**Hock Towns**

Attleboro, Bellingham, Canton, Dedham, Easton, Foxboro, Franklin, Mansfield, Milton, Norfolk, North Attleboro, Norton, Norwood, Plainville, Sharon, Stoughton, Taunton, Walpole, Wrentham, \*Westwood

The Hock league now consists of 20 towns (assuming that Westwood is voted in). From my understanding, the Hock’s structure has not changed even though the organization is considerably bigger. The league needs to grow as our organization has grown. So the biggest group, U10, has the biggest issue to solve: How do we make the experience and competition better? We all know what has happened in the past - towns have underestimated their team, and some have over-estimated their teams or have not had a choice by going into a certain division. The size of towns and programs need to be considered. The problem is that in the “A” division as well as the “B” division, the disparity of teams from the best to the worst is large. This leads to our players and coaches getting frustrated and disenchanted with the games and the league. For those who have been on either side of this, you understand. What do players gain by destroying a team 15-0? What do players learn by getting crushed 0-15? In the following, there are 3 options. All of these are to foster better competition and make the experience better for all of our children, coaches, parents, and friends. Remember, we are talking about 8-11 year old kids.

**Option 1**

3 Divisions for U10 – A, B, C

The Object would be to have teams play the appropriate competition. There is also the potential for towns to add a team if they know what the competition will be appropriate, competitive and fun for all involved. The number of teams per group is irrelevant if the quality of games is better. Determining Which team goes in what division should depend on a number of factors – returning pitcher(s), returning players, age and grade breakdown, years/seasons of experience (including spring, summer, and fall), number of “club” players.

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| A Division – Highest level - Best competition | 2014 Teams would include: Attleboro, North Attleboro, Stoughton, Plainville, Walpole, Taunton, Norton, Sharon, Franklin |
| B Division used for teams that are on the bubble between A and B | 2014 Teams would include: Mansfield, Foxboro, Norfolk, Norwood, Bellingham, Dedham, Taunton B, Walpole B, Franklin B, Walpole B, Easton B, Plainville B, North Attleboro, Attleboro |
| C Division - either a U8 or a U10 developmental league | 2014 Teams would include: Norfolk, Norton, Norwood B, Sharon B, Foxboro B, Milton |

This is based on the team’s record, runs for, and runs against. This is just an illustration of what it would have looked like.

**Option 2**

Split up into 2 Divisions – North and South

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| **South** | **North** |
| Attleboro | Canton |
| Bellingham | Dedham |
| Franklin | Easton |
| Mansfield | Foxboro |
| Norfolk | Milton |
| North Attleboro | Norwood |
| Norton | Sharon |
| Plainville | Stoughton |
| Taunton | Walpole |
| Wrentham | \*Westwood |

Benefit – Geographic location for games for coaches, players, and parents to attend

With few exceptions, this splits the towns up by size of schools and programs. This can also lead to a different playoff format – South vs North. The downside is the number of teams you will have per division could be lopsided.

**Option 3**

Split the towns up by size of program

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| --- | --- |
| **Big** | **Little** |
| Attleboro | Bellingham |
| Franklin | Canton |
| Mansfield | Dedham |
| Norfolk | Easton |
| North Attleboro | Foxboro |
| Norton | Milton |
| Plainville | Norwood |
| Taunton | Sharon |
| Wrentham | Stoughton |
| Walpole | \*Westwood |

With the exception of Bellingham and Walpole and potentially another town or 2, this is very similar to the previous option.