



PEQUOT LAKES DIAMOND CLUB ASSOCIATION PATRIOT TRAVEL BALL PHILOSOPHY

This letter is to familiarize you with the Pequot Lakes Diamond Club Association. If after reading this you still have questions, please call a member of the Association Board of Directors.

1. In order of priority, the Pequot Lakes Diamond Club Association shall promote the following goals:
 - To help youth in the program to develop positive attitudes about self-esteem, sportsmanship, and team play
 - To promote having fun while learning to play competitive ball
 - To field competitive teams that are able to win at a level in which they are placed
2. Pequot Lakes Diamond Club program is not intended to serve the needs of all youth interested in baseball or softball. The purpose is to give the player with a more advanced skill level at this time the opportunity to gain more experience than the Community Ed or the school program can offer them.
3. All coaches are unpaid volunteers who give their time and talents unselfishly. If you have complaints, please address them to the Association Board of Directors. All coaches and officers are trying to do what is right for The Diamond Club's program and we invite any parent or fan to come to the Association meetings and become involved.
4. The Association will furnish entry fees for tournaments (for up to 4 tournaments per team), hats, and balls and some other assorted equipment. The parent must pay for a jersey and any personal protective gear, furnish all transportation, motel rooms and any other expenses for out of town tournaments. The player and parent must make a serious commitment to The Diamond Club program for the player to succeed. This includes work at home, time in the batting cages (January-April), camps, and/or 1:1 coaching.
5. At least one parent or guardian must attend the Mandatory Parent Meeting before the start of the season. This will typically be held in April after registration closes. This meeting will cover expectations and allow time for each coach to meet individually with the team to discuss schedules and their expectations. The following information will be shared at the mandatory meeting:
 - Practice schedule (if not sooner)
 - Tournament schedule (if not sooner)
 - Volunteer opportunities
 - Philosophy of playing time for that grade level

MEETINGS WITH COACHES:

The head coach and/or PLDC association will meet with all coaches to discuss philosophy, facilities, personal, and equipment etc. Every year.



RATIONAL FOR MOVING PLAYERS UP A LEVEL OF COMPETITION:

- The player will get to play with a group of players of their own ability thereby increasing their own ability due to the increased competition.
- This player will not then "dominate" at the previous level, which allows the other players to more fully develop their own skills.
- Fill a position need: pitcher, catcher, etc.
- This move must be approved by the association and agreed upon by the coaches involved.

PHILOSOPHY OF PLAYING TIME AND MAKE-UP OF TEAMS:

Baseball:

9U – 1 team with 12-15 players on the team. An effort will be made so that everyone gets a chance to participate in tourney play. Not all players will play equal amounts of time. This simple exception allows that not everyone may be capable of or willing to play certain positions. If more than 15 players sign up for the team a possible "b" team may be formed. This team will play in a few summer invitational tournaments. This team will NOT play in a state tournament.

10U – 1 team with 12-15 players on the team. An effort will be made so that everyone gets a chance to participate in tourney play. Not all players will play equal amounts of time. This simple exception allows that not everyone may be capable of or willing to play certain positions. If more than 15 players try out for the team a possible "b" team may be formed from the players that were originally cut. This team will play in a few summer invitational tournaments. This team will NOT play in a state tournament.

11U - 1 team with 12-15 players on the team. An effort will be made so that everyone gets a chance to participate in tourney play. Not all players will play equal amounts of time. This simple exception allows that not everyone may be capable of or willing to play certain positions. If more than 15 players try out for the team a possible "b" team may be formed from the players that were originally cut. This team will play in a few summer invitational tournaments.

12U - 1 team with 12-15 players on the team. If more than 15 players sign up, there will be tryouts at this level. An effort will be made so that everyone gets a chance to participate in tourney play. Not all players will play equal amounts of time. This simple exception allows that not everyone may be capable of or willing to play certain positions. If more than 25 players try out for the team a possible "b" team may be formed from the players that were originally cut. This team will play in a few summer invitational tournaments.

13U-15U - 1 team with 12-15 players on the team. If more than 15 players sign up, there will be tryouts at this level. An effort will be made so that everyone gets a chance to participate in tourney play. Not all players will play equal amounts of time. This simple exception allows that not everyone may be capable of or willing to play certain positions. If more than 25 players try out for the team a possible "b" team may be formed from the players that were originally cut. This team will play in a few summer invitational tournaments.

Softball:

10U – 1 team with 12-15 players on the team. An effort will be made so that everyone gets a chance to participate in tourney play. Not all players will play equal amounts of time. This simple exception allows that not everyone may be capable of or willing to play certain positions. If more than 15 players sign up for the team a possible "b" team may be formed. This team will play in a few summer invitational tournaments.



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14U - 1 team with 12-15 players on the team. An effort will be made so that everyone gets a chance to participate in tourney play. Not all players will play equal amounts of time. This simple exception allows that not everyone may be capable of or willing to play certain positions. If more than 15 players try out for the team a possible “b” team may be formed from the players that were originally cut. This team will play in a few summer invitational tournaments. Depending on how many girls sign up, there is a possibility of 1-2 teams that play in a high school tournament and league that has 14u, 16U, and/or 18u players.

16U - 1 team with 12-15 players on the team. If more than 15 players sign up, there will be tryouts at this level. An effort will be made so that everyone gets a chance to participate in tourney play. Not all players will play equal amounts of time. This simple exception allows that not everyone may be capable of or willing to play certain positions. If more than 25 players try out for the team a possible “b” team may be formed from the players that were originally cut. This team will play in a few summer invitational tournaments. Depending on how many girls sign up, there is a possibility of 1-2 teams that play in a high school tournament and league that has 14u, 16U, and/or 18u players.

18U - 1 team with 12-15 players on the team. If more than 15 players sign up, there will be tryouts at this level. An effort will be made so that everyone gets a chance to participate in tourney play. Not all players will play equal amounts of time. This simple exception allows that not everyone may be capable of or willing to play certain positions. If more than 25 players try out for the team a possible “b” team may be formed from the players that were originally cut. This team will play in a few summer invitational tournaments. Depending on how many girls sign up, there is a possibility of 1-2 teams that play in a high school tournament and league that has 14u, 16U, and/or 18u players.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

Every effort should be made by the coaches to play every player the first day of a two-day tourney. Depending on the level of competition and tournament rules, coaches have discretion on who their rosters will be for bracket and championship play.

In a one-day tourney, the playing time should be observed in the context of the entire tourney. This may result in an instance where a player may not play or see limited playing time in a particular game but then that player's playing should be looked at in the context of the whole tournament experience.

MAKE-UP OF TEAMS WILL BE BASED ON:

- Ability
- Position needs
- Attitude and work ethic
- Practice attendance
- Behavior

This needs to be handled on an individual basis due to the fact that the coaches will not always have access to all the information involved. Coaches should contact the parents before any disciplinary action in these areas occur.



CONCERNS:

Lack of coaches at each level will sometimes determine the number of teams at each level, even if the player numbers may be sufficient.

Practice times may be inconsistent due to the lack of field space and cooperation and avoidance of any in-house practices or games. But, rest assured that coaches do their best to ensure that sufficient practice takes place.

The number of tournaments a player participates in will not always be equal. Also, parents and players need to understand that "B" teams will sometimes participate with the results not always positive in terms of the scores of the games, but the players are given the chance to play and improve.