
- Pitch count rule in force to protect pitchers' arms.
- Teams built by tryout & draft. All teams must carry a 12-player roster.
- To be drafted to this level, players must have demonstrated in the Minor division the competency and confidence to play at the Major league level. Age is not a prerequisite for being drafted to the Majors.
- **12-year olds will be drafted to the Majors unless their parents or the league request that the player stay in Minors.**
- **Minimum playing time requirement, according to Little League and Metro rules, is 6 consecutive defensive outs (2 innings) and 1 at bat.**
- Playing time and positions played will be based on demonstration of necessary skills required for a particular position, practice and game attendance, and at the discretion of the manager.
- 6 inning games. No time limit.
- End of season tournament with winner representing Metro in District 44's TOC tournament. Seeding in tournament is based on regular season league record.

- All star tournament opportunities.