

Best Practices MAYLA Boys' A/B 7/8 Grade Pilot Program 2018

This season MAYLA has heard the programs' requests and concerns for players that have greater experience and potentially higher ability, to be engaged in more competitive games within MAYLA. To acknowledge the development of the level play of our constituents and to provide a competitive platform and cohesive environment around the growth of the game at the youth level, the following guidelines have been developed:

1. MAYLA will undertake a one-year trial utilizing the A/B team level format for 7/8 Boys only.
2. These levels are intended to better match ability and physical sizing for matched and competitive play.
3. The participating organizations are responsible for self-assessment and declaration of team levels prior to season so teams can be grouped, and games assigned.
4. Each program can enter as many teams as they feel that their player numbers will permit.
5. Programs can enter teams at the A or B level.
6. It is up to the program to determine the level that they wish participate in. If they have more than one team, they could enter teams at either the A or the B or multiple teams at either specific level.

The coaches/program should consider the following as they divide up their teams:

1. If there are multiple teams at one level, the teams should be divided equally to the best of the evaluators ability.
2. If Teams are entered at the A and B levels, coaches should consider ranking their players in order of ability and physical size and then dividing them according to a specified number per squad. Teams should be considered stand-alone teams.
3. Players should play for a specific team assigned. They cannot be rostered on two different teams. However, recognizing that assessments early in the season may not always recognize a player's ability and the fact that players develop at differing rates, it will be permissible for players to be moved up or down during the season with the mindset that once they are moved they would remain on the team for the remainder of the season.

4. What if we have a shortage for one team as the season progresses? Could coaches borrow players for a game?

Ideally, a team would consist of at least 18 players at the start of season. If a program has 35 players at a given level, they should consider having two teams. A recommended minimum number for a team would be fourteen players to play on a given game day.

5. Coaches may borrow players to field a team **only if it is necessary** to prevent forfeiture. Programs are reminded not to take advantage of this opportunity; it is not to be used as a “strategy” to win a game. If it becomes necessary to move players up to the A level game, it is recommended that the players be the top tier of the B team. If it is necessary to move players down to a B level game, they should be from the bottom tier of the A team. If a program must move players to play the game, the coach must notify the opposing coach prior to the start of the game and the officials certification of players.

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