

Saskatoon Cardinals Program Philosophy

Goal

To make baseball the spring and summer activity of choice for all children within our area.

Mission

To provide a healthy and exciting experience for ALL children wanting to participate in the sport of baseball - whether it be at a competitive or recreational level.

Program Philosophy

- The Saskatoon Cardinals Baseball Association is here to serve the children involved in our program.
- We are committed to providing qualified instruction through certified coaches and volunteers.
- We strive to achieve a program that is suitable for all levels of players at any age group.

Communication

Likely the most important and usually the most neglected aspect of team harmony for both the players and the parents.

- The coaches will hold a minimum of two parents meetings. One at the beginning of the year and another before the second week of June.
- The coaches will be in regular and continual contact with the players on an individual basis and a team basis. Players must have a clear understanding of what is expected from them and what positions they can expect to play.
- Obviously, the coaching staff must have the discretion to change their plans at anytime and therefore, they should make every effort to communicate with the players so as to avoid confusion or hard feelings

Rookie & Junior Mosquito Program

- This is strictly an instructional and learning experience program that is non-competitive.
- The main goal of this program is to provide all of the participants the necessary skills to enjoy baseball at it's fullest.
- All children registered in this age group will get equal opportunity to learn skills that allow them to develop.
- All players will be given the opportunity to play all fielding positions that they want to play and learn.
- Every participant bats and gets equal time to develop their batting skills.
- ***The only focus of this program is development, recreation and fun. Winning is not a priority nor will it be allowed to become the focus of this program for any team.*** Any coach or parent that is deemed to be placing a priority on winning ahead of fun and fair play will be accountable to the Zone Executive.
- In order to move up to play in the Junior Mosquito division, you must have at least one (1) year of Rookie and be a minimum of six (6) years of age as of January 1st.

Once registration is complete, the teams will be divided as equally and fairly as possible by the Zone Coordinator/s. The schedule for this program is completed at the end of June.

Mosquito

The Mosquito program is designed to develop not only a child's skills but also their love and enthusiasm for the game. The Cardinals Association is committed to ensuring that every child is allowed to compete at the level appropriate for their skills and desires.

- Tryouts and evaluations will be held as early as possible in April and the children then placed into their appropriate playing level.
- All players in AA and A will be given equal offensive and defensive playing time and the opportunity to try all positions that they desire provided their level of skill at that position shall in no way pose a threat to their safety.
- Players should be played at various positions to learn all aspects of the game. The coach, at her/his discretion, should only place players in a particular position on a regular basis for tournaments or Provincials. Other than that, A and AA teams should be fair play.
- ***The AA division is considered developmental yet competitive and the A division recreational and developmental.***
- If the Zone has 39 to 50 registrants, then we may elect to have one AAA team, two AA teams and one A team.
- If the Zone has 51 or more registrants, then we may elect to have two AAA teams, two AA teams and one A team. If the evaluations dictate that the talent pool does not support 2 AAA teams then upon acceptance of the Knights of Columbus Mosquito League Executive we shall form one AAA team, three AA teams and one A team.
- If the zone has less than 39 players registered the Executive may decide to form one AAA team, one AA team and one A team. Alternately we may decide to place all players that did not make the AAA team into equal teams that would play in the AA division.
- All registrants that wish to play AAA shall be given the opportunity to participate in the evaluations and tryouts.
- The AAA team will be a competitive team. The AAA Philosophy is discussed later.
- The AA and A divisional play will be completed at the end of June except where those teams elect to participate in Provincial play and then play will be completed in July.
- If the Zone has less than the minimum registrants mentioned above to form just one AA or AA Tier 2 team, the Zone Coordinator would supervise an evaluation/try out for a Provincial team if there is sufficient interest from players and parents. This would be completed by early June. The Head Coach would also be chosen as per our constitution. In the situation where more than one AA or AA Tier 2 team existed all players would be eligible to tryout for the teams. If there is still sufficient interest in forming an A Mosquito team for Provincials, this will also be accommodated.
- The Provincial team(s) shall in no way conflict with the schedules of the league teams. No tournaments will be allowed for these types of Provincial teams that conflicts with completion of the regular league schedule at the end of June.

Pee Wee, Bantam and Midget

- There will be one AAA team for each of the above divisions.
- Players that do not make the AAA team will be divided equally as possible and will compete in the AA league.
- ***The AA league is competitive and developmental.***
- All players will be given equal opportunity to play.
- The coaches in these age groups will be given more discretion on placing players into positions for tournaments but should view the league games as opportunities to explore and find out who can play where.

- Equal playing time in both offensive and defensive positions should be adhered to.
- In Provincials and other major events, the coaching staff has the discretion to place his preference of players in certain positions, as 9-man ball is difficult to please all players all the time.

AAA Program

This is the competitive level for all age groups. This program is designed for the player that wishes to compete at the highest level of baseball that is available to them.

The team concept is the main focus at the AAA level.

Players must accept that devotion to the team and the success of the team comes before their individual aspirations.

AAA Philosophy

Team before individual.

- All players will be given equal playing time in league play.
- For tournaments, City Championships and Provincials, the coaching staff should put the team in the best position to win while trying to be as fair and equitable as possible in playing time. This will mean some players will likely sit more than others in these situations.
- Additional commitment is required to play on this team, which is outlined below.
- AAA Baseball will not be treated as a secondary sport. The Saskatoon Cardinal Baseball Association feels a strong need to address this issue in defence of the players that make the commitment to baseball only to find that others on the team may not have the same commitment. Examples: A Division I soccer team or a Tier I hockey team does not tolerate players with a lack of commitment and the AAA baseball program will be treated the same. Those wishing not to make that commitment will be placed on a AA or A team as the Association is here to serve all players at all levels and desire.

Number of Players per team

Mosquito and Pee Wee AAA minimum 11, maximum 13

Bantam and Midget AAA minimum 12, maximum 14/15.

Commitment

- Two games per week in league play in May, June and early July.
- Minimum tournaments include City Opener, Saskatoon Zone Qualifier, Saskatoon Invitational, City Championships, and Provincial Championships.
- A further maximum of 3 out of town tournaments as agreed upon by a majority of the parents.
- You should be available for practices as determined by the coach, which will be at minimum, once per week.
- You are encouraged to schedule summer vacations so that they do not conflict with the preparation of the team for Provincial Playoffs. Any conflicts should be discussed at the very beginning of the year with the coaches.
- The AAA season will go to the third week of July for Mosquito and PeeWee. The Pee Wee season could extend into mid-August if the team is successful at Provincials. The Bantam and Midget seasons could extend even longer into August.

Development of Skills

- All players will get the benefit of qualified and certified instructors.
- All players will get the opportunity to develop his/her skills throughout the season.

- The AAA coaches will use the month of May to allow all players the opportunity to play each and every position that they wish to try out for.
- The coaches will then begin placing players into 2 or 3 positions in early June so that they are allowed to hone their skills. This approach not only allows the players more time to become comfortable at their positions but also benefits the team, as it should make the team more competitive.
- A player should not expect to play a position after the month of May if the coaching staff has decided that the player is better suited somewhere else. This is for the betterment of the team.