

2009 Change and Growth

2009 is bringing change to DMLL.

MAJORS

We are expanding our Majors division by 2 teams (1 in each league) for a total of 12 teams. The American League will expand with the Tigers, and the National League will expand with the Cubs. All returning Majors players will return to their team from last year as the board has decided to remain a titled league.

The two expansion teams will start our Majors draft by drafting the number of players equal to the largest number of players returning to an existing team. That should be about 6 players for each team. After that is complete, the regular draft will start with the expansion teams having the first pick in each round. This procedure is in accordance with Expansion - Option 3 in the LL Operating Manual. The board felt after two months and two meetings of discussion that Option 3 would best serve our community. Per LL International all 12 year olds will be in the Majors division unless they waiver down. We anticipate that there will be 40 to 50 spots for new 11 and 10 year olds in Majors this season.

MINORS

2009 will also see a dramatic change in our Minors program. Our previous Minor A, Minor B, and Machine pitch divisions are eliminated. Our Minors program will now encompass three divisions.

AAA - "Triple-A" : The Triple-A division will have 12 teams overall and 6 per league. Ages 11, 10 and 9. No 11 year old will play in a division below Triple-A unless they waiver down. 9 year old participation will be limited to 2 players per team for a total of 24 spots at most.

Players will be selected via draft as outlined in the operating manual. There will be season long standings, post season play and teams may advance on to the Coast Cities tournament. Play will be competitive with some green book modifications to increase playing time and position rotation to facilitate instruction and player development.

AA - “Double-A” : The Double-A division will have 12 teams overall and 6 teams per league. Ages 10 and 9. No 10 year old player will play in a division below Double-A unless they waiver down.

Players will be selected via draft as outlined in the operating manual. There will be a post season tournament and the board is currently evaluating on whether there will be season long standings and other rules affecting play in the division.

A - “Single-A” : The Single-A division will have 16 to 20 teams. Ages 9 and 8. All 9 year olds not drafted onto Triple-A or Double-A teams will play in this division.

Players will be assigned to their teams by the division coordinator with input from the player agent. Play will be instructional. Pitching machines will be used but the board is evaluating introducing kid pitching at this level. The mechanics of this are being developed.

The **Coach Pitch** and **T-Ball** divisions will remain unchanged.

The board has put a lot of thought and effort into this plan and we believe that this format will absorb the growth of our community and result in the best year ever in DMLL. Thank you for your support and participation in DMLL.

Jim Tomes

DMLL Board President