



## AIRDRIE LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL

### RECOMMENDATIONS TO LEAGUE COACHES OF BATTING ORDER STRATEGY AND DEVELOPMENT FOR 11 AND 12 YEAR OLD PLAYERS

The League is committed to the overall development of all players in all positions at this age level, the League recommends that Coaches begin to assess their respective player's strengths and weaknesses at this level with respect to batting, as part of player development. The following is a guide for the batting line-up so that coaches will provide a consistent player development with all the teams in the League.

#### **Lead-off Batter:**

Shows good judgment of strike zone  
Shows patience in the batters box  
Shows tenacity as a good 2 strike hitter  
Swift runner and a good base stealer  
Ideally one of the smallest players (harder to strike-out with a smaller strike zone)

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Batter:**

Ability to hit and direct ball behind base runner  
Swift runner to first base after the hit  
Shows excellent bunting skills  
Ideally a left handed hitter

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Batter:**

Ideally the best power hitter on the team  
Good base runner  
Shows ability to hit under pressure (clutch hitter)  
Has the best line drive hit on the team

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Batter:**

Has exhibited the best RBI bat on the team  
Shows ability to be calm and stable in the box  
Shows ability to hit the ball consistently hard  
Ability to hit safe and often a home run hitter

#### **5<sup>th</sup> Batter:**

Identified as the second best RBI batter  
Ability to pull, push, or hit straight away

#### **6<sup>th</sup> Batter:**

Identified as being the 4<sup>th</sup> best power hitter  
Has second best qualities to Lead-off batter

#### **7<sup>th</sup> Batter:**

Equivalent to the 2<sup>nd</sup> batter qualities (not as consistent)  
Shows good bunting skills  
Ideally a left handed hitter

#### **8<sup>th</sup> Batter:**

A safe hitter, staying out of the double play  
Usually not as consistent as other hitters

#### **9<sup>th</sup> Batter:**

Typically the least consistent batter  
A good idea to train this player in bunting  
Sometimes is the rookie or in some Leagues would be the pitcher

**IMPORTANT: Baseball is as much of a game of strategy as it is skill. At this level of baseball development of strategy begins to enter into the outcome of the game. All positions in baseball are equally important and have a part to play on the team and the players need to know this. If it were not the case there would only be seven or eight players being fielded. Each player needs to understand that he or she can affect their position in the batting line-up at any time during the course of the season. Their position can change with good practice, hard work and focused determination, or the lack thereof.**