



MYO Coaches:

In response to feedback from a number of coaches and parents over the past few years, the MYO Board of Directors has voted to change the way the MYO **boys baseball** teams are kept together beginning next spring. It is expected that these changes will enhance the baseball experience for the players, their families, and the coaches by increasing the level of continuity in MYO. Beginning in 2008:

- Teams will be randomly formed for players entering T-1 and T-2
- Baseball teams from the T-2 level and older will remain intact
- Players and Coaches will have the opportunity to opt off their current team
- The number of registered coaches per team will be reduced to three adults

Team Formation

In previous years, players assigned to teams stayed together as a team within the league (i.e. – teams stayed together in the Minor League from Pony 1 to Pony 2) and then were randomly shuffled and assigned to new teams upon entering a new league (i.e. – Minor League players in Pony 2 were reshuffled to new teams when they moved up to the American division of the Major League). The result was that players and teams were together no more than 2 years.

Under the new system, MYO will randomly assign all players to teams in T1, and then randomly assign all players again to new teams in T2 (to allow players and parents to experience different coaching styles). However, once the T2 teams are formed, they will stay together as a team entering Pony 1 and remain together all the way through their time playing for MYO. We realize there will be changes on teams as players and coaches leave the MYO program or request to leave a team, but overall, the players will experience greater consistency within the MYO program. *Please note, based on the number of players that register for the 2008 season in the older Major League divisions with multiple age groups (i.e. National 11-13), teams may be merged in order to keep all players in their appropriate age group.*

Optioning Off a Team

All players (or their parents) and all coaches will be able to option off their current team when they register for the 2008 season. If a player options off the team, he will be randomly assigned to another team. If a coach options off the team, he/she can join up with other coaches who also opted off of a team or new coaches that sign up, or be randomly assigned to another team if space is available. If a coach chooses to leave the team, their child will go with them, but the rest of the team will be kept together if other coaches are available, otherwise the teams' players will be randomly assigned by the league commissioner. Please note, a coach can not request a player be taken off his/her team.

3 registered coaches (1 head coach + 2 assistants)

MYO's goal is to fully staff each team with coaches. By reducing the number of permitted assistant coaches, we expect to be able to fully staff more of our teams. Because of the continuity plan, teams that had four coaches in 2007 will not lose any coaches from their rosters in 2008. As always, additional parent participation is encouraged, particularly if a team with three or less needs coaches needs assistance during practices or games.

Questions or concerns

We value all of the volunteers and your opinions. If you have any questions, concerns or comments the best communication method is to email me at President@masonryouth.org.

Mike Mumma
President MYO