

## **Zeeland Little League Playing Time Policy**

### **Equal Playing Time**

The information below does NOT pertain to the position of pitcher. More information on pitchers is in the next section.

- All players are in the lineup and hit in every game
- The lineup should be different each game such that players are in a different spots in the lineup throughout the season
  - Coach Pitch and Tee Ball teams change their lineup each inning
- Each player must play a minimum of one inning in an infield position each game
- All players should be on the bench for an inning before any player is on the bench for a second inning
  - The exception to this rule is for a player that is pitching multiple innings, he/she must spend an inning on the bench when done pitching if every other player on the team has already spent an inning on the bench
- Zeeland Little League provides templates for coaches to pre-plan their lineups and field positions for each game in order to fulfill these requirements

### **Pitchers and Equal Playing Time**

The pitcher is an important position in Little League. The pitcher controls the pace and action of a game. An inexperienced pitcher that is unable to throw strikes can cause a detriment to all players in the game. Although walks are part of the game, excessive walks can lessen the experience for everyone.

- All pitchers must abide by the pitch count rules set forth by Little League
- The amount of innings pitched through a season will NOT be equal amongst every player on the team that wants to pitch
- Coaches may, and are encouraged to, give more pitching opportunities to players that show more consistency in throwing strikes
- If a pitcher is struggling to throw strikes, coaches may replace the pitcher at their own discretion.
  - We recommend coaches make a change at pitcher after 4 walks in an inning especially for an inexperienced pitcher
- Pitchers that perform better in games will pitch more often than pitchers who are less consistent.

Experience in pitching in games is important for player development, but it cannot be the only time a player that wants to pitch is working on pitching. Players are encouraged to work on pitching at practice and at home.