

Which Child Plays In Which Division?

If you're wondering why your child was placed into a certain division, here's some information that should help.

Assessments

Mount Seymour Little League is committed to fielding teams with balanced skill levels, which is why we conduct Assessments for players entering AA and above. We're equally committed to fairly evaluating every player who attends Assessments.

To ensure fairness, we employ a number of volunteer assessors to evaluate each player. That way, no individual assessor can unduly influence a player's score. And to promote the most accurate evaluations possible, each assessor we select must be a highly experienced judge of players, likely having many years' experience coaching children of various ages and abilities.

Division Determinants

Three things can determine which division a player plays in:

(1) Age

Little League Canada has certain age restrictions that are based on the player's age as of April 30th for that season. It is against Little League policy, for example, for an 8 year old to play in Majors no matter how skilled in baseball he or she may be.

(2) Performance at Assessments

Using a 1-10 scale, every assessor evaluates each player on their ability to field, catch, throw, pitch and hit a ball on their Assessment Day. When all the tabulations have been completed, players are assigned divisions according to their average scores.

It could happen that a player is quite skilled, but that other players outperformed him or her at the Assessments. Some years the competition is tougher than others.

(3) The number of vacancies in the next highest division

Some years, an unusual number of players advances beyond Majors because of their age. That creates more openings in Majors which, in turn, creates more openings in AAA and then AA.

In other years, there isn't much movement. That means that some players who, in a typical year would advance, don't. In such years it's not a reflection of the player's ability to play at a higher level; there simply aren't enough openings.

Dealing With A Disappointed Child

If your child didn't advance the way he or she expected, please explain that it's not necessarily that they weren't good enough. There could be other reasons, as mentioned above.

Plus, there can be a benefit to not advancing too quickly – the player will gain a firmer foundation and will have a greater chance of being a bigger star in a lower division. That can build self-confidence that will last for years.