



Ontario Baseball  
Association

# OBA Rep Division

## Procedures and Playing Rules

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### R1.01 GENERAL

- a. In addition to the provisions of the OBA By-Laws and the OBA Procedures and Playing Rules, rep play shall be governed by the provisions of the Procedures and Playing Rules of the Rep Division, which may not include any provision that conflicts with the OBA By-Laws or the OBA Procedures and Playing Rules.
- b. To the extent that there is any conflict between the OBA By-Laws, the OBA Procedures and Playing Rules and/or the Rep Procedures and Playing Rules, the OBA Procedures and Playing Rules shall prevail.
- c. The Rep Procedures and Playing Rules as shown in this document are intended as a general guide and cannot specifically cover each situation that may arise. Therefore, the Commissioner in regular or special meetings, with a quorum of the Council, will have the authority to interpret and decide to the best of their judgement with regard to all the circumstances or any specific case, any matter pertaining to any and all clauses contained herein. Their decision shall be final.
- d. The Rep Division acknowledges that the OBA Board of Directors is empowered to impose rule changes in the best interests of baseball as per paragraph A1.01(e) of the OBA Procedures and Playing Rules.
- e. Any Rep member association and/or officers of same, which fails to uphold the rulings and enforce the decisions of the OBA will leave said Rep Member Association, and/or officers open to suspension by the OBA.

### R1.02 REP DIVISION

- a. The Rep Division shall regulate competition throughout the province at the rep level, including provincial championships and championships to determine provincial representatives at national championships.
- b. The objects of the OBA shall be in order of priority:
  - i. To foster and improve baseball at all levels in the Province of Ontario.
  - ii. To protect and promote the mutual interests of the members.
  - iii. To institute and regulate competition for the Ontario championships.
  - iv. To institute and regulate competition for determining the Ontario representative(s) in the national or Canadian play-offs.

### R1.03 MEMBERSHIP

- a. Rep Members shall consist of such Affiliated Associations, Local Associations, and Direct Entries, which shall agree to abide by and comply with the OBA Procedures and Playing Rules and the Rep Procedures and Playing Rules. Members of the Rep Council, both those elected and appointed, Life Members, Honorary Members, Past Commissioners and Past Presidents shall also be Rep Members.
- b. The Rep Council shall have the power to accept individual teams where they are unable to secure grouping in any Affiliated Association. For purposes of the Rep Procedures and Playing Rules, the

term “Direct Entry” shall mean a team affiliating directly with the Rep Division and not through an Affiliated Association.

**Note:** A baseball association, which is a direct member of the Rep Division, will be known as an “Affiliated Association” and a baseball association, which is a direct member of an Affiliated Association, and an indirect member of the Rep Division, shall be known as a “Local Association”.

- c. Teams Eligible: To be eligible for Rep Play-offs, teams must represent a municipality or municipalities, or a portion thereof, within the boundaries of the Province of Ontario and must be made up of players who qualify under the residence rule.
- d. Players Eligible: To be eligible, all players must qualify under the residence rule. Former professional baseball players who have been re-instated by the Rep Division in accordance with [Rep Rule RP1.8] and athletes who are classified as professionals in other sports are eligible.
- e. Every Affiliated Association desirous of joining the Rep Division shall send to the OBA Office a completed application for membership, a list of its officers, and a copy of its by-laws.
- f. All teams of Local Associations of any classification desirous of entering the Rep Play-offs must affiliate through an Affiliated Association in their area or directly with the Rep Division where there is no Affiliated Association in their area.
- g. Teams of Local Associations must register with the Rep Division through the Affiliated Association in which territory they play their home games (“Home Affiliate”). Teams may be released to participate in a league schedule of another Affiliated Association (“League Affiliate”) but will be registered with and classified by the Home Affiliate. Released teams and their players will be subject to the rules and regulations of the League Affiliate. Released teams will be subject to the player release rules as set out by the Home Affiliate. Team releases must be in writing and there will be no charge for the release of any such team.
- h. No participant may be disqualified from participating in the Rep Division for reason of race, religion, gender, identity, or orientation.

#### R1.04 DIRECT ENTRY GUARANTEE

- i. Each Direct Entry must pay a guaranteed deposit of \$500.00 to be returned only if the Direct Entry completes its obligations as stated in the OBA By-Laws and the Rep Division Procedures and Playing Rules.

#### R2.01 REP COUNCIL STRUCTURE

- a. The operations of the Rep Division shall be handled by the Rep Council. The members of the Rep Council shall be the Rep Commissioner, Rep Deputy Commissioner, the Rep Immediate Past Commissioner, 6 Rep Councillors, up to 3 Councillors appointed by the Rep Commissioner to Rep Council, all Life Members, Honorary Members, Past Commissioners and 1 appointed Rep Council Member from each Affiliated Association to be appointed by that Affiliated Association.

- b. The Rep Operational Committee shall be appointed by the Rep Commissioner from members of the Rep Council and shall have authority to conduct the day-to-day business of the the Rep Division between Council meetings. Such business shall be reported to the Rep Council at the next meeting of the Council.
- c. The members of the Rep Operational Committee shall consist of (1) the Rep Commissioner, (2) the Rep Vice Commissioner, and (3) at least two, but as many other members of Rep Council as the Rep Commissioner considers appropriate. The President and Vice President of the OBA are considered ex-officio members of the Rep Operational Committee.
- d. For a period of two years following the election of a new Rep Commissioner, the Immediate Past Commissioner will be appointed as an additional member of the Rep Operational Committee. After that two-year period, the Immediate may or may not be one of the persons appointed to the Rep Operational Committee pursuant to R1.03(d).
- e. The Rep Commissioner may appoint, from time to time, 1 or more committees of the Rep Council as required to consider such matters as may be dealt with by the Council and generally act on behalf of the Rep Council between meetings of the Rep Council. Such committee(s) shall be comprised of 1 or more members of the Rep Council as the Rep Commissioner may deem fit.
- f. The Rep Council shall meet once a month during the season when business warrants. 7 members shall form a quorum for meetings of the Rep Council.
- g. Any member of the Rep Council (excluding Life Members, Honorary Members, Past Presidents and Rep Past Commissioners) who fails to attend 3 consecutive meetings, without reasons that in the opinion of the Rep Council are satisfactory, shall have automatically tendered his/her resignation. After 2 consecutive misses, this detail shall be brought to his/her attention by a letter from the OBA Office. Should the third consecutive miss occur, except for a member appointed by an Affiliated Association, the Rep Council will appoint a replacement. If the member was an appointee from an Affiliated Association, that Affiliated Association shall be requested to appoint the replacement and must notify the OBA Office of such appointment within 3 weeks.
- h. The President and Vice President of the OBA are deemed to be voting ex-officio members of Rep Council.

## R2.02 DUTIES OF COUNCILLORS

- a. The Rep Council shall be responsible for the overall direction of the Rep Division.
- b. The Rep Council shall approve all policies of the Rep Division.
- c. OBA Past Presidents, who served in Office prior to 2017, will have all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of a Rep Past Commissioner.

## R2.03 MEETINGS

- a. The Rep Annual Division Meeting (which term shall include a Rep Annual and Special Division Meeting) shall be held in conjunction with the Select Annual Division Meeting.

- b. No delegate shall be permitted to speak or vote at a Rep Annual Division Meeting or Rep Special Division Meeting unless he/she has filed with the Secretary, a certificate of his/her appointment, signed by the Secretary of the Affiliated Association or Direct Entry which he/she represents.
- c. Annual member's fees for the then current period October 1st to September 30th must be paid by an Affiliated Association or Direct Entry before that Affiliated Association's or Direct Entry's delegate(s) shall have a voice or vote at Annual Meetings or Special Meetings of the Rep Division.
- d. **Special Meetings** - The Rep Commissioner may call a special general meeting of the Rep Division ("Special Division Meeting") at any time but must do so at the request of 3 Affiliated Associations. At all Rep Special Division Meetings, 8 delegates shall form a quorum. 21 days' notice of such meeting must be given and the reason for such meeting.
- e. Affiliated Associations must operate the previous year under the jurisdiction of the OBA before having the right of voice at a Rep Annual Division Meeting or Special Division Meeting.
- f. At a Rep Annual Division Meeting or Special Division Meeting, each Affiliated Association shall be entitled to the following votes:

Affiliated Associations with more than 24 teams	4 votes
Affiliated Associations with 15 to 24 teams	3 votes
Affiliated Associations with 6 to 14 teams	2 votes
Affiliated Associations with 1 to 5 teams	1 vote

- g. No delegate from an Affiliated Association in arrears to the OBA in any way, shall be permitted to vote at a Rep Annual Division Meeting providing notice of such arrears has been given in writing to the Affiliated Association a month prior to the Rep Annual Division Meeting.
- h. A delegate may only vote as a representative of the Affiliated Association through which he/she is registered.
- i. **Electing Officers and Councillors**
  - i. The Rep Commissioner will be elected at the OBA Annual Meeting in accordance with the OBA By-laws.
  - ii. Nominations for Rep Deputy Commissioner and Rep Councillors shall be submitted annually to the OBA Office by a deadline established by the Board of Directors. Any Rep Member in good standing may submit a nomination.
  - iii. OBA shall at the Rep Annual Division Meeting provide delegates with a ballot for the election of Rep Deputy Commissioner. The candidate receiving the most votes will be declared elected.
  - iv. OBA shall at the Rep Annual Division Meeting provide delegates with a ballot for election of 6 Rep Councillors. All eligible voting delegates must mark their ballots for 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 of the candidates nominated and where such is not done, the ballot shall be considered spoiled and not counted. The 6 candidates receiving the most votes shall be declared elected.

- v. Each person nominated for Rep Deputy Commissioner or Rep Councillor shall be given a maximum of two minutes to speak about their candidacy. Nominees may decline to speak.

## R2.04 AMENDMENTS

- a.
  - i. An amendment to the Rep Division Procedures and Playing Rules may only be made at a Rep Annual Division Meeting or Rep Special Division Meeting and must be approved by a majority of the votes cast in respect of such amendments in order to carry. Notice of any proposed amendment must be filed with the OBA Office in writing by October 25<sup>th</sup> prior to the Rep Annual Meeting and the OBA Office shall then electronically forward a copy to each Affiliated Association no later than November first, before the Rep Annual Meeting. Amendments passed and carried shall become effective at the conclusion of the Rep Annual Meeting at which they are passed.
  - ii. An amendment may only be proposed by the Rep Council, an Affiliated Association, or the OBA Board of Directors.
- b. At a Rep Annual Division Meeting, the Rep Council may propose a resolution for an experiment that differs from the Rep Procedures and Playing Rules. This experiment may be put into effect as an experiment for no more than 2 years. In order to be adopted, the resolution must be approved by 2/3 of the votes cast in respect of the resolution and would be subject to annual review by the Rep Council. Any references in the Rep Division Procedures and Playing Rules that are contrary to the experiment are suspended while the experiment is in progress. Once the time period for the experiment has expired, unless an amendment to the Rep Division Procedures and Playing Rules is adopted with respect to the subject matter of the experiment, the resolution shall be of no further force and effect and the suspension of any references in the Rep Division Procedures and Playing Rules shall be removed.
- c. **Rules of Order of Rep Annual Division Meeting or Rep Special Division Meeting:** The following are the regulations of the government of the Rep Division during the time of business, and the business shall be disposed of in the following order:
  - i. No motion shall be received unless properly moved and seconded. Said motion shall not be open for discussion until so stated by the presiding officer.
  - ii. Except for motions requiring a special majority either pursuant to the Rep Division Procedures and Playing Rules, all motions shall be decided by a majority of votes cast. When the presiding officer sees fit to exercise their right to vote on any question before the meeting, they shall, from the chair, be at liberty to explain their vote, and any question on which there is an equality of votes in consequence of the presiding Councillor's vote, shall be deemed to be negative.
  - iii. No delegate shall speak twice on the same motion without the permission of the chair, unless in explanation, or the mover in reply.



- iv. A delegate desiring to speak or submit a motion shall rise and remain standing until recognized by the chair. In speaking, a delegate shall respectfully address the chair and shall confine their remarks to the motion under debate. The delegate shall not be interrupted unless upon a point of order. Non-delegates may be permitted to speak at the discretion of the chair.
- v. No amendment to a motion shall be in order after an amendment to the amendment.
- vi. When a motion is under debate, no motion shall be entertained except to lay on the table or amend and these motions shall take precedence in the order named.
- vii. An amendment, which entirely changes the subject of the original motion, shall not be entertained as an amendment, or substituted for the motion under debate.
- viii. After the motion has been stated by the presiding officer it becomes the property of the Rep Division but may be withdrawn at any time prior to amendment, unless objected to by a delegate.
- ix. There shall be no debate upon any question after it has been put by the presiding Councillor.
- x. When a vote is called, it shall be taken by each delegate holding up their right hand. The presiding officer shall declare the vote on all questions, and should their declaration be disputed, they may require the delegates voting “Yea” or “Nay” to rise and stand until the number voting for the affirmative and the negative be counted by the presiding Councillor.

### R3.01 PROVINCIAL REGISTRATION FEES

- a. A Provincial Registration Fee as determined by the OBA Board of Management and Rep Council, will be paid by the Affiliated Association or Direct Entry, as the case may be, to the OBA for each of its rep teams.
- b. The Provincial Registration Fee must be paid by July 8<sup>th</sup> to the OBA Office. Failure to pay the Provincial Registration Fee shall result in the team(s) not being classified.

### R4.01 BOUNDARIES

- a. The status of all Affiliated Associations is defined as territorial rights, as set forth in Appendix B. The boundaries of each have been approved and set by the Rep Council. Any new baseball associations, which do not conflict with any established Affiliated Association, which desire to affiliate with the Rep Division, must first be approved by the Rep Council.
- b. Two Local Associations in different Affiliated Associations cannot amalgamate across Affiliated Association boundaries without the written permission of both Affiliated Associations and the approval of OBA.
- c. All applications by Direct Entries for direct entry must be approved by the Rep Council before being accepted.

- d. The Rep Council shall have the power to mediate boundary disputes and make changes to Affiliated Association boundaries where such changes are deemed to be in the best interests of baseball.

#### R5.01 PBLO RESIDENCY FRANCHISE

**NOTE: the deletion of this section effective for the 2025 season was approved at the AGM held November 17, 2023**

- a. Franchises in the PBLO shall declare themselves to operate as either Residency Franchises or Non-Residency Franchises. A Residency Franchise is one that determines to operate in accordance with the Rep Division's residence and release requirements. A Residency Franchise will have the territorial rights of the Local Association, Direct Entry or Affiliated Association which is operating the Franchise. A Non-Residency Franchise is one that determines not to operate in accordance with Rep Division's residence and release requirements. A Non-Residency Franchise shall have no territorial rights.

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#### R6.01 HOUSEHOLD COUNTS

The OBA shall offer for annual competition the following Rep Play-offs:

**Pilot approved for 2025 and 2026:**

- a. The OBA shall offer for annual competition the following Rep Play-Offs:

Category	30,001+ Households	30,000 and Fewer Households
8U	AAA, AA, A	B
9U	AAA, AA, A	B, C, D
10U	AAA, AA, A	B
11U	AAA, AA, A	B, C, D
12U	AAA, AA, A	B
13U	AAAA, AAA, AA, A	B, C, D
14U	AAA, AA, A	B
15U	AAAA, AAA, AA, A	B, C, D
16U	AAA, AA, A	
18U	AAA, AA, A	B, C
Category	All Households	
16U Girls	AAA	
22U	AAA, AA, A, B	
Women	AAA	
Senior	AAA, AA, A, B, C	

- b. Household numbers are used only to determine categories teams are eligible to participate in. Teams may request higher classification if so desired. A team at a lower household category may be classified at the classification of a larger household category at its request.
- c. For purposes of classification, the number of households will be based on Canada Post data. Each Affiliated Association must define which postal codes are contained within their Local Associations' boundaries. Urban centres will use the FSA (first three digits of the postal code) and rural centres will use all 6 digits of the postal code. The information must be filed with the OBA Office by April 1, 2012, and updated as necessary every three years thereafter. If an Affiliated Association fails to comply with this requirement, the Competition Committee will decide whether or not the Affiliated Association's teams will be eligible to be classified, and if so, will determine the classification of the teams. The Competition Committee's decision is final and may not be appealed.
- d. The number of households added to the household count of a team by an import player(s) will be determined as follows:
  - i. Each urban postal code will add the highest count associated with the LCW, LB, SS, RR, or GD (as defined by Canada Post) for the FSA in which the players reside.
  - ii. Each rural postal code will add the highest count associated with the LCW, LB, SS, RR or GD (as defined by Canada Post) for the postal code in which the players reside.
  - iii. The import player household count adder will be calculated as the average of the household counts determined in the prior two steps. (Note: this will determine a single number that will be used as an adder for each player residing outside of the Local Association postal code(s), regardless of whether they reside in an urban or rural postal code. This number will be revised every 3 years by March 31st, in the same year that Local Association postal codes are eligible for changing).
  - iv. The import player household count adder will be recalculated with the update of the Canada Post information on which it is based.
  - v. Canada post data will be updated annually by March 31st.
  - vi. Where two or more Local Associations within the same Affiliated Association combine their players to field a single team, they may apply to have the combined household counts considered as the base amount for the Local Association registering the team, rather than applying the import adder count for each player from the other Local Association(s) involved. Application must be made to the Classification Committee by June 1st. The addition of the household counts from the neighbouring Local Association(s) must be applied to all teams classified by the designated Local Association.
- e. If any Local Association feels it has a circumstance that does not fall under the provisions of R4.01a) to d), it has the right to appeal to the Rep Division.

## R6.02 CLASSIFICATION (2025 Pilot)

- a. Teams must submit their Classification to the OBA Office on or before April 28th annually, or 5 business days prior to the team's first game of the season, whichever is later. The method of classification shall be adding the classification to their roster ID in the OBA-approved rostering system (ie: 13U AAA). Failure to submit such information by the deadline shall result in the applicable team(s) not being permitted to participate in OBA Championships.
- b. Once a team classifies for the season, they will not be permitted to lower their classification, however they may choose to classify higher if they wish.
- c. The Rep Operations Committee shall determine the legitimacy of all teams' classifications.

- d. Teams must declare their intention to participate in the OBA Championship that they classified in at the start of the season no later than June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- e. The OBA Rep Commissioner shall appoint a Competition Committee to review the number of teams desirous to play in the OBA Championship. The Competition Committee will meet on the weekend following the second Monday in July to review and ensure that teams are entered for the classification that they submitted at the start of the season. Teams may not be reclassified by the Competition Committee.
- f. The Competition Committee shall present the final classifications and recommendations for determining additional Play-Off spots to the Rep Council at the July Rep Council meeting.
- g. Teams not permitted to classify by an Affiliated Association

Affiliated Associations do not have the authority to prohibit a rostered Local Association team from participating in the Provincial Championships except for disciplinary purposes. Disciplinary decisions to remove a team from competing for a Provincial Championship are appealable to the Commissioner of Rep Baseball via the Commissioner's Appeal process.

- h. Where required for classification purposes, the Affiliated Association must submit to the Classification Committee (on a form approved by the Rep Council) the schedule and results of the teams in any league play, the won-lost-tied record, and any tournament results that the teams may have participated in. Failure to comply with these rules will result in the team not being permitted to classify.
- i. Once classifications have been approved by the Rep Council, no further changes will be allowed.
- j. In any classification where less than 4 teams classify, no Rep Play-off will be held, and those teams which would have been classified at that level shall have the option of moving up one classification to participate in a Rep Play-off. Where they elect not to move up, they will not be classified.
- k. Except for Rep Play-offs for 8U, 9U and Female Baseball, the number of teams allowed to participate at each classification shall be one per Affiliated Association plus the tournament host. In any series where the number of Affiliated Associations participating plus the tournament host is less than 12, the number of teams which will be allowed to participate would be up to 12 including the tournament host. The Rep Council shall determine the manner of selection of the additional teams to make up the 12-team tournament. If there are less than 12 teams classified at a classification, all teams shall be permitted to participate.
- l. At 8U, 9U and Female Baseball, the number of teams allowed to participate at each classification shall be one per Affiliated Association plus the tournament host. In any series where the number of Affiliated Associations participating plus the host is less than 16 teams, the number of teams which will be allowed to participate would be up to 16 including the tournament host. The Rep Council shall determine the manner of the selection of the additional teams to make up the 16-team tournament. If there are less than 16 teams classified at a classification, all teams may be permitted to participate.
- m. At Senior the following limits apply to the number of teams for each Rep Play-off Tournament:
  - i. Senior AAA shall be unlimited; and
  - ii. Senior AA and below shall be limited to 12 teams, with no more than 2 teams coming from any one Affiliated Association. Additional teams may be added from an Affiliated Association to bring the tournament to a maximum of 12 teams including the host.
  - iii. Except at Senior AAA and Senior AA, the champions in any category shall be classified in the next high category the following year.

- n. The Rep Council shall decide annually the method by which the winner of each Rep Play-off shall be declared. This method shall consist of one of the following:
  - i. home and home style Rep playoffs; or
  - ii. a double loss knock-out tournament with a minimum of 6 teams scheduled to be held no later than the Labour Day weekend; or
  - iii. a round robin tournament; or
  - iv. a combination.
- o. No player may participate with more than 1 team in any 1 series.
- p. Any team classified at the Rep classification meeting must participate in all its Rep Play-offs. If a team fails to fulfil its commitment a fee of 1.5 times the entry fee for that tournament will be assessed. Local Associations and Affiliated Associations shall be responsible for ensuring payment of such fines assessed against their teams.
- q. In order to be classified, a team must have played and reported a minimum of 5 games against other OBA Rep rostered teams and those games must be documented in the Pitch Count app or on the TCR as required.
- r. Except at 18U AAA, at each age category where the winner of the National Qualifier Tournament is not deemed a Rep Play-off Champion, the winner of the National Qualifier Tournament shall be granted an automatic entry into the Rep Play-off Tournament for which teams entering the National Qualifier Tournament are classified. The National Qualifier Tournament winners will not be considered the representative of the Affiliated Association to which it belongs, and the Affiliated Association shall be entitled to send another of its teams as its representative. National Qualifier Tournament winners must declare their intentions to the OBA Office and the Rep Play-off Tournament host by August 15.
- s. For 8U, 9U and Girls Baseball, the OBA Play-off Tournament format shall be at the discretion of the Rep Council each year.
- t. Where several municipalities or Local Associations of C or lower classifications desire to compete in open tournaments at the A, AA, and AAA level, they may choose to register an Affiliated Association approved team for that purpose. Such teams shall not be eligible for Rep Play-offs and National Qualifier Tournaments, and players on such a team are obliged to honour commitments to their Local Association first.

## R7.01 CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

- a. Each Affiliated Association in order to participate in the Rep Playoffs must be prepared to enter the Rep Play-offs on the dates as set by the Rep Council (for all series) but in no case shall that date be later than the fourth Saturday in August.

Note: Labour Day weekend (except in Senior, 22U, 18U, 9U, 8U and Girl's Baseball) is the recommended dates for Tournament style Rep Playoffs.

- b. No Rep Play-off may be ordered after October 5th. The Series Chair has the power to order a tournament to be held to declare a winner, if deemed necessary.
- c. Where exceptional circumstances arise in Affiliated Associations, only the Rep Council or its committee(s) are empowered to extend the date of declaring a winner. The request for extension must be at the OBA Office at least 2 weeks prior to the Rep Play-off date.

- d. Girls Baseball Rep Play-offs will be scheduled at least 1 week but not more than 2 weeks prior to Labour Day weekend.
- e. All 8U and 9U Rep Play-offs will be scheduled on a weekend prior to the Labour Day weekend, as determined by Rep Council.
- f. All 18U Rep Play-Offs will be scheduled 2 weeks after the August Civic Holiday weekend.
- g. Except at 22U AAA which will be the 22U National Qualifier Tournament, all 22U Rep Play-offs will be scheduled 1 week after the August Civic Holiday weekend.
- h. Except at Senior AAA which will be the Senior National Qualifier Tournament, all Senior Rep Play-offs will be scheduled on a weekend other than Labour Day weekend, as determined by Rep Council.
- i. Rep Play-off tournament schedules shall be published at least 2 weeks prior to the start date of the tournament (with the exception of Senior which shall be 3 weeks prior to the start of the tournament) as defined in R7.01 a) through h). Failure to meet this deadline will result in the assessment of a \$200 fine to the tournament host.

## R7.02 CONVENORS

- a. Affiliated Associations are to recommend Rep Convenors for approval by the Rep Council. The Rep Council will reserve the right to appoint Rep Convenors for districts where Direct Entries participate in the Rep Division.
- b. In any Rep Play-off game, no playing member of any team involved in the series will be allowed to act as a convenor or umpire.
- c. Only a registered Rep Convenor will act as the convenor at Rep Play-off games.
- d. In the case of the absence of a Rep Convenor, the umpire-in-chief shall act as the convenor in order for the game to begin.
- e. At the request of Affiliated Associations, the Rep Division will hold regional meetings to instruct Rep Convenors on proper procedures for running Rep Play-offs.
- f. In addition to or in place of any suspension authorized by section R4.01 or this section R6.01, any person or organization violating any of the provisions of section R4.01 may be subject to fine or other sanction as determined appropriate.

## R7.03 VISITING TEAM EXPENSES

The visiting teams shall pay their own travelling expense.

## R8.01 SPECIAL PLAYING RULES COMMITTEE

- a. For the purposes of R8.01, playing rules shall include RP2, RP3, RP4, RP5, RP6, RP7, RQ1, and RQ2.
- b. The Rep Division Playing Rules shall be Designated RP followed by the rule number.
- c. Notwithstanding anything else in this section, any playing rule change approved which involves changes to playing equipment (including but not limited to baseball bats, gloves, helmets uniforms, etc) shall not take affect for one full calendar year after approval.
- d. Proposed changes to playing rules may be submitted by:

- i. A member of Rep Council,
  - ii. An Affiliated Association,
  - iii. A Senior Advisory Committee,
  - iv. The OBA Board of Directors
- e. No later than June 1st annually, the Rep Commissioner shall announce the date for the Special Playing Rules Approval meeting for the following year. This meeting shall be held no earlier than October 1st and no later than January 31st.
- f. All proposed changes must be submitted to the OBA Office no later than 35 days prior to the Special Playing Rules Approval Meeting.
- g. All proposed rule changes shall be distributed to all Affiliated Associations and Rep Council Members no later than 30 days prior to the Special Playing Rules Approval Meeting.
- h. The Rep Playing Rules Committee shall be comprised of:
  - i. The Rep Commissioner (Chair)
  - ii. The Rep Deputy Commissioner
  - iii. All Rep Councillors (elected and appointed)
  - iv. The OBA Supervisor of Umpires (or designate)
  - v. The OBA Coach & Player Development Chair (or designate)
  - vi. The OBA Safe Sport Chair (or designate)
  - vii. The Senior Advisory Chair (or designate)
  - viii. Each Affiliated Association in good standing (as of the previous Rep AGM) shall nominate one person to the Rep Playing Rules Committee
- i. No later than two weeks prior to the Special Playing Rules Meeting, Affiliated Associations shall declare their representative to the Committee who may not be the same as their Affiliate-appointed Rep Councillor.
- j. Each member of the Rep Playing Rules Committee shall receive one vote and the member must be present at the meeting in order to vote. Proxy votes are not permitted.
- k. Quorum at the Rep Special Playing Rules Meeting shall be ten members of the Rep Playing Rules Committee.
- l. Amendments to the Rep Division Special Playing Rules must be approved by a majority of the votes cast in respect of such amendments in order to carry. with the exception of rules relating to equipment as noted in section R8.01(c), amendments to the Rep Special Playing Rules Meeting unless otherwise stated in the amendment.

#### R8.02 SPECIAL PLAYING RULES COMMITTEE

- a. The Rep Commissioner shall appoint a Senior Chair to oversee the Senior Advisory Committee.
- b. The Senior Advisory Committee shall be comprised of Senior-aged representatives from various programs across the Province.
- c. The Senior Advisory Committee shall annually review playing rules applicable to Senior baseball within their respective classifications and submit proposed rule changes specifically relating to Senior baseball.

- d. All proposed Senior rule changes must be submitted to the OBA Office no later than 35 days prior to the Rep Special Playing Rules Meeting.
- e. Proposed Senior rules changes submitted by the Senior Advisory Committee shall be considered by the Rep Playing Rules Committee at the Special Playing Rules Meeting annually. The Senior Advisory Committee does not have veto power over a rule change approved by the Rep Playing Rules Committee.

## Rep Rule Book: Playing Rules

### RP1.1 AGE AND CATEGORY

To be eligible to play in a particular age category, a player must be born during the year indicated beside such category or during any subsequent year:

CATEGORY/SERIES	AGE OF PLAYER AS OF DECEMBER 31 <sup>st</sup> OF THE CALENDAR YEAR
8U	Not older than 8 years of age but not younger than 6 as of December 31 <sup>st</sup>
9U	Not older than 9 years of age
10U	Not older than 10 years of age
11U	Not older than 11 years of age
12U	Not older than 12 years of age
13U/13U Girls	Not older than 13 years of age
14U	Not older than 14 years of age
15U	Not older than 15 years of age
16U/16U Girls	Not older than 16 years of age
18U	Not older than 18 years of age
22U	Not older than 22 years of age
Senior/Women's	Unlimited but not younger than 17 as of December 31 <sup>st</sup>

### RP1.2 BIRTH RECORDS

- a. All players 21 years of age and under must produce a birth record the first time they register with OBA. Only birth certificates, passports, citizenship cards or driver's licenses will be accepted as birth records. In the case of Affiliated Associations having their own registrar and having the approval of the OBA, it is not necessary to send birth records to the OBA Office if such birth records are provided to the Affiliated Association's registrar and will be recorded by the registrar. For Affiliated Associations not having their own registrar or for Direct Entries, when sending birth records to the OBA Office, they must be listed, and a copy of the list included with the birth records. Upon receipt of a birth record, it will be recorded in the OBA Office.
- b. Players who cannot procure a birth record may sign a team roster upon producing a statutory declaration sworn by their parent or guardian establishing their age; the same to be accompanied by a certificate of a solicitor or notary public.



### RP1.3 PLAYERS TO QUALIFY UNDER RESIDENCE RULE

- a. The basic premise of the Rep Division's residence rule is that players are to play with the Local Association where they reside.
- b. Players must establish residence within the Local Association on or before June 30<sup>th</sup> of the playing year. Exception: a player, who (1) maintains Canadian citizenship, (2) has been a member of a Rep Local Association or Direct Entry for at least one year prior, (3) continues to be a member of the same Rep Local Association or Direct Entry, and (4) for any reason is living outside of the Province of Ontario, may continue to register with that Local Association or Direct Entry.
- c. Individuals may be granted permission by the Rep Registrar to participate in Rep play. Cases will be dealt with on an individual basis (i.e., exchange students).
- d. Affiliated Associations must establish territorial boundaries for Local Associations within the Affiliated Association. Affiliated Associations may also set policies applicable within their Affiliated Association. A copy of the boundaries and any related policies must be filed with Baseball Ontario. The Rep Division will consider the most recent copies filed by the Affiliated Association in any dispute. The Rep Division may, in its discretion, choose to not follow the Affiliated Association policy where it conflicts with the OBA Procedures and Playing Rules and/or the Procedures and Playing Rules of the Rep Division or the best interests of Baseball Ontario.
- e. In areas where no Local Association exists, the Affiliated Association may set policy. In the absence of such a policy, The Rep Division shall apply the following policy: The player may play for any team in the Affiliated Association without a release.
- f. In areas where there is a Local Association, but the Local Association does not have a team at the particular series, the Affiliated Association may set policy. In the absence of such a policy, The Rep Division shall apply the following policy: The player may play for any team in the Affiliated Association without a release. For the purposes of this rule, minor (e.g., 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U) is not defined as a separate series from major (e.g., 9U, 11U, 13U, 15U, 18U). If a combined minor/major program is offered by a Local Association, then the Local Association is considered to have a team at the particular series. The player is expected to return to his/her Local Association, unless a release is obtained pursuant to RP1.5.
- g. A player in the circumstances of e) or f) may play for a team in another Affiliated Association without a release where such team is the team closest to his/her place of residence. Closest team shall be interpreted as the distance from the player's home to the relevant teams' home baseball diamond as the crow flies.
- h. Where a Local Association has more than 1 team operating in the same series, the Local Association shall set policy and/or boundaries for such teams. The Local Association shall file a copy of such policy and/or boundaries with the Affiliated Association and Baseball Ontario.
- i. Effective for the 2025 season: Players may try out for any AAAA program operating within the Province of Ontario regardless of their residency without a release. Should the player be successful in making the team, no release is required.
- j. Effective for the 2025 season: Non-High-Performance (NHP) Playing rights for non-AAAA programs are retained by the Local Association within which the player resides or the OBA Rep team with which the player was last rostered. For greater clarity, if a player from Brampton tries

out for the Markham AAAA program and does not successfully make the team, that player must play in Brampton or obtain a release.

#### RP1.4 PLAYERS CHANGING RESIDENCE

- a. Baseball Ontario recognizes that families move. As set out in RP1.3b), players must establish residence prior to June 30<sup>th</sup> of the playing season.
- b. In split family situations (i.e., the parents are divorced or separated), players 18 years of age and younger shall be deemed to reside where the parent(s) having custody rights reside.
- c. Baseball Ontario does not condone moves of convenience or falsified family splits designed to bypass the release process.
- d. Baseball Ontario, when considering the legitimacy of the family move or family split, may have regard to a number of factor(s), including, but not limited to the following:
  - i. a statement from the parent(s) outlining that they actually live at the stated address;
  - ii. a copy of a rental agreement or proof of ownership of the residence;
  - iii. a driver's license with the stated address;
  - iv. the name and address of the school the player attends;
  - v. a separation agreement or divorce decree outlining the custody and access arrangements of the player; and/or
  - vi. Canada Revenue Agency Marital Status Change Form – RC 65

#### RP1.5 PLAYERS CHANGING TEAMS/RELEASE/TRANSFER POLICY

- a. Players are only allowed to be registered with one team at any time. Players registered with one team must be properly released before registering with a second team. This applies to all series.
- b. A player's playing rights are held by: (i) the Local Association(s) where they reside as set forth in RP1.3 and RP1.4; and (ii) the Local Association where they played the previous season if the player obtained all necessary releases under this section RP1.5. At the Affiliated Association level, a player's playing rights are held by the Affiliated Association(s) where they reside as set forth RP1.3 and RP1.4.
- c. Before a player may participate in a practice, game, tryout, evaluation, or other baseball activity with a team that does not currently hold the player's playing rights, the player must obtain the appropriate authorization as specified below.
- d. Where a player wishes to participate in another team's out-of-province game or tournament and is registered with the Local Association that holds their playing rights, then permission from the Local Association and the Affiliated Association are required.
- e. Where a player desires to register with a Direct Entry or Local Association that does not hold their playing rights, the player must obtain:
  - i. a release from each Local Association that hold their playing rights as set out in RP1.5 b); and
  - ii. a release from the Affiliated Association where the player resides, if they desire to register with a Direct Entry or Local Association outside of the Affiliated Association where they

reside.

The request for a release must be in writing and the granting or refusal of a release shall be in writing authorized by the current management of the Direct Entry, Local Association or Affiliated Association involved. The foregoing does not apply at 22U or Senior where no release is required, and a player may sign with a team that does not hold their playing rights without a release as long as there is no equipment, uniform or financial obligation owing to their previous team.

- f. Where a player desires to participate in a tryout, evaluation, practice, or other baseball activity with a team that does not currently hold the player's playing rights, the player must obtain the releases required by RP1.5e).
- g. Release requests must be responded to and adjudicated by the Local Association or Affiliated Association, as the case may be, within 14 days of receipt. The Local Association or Affiliated Association may extend this due date by an additional 14 days should more information be required and must do so in writing to the person requesting the release. Should the request not be responded to within these parameters, the release will be automatically denied.
- h. Where a Local Association or Direct Entry grants a player a release, such release is valid and remains in full force and effect so long as the player continues to play for the Local Association or Direct Entry with which the player registered on the basis of having been granted such release.
- i. All releases must be in writing and cannot be conditional.
- j. Any player, for whom a Local Association is not prepared to offer a spot on one of the Local Association's OBA teams, is deemed to be released. The Local Association is required to provide a written release upon request by the player.
- k. Any player, who has not been played by his/her team in 3 or more consecutive games, has the right to appeal to the OBA Technical Committee should the player's team refuse to release the player.
- l. Releases shall not be valid until filed with the OBA Office.

## RP1.6 RELEASE APPEALS

- a. Where a player has been denied a release under RP1.5 by a Local Association, the player has the right to appeal in writing the Local Association's refusal to the Affiliated Association.
- b. The Affiliated Association will make a decision to grant or deny the release. The Affiliated Association's decision is to be in writing.
- c. Either the player or the Local Association may appeal the Affiliated Association's decision to the OBA Technical Committee. No appeal may be made until the Affiliated Association has made its decision. The appeal must include all evidence and correspondence submitted to the Local Association and/or the Affiliated Association and copies of all decisions made by the Local Association and Affiliated Association.
- d. The OBA Technical Committee will establish the time and place of the appeal hearing, which will be held within 30 days of receiving the written appeal and all documents required in RP1.6 c).

- e. The player (and/or his/her parent(s) or guardian(s)) and the Direct Entry or Local Association and/or Affiliated Association must be present in person at the hearing to provide evidence in support of their position.
- f. Failure to appear may result in a default decision. The decision of the OBA Technical Committee shall be final.

## RP1.7 OFFENSES

- a. Where a player participates in a practice, game, tryout, evaluation, or other baseball activity with a team that does not currently hold the player's playing rights without the authorization(s) required by RP1.5, the player is subject to suspension by OBA.
- b. Any coach or manager, who allows a player to participate in any practice, game, tryout, evaluation, or other baseball activity with a team that does not currently hold the player's playing rights without the authorization(s) required by RP1.5, is subject to suspension by OBA.
- c. No player, coach or manager may approach any player for whom their Local Association or Direct Entry does not hold the playing rights with the intention of securing said player for their Local Association or Direct Entry. Violation of this rule will leave the player, coach, or manager subject to suspension by OBA.
- d. Where a director, officer, employee or other member of a Local Association or Direct Entry (who is not a player, coach and/or manager) approaches any player for whom their Local Association or Direct Entry does not hold the playing rights with the intention of securing said player for their Local Association or Direct Entry, then such violation will leave the Local Association or Direct Entry open to a fine of up to \$1000.
- e. In addition to or in place of any suspension authorized by this section RP1.7, any person or organization violating any of the provisions of section RP1.7 may be subject to fine or other sanction as determined appropriate by the Technical Committee.

## RP1.8 PLAYERS MAY ADVANCE TO HIGHER SERIES

- a. A player registered with a team in any series 22U or below shall be allowed to advance to a higher series of their own Local Association without affecting their status in the series and classification of the team with which they are registered. Any player, who advances, must play with their original team when the team they advance to and the team they are registered with have games on the same date. Where the original (rostered) team is competing in a weekend tournament, the player shall not be eligible to be used as a call up to the team they are advancing to until their original (rostered) team is eliminated from competition in their tournament. **(Note:** Any team knowingly postponing a game so that a player may advance will be suspended from the Rep Play-offs.) (Local Association shall be interpreted as the Local Association with which the player is registered.)
- b. In advancing under RP1.8 a), a player may only advance as follows:
  - i. A 9U (including 8U) player may only advance to 11U.
  - ii. A 11U (including 10U) may advance only to 13U.

- iii. A 13U (including 12U) may advance only to 15U.
- iv. A 15U(including 14U) may advance only to 18U.
- v. Players who turn 16 years of age in the calendar year may only advance to 22U.
- c. For the 15U and 18U National Qualifiers only, OBA teams may call players across from other teams within their Local Association at the same age category, so long as that team is not also playing in the National Qualifier tournament (e.g., an 18U team may call a player to their National Qualifier team from their 17U team (i.e. an 18U team of all 17U aged players), or their 18U A team). For greater clarity, a player may only play for one team in any one National Qualifier tournament.
- d. Where a Local Association has more than one team at a series, players that are on the lower classified team may be “called up” to the higher classified team. Where a Local Association has both a Select Division team(s) and a Rep team(s) at a series, players from the Select Division team(s) may be called up to the Rep team(s), provided the players comply with the residency rules and are the proper age.
- e. Where a player of a younger age is rostered with a team at an older age category (e.g., A 13U aged player is rostered on a 15U roster), such player shall be considered as a player of the older series at which he/she is rostered despite being of younger age and shall not be eligible to play with the younger team.
- f. Where a team wishes to use a call up player from a team that has been eliminated from any further competition during a tournament or a Rep Play-off tournament or a Rep National Qualifier tournament being held the same weekend, must have either the pitch count records or copies of the official game sheets for all games involving the call-up player. Any player, for whom the pitching eligibility cannot be confirmed, shall not be eligible to pitch.
- g. Once discovered, the penalty for violating any provision of RP1.8 shall be forfeiture by the team to which the player advances. The Series Chair shall determine what other appropriate steps will be taken in the circumstances. The Series Chair's decision is final and is not appealable.

#### RP1.9 PLAYER REGISTRATION

- a. Each year, Local Associations will register their players and teams with the OBA through an online registration platform in accordance with policies and procedures determined by the OBA. The OBA will publish such policies and procedures on its website. By virtue of submitting a roster, the Local Association accepts responsibility for the authenticity of the information contained on the roster.
- b. The process may commence by a date determined by Rep Council which shall be no later than October 1st annually.
- c. Teams must submit a preliminary roster to the OBA Office through the OBA online registration platform no later than April 28<sup>th</sup> annually or five business days prior to the team's first game, whichever is later. Any team playing without having submitted a roster after May 1<sup>st</sup> shall be automatically suspended until such time as the roster is submitted.
- d. Rosters may be edited by Local Associations until May 31<sup>st</sup>.
- e. No changes to players on a roster may be made after May 31<sup>st</sup> without the consent of the OBA Rep Commissioner.

- f. At 21U Women's and Senior Women's, submitted rosters may be edited by Local Associations until June 30th.
- g. At 21U Women's and Senior Women's, no changes to players on a roster may be made after June 30th without the consent of the OBA Rep Registrar.
- h. At a minimum, the information to be provided through such online registration system will include:
  - o Name
  - o Date of birth
  - o Gender
  - o Address of residence (including postal code)
  - o Telephone number, and
  - o Valid email address
- i. Affiliated Associations and the OBA may review submitted rosters to ensure compliance with requirements of player registration and coach certification. Affiliated Associations and the OBA may remove players and coaches not meeting requirements from rosters.
- j. Teams with rosters not meeting the requirements of player registration and coach certification are not eligible to participate in Rep Play-offs and/or Rep National Qualifier Tournaments.
- k. No player may participate in a Rep tournament or Rep Play-off without their name on a team roster. If a player, who is not officially on the team roster or on the roster of a team from which the team may call up players, participates in a game, once it is discovered the Field Manager/Head Coach will receive a 10-game suspension. The suspension is not appealable.

#### RP1.10 TEAM NUMBER

A team must have 9 signed players and may have a maximum of 25 players who must be signed to a team roster of the series of the team entered. At 22U only, the maximum roster size is 30 players. A maximum of 25 players can appear on a line-up card for any one game. Each team must have at least 1 manager, and/or 1 or more coaches, signed to the roster clearly marked "Manager" or "Coach" and who shall be responsible for that team.

#### RP1.11 PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS AND REGISTRATION

- a. Any player signed by a professional baseball club of Major League Baseball (MLB) or Minor League Baseball (MiLB), who has received his/her unconditional release or has been placed on the Voluntary Retired List by said professional club before June 30th of the playing season shall become eligible for reinstatement to play in the OBA immediately when he/she returns to his/her home city or town, or to the team he/she left to turn professional or he/she may play with any other team providing he/she qualifies under the residence rule. All applications for reinstatement must be accompanied by a letter from the Office of the President of the MiLB or a copy of the release from the applicable professional organization.
- b. Any player signed by an independent professional league or club who has received his/her unconditional release or has been placed on the voluntary retired list by said independent

professional club who provides a written statement advising that they no longer play in that league before June 30th of the playing season shall become eligible for reinstatement to play in the OBA immediately when he/she returns to his/her home city or town, or to the team he/she left to turn professional or he/she may play with any other team providing he/she qualifies under the residence rule.

- c. A player shall be considered to have turned professional when he/she plays his/her first game, either exhibition or league, with a professional club.
- d. The release, voluntary retirement confirmation or written statement must accompany any application for reinstatement.

#### RP1.12 ELITE BASEBALL LEAGUE OF ONTARIO

Baseball Ontario has established the Elite Baseball League of Ontario (“EBLO”) so that Baseball Ontario players can compete at the highest level at the respective age levels. The vision for the EBLO is to offer as competitive a Rep league as possible.

All Baseball Ontario Rep rules and procedural requirements will be followed except as outlined below:

##### i. **Participating Affiliated Associations**

- a. Any Affiliated Association desiring to participate in the EBLO is required to advise the Baseball Ontario Office and the EBLO Chair of its intent by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Such Affiliated Association shall continue to be a Participating Affiliated Association until it files a notice under clause RP1.14 (i)(b).
- b. Any Affiliated Association that wishes to withdraw from the EBLO is required to advise the Baseball Ontario Office and the EBLO Chair by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

##### ii. **EBLO Structure**

- a. The Rep Commissioner, subject to Rep Council approval, will appoint an EBLO Chair. The EBLO Chair shall oversee EBLO operations.
- b. The EBLO Steering Committee shall be comprised of the EBLO Chair plus other 5 members. Every 3 years, the number of teams entered in the EBLO by the Participating Affiliated Associations will be reviewed and the 4 with the most teams having been entered will each be entitled to one member on the EBLO Steering Committee. These Participating Affiliated Associations shall provide the name of their representative to the Baseball Ontario Office by October 25<sup>th</sup> of each year. As of November 2020, the 4 are currently TBA, COBA, EOBA and YSBA. The next review will take place for November 2023. The 5<sup>th</sup> spot will be elected by the Participating Affiliated Associations and Participating Associations. Nominations for this spot are due to the Baseball Ontario Office by October 25<sup>th</sup> of each year. Should one of the 4 Participating Affiliated Associations entitled to a member not identify their representative by October 25<sup>th</sup>, then that spot shall be declared vacant and shall be filled by election from among those nominated for the 5<sup>th</sup> spot on the EBLO Steering Committee. The EBLO Steering Committee shall be entitled to fill a vacancy on the EBLO Steering Committee arising



during the year. Each member of the EBLO Steering Committee shall have one vote; provided, however, that the EBLO Chair shall only vote in the event of a tie.

- c. Except as reserved to the Participating Associations in this section RP1.14, the EBLO Steering Committee shall be authorized to make decisions in the best interests of the EBLO and its Participating Associations and consistent with the vision for the EBLO and the OBA Procedures and Playing Rules and the Rep Division Procedures and Playing Rules.
- d. Participating Affiliated Associations, which participated in the EBLO the previous season, shall be entitled to one vote. A Participating Affiliated Association, which did not participate in the EBLO the previous season, shall not be entitled to a vote.
- e. Participating Associations, which participated in the EBLO the previous season, shall be entitled to one-third of a vote for each Elite team that the Participating Association has entered into the EBLO during the previous three seasons. The voting total for the Participating Association shall be rounded to the nearest whole number of votes. A Participating Association, which did not participate in the EBLO the previous season, shall not be entitled to any votes.
- f. The elected member(s) of the Steering Committee shall be elected at an EBLO meeting to be held during the last week of November each year.

iii. **Entering Teams**

- a. Any Local Association located within a Participating Affiliated Association or a Participating Affiliated Association on its own behalf (a "Participating Association") may enter Elite teams at the 15U, 16U, and 18U age level. An Affiliated Association is entering a team on its own behalf if it has created and is operating the team itself at the Affiliated Association level and is not merely approving a roster of a Local Association.
- b. The Participating Association must register the Elite teams to be entered with the Baseball Ontario Office and the EBLO Chair by July 1<sup>st</sup> for the following playing year. The registration of Elite team(s) by a Local Association requires the consent of the applicable Affiliated Association. If the Affiliated Association rejects the registration of its Local Association's Elite team(s), the Local Association may appeal to the EBLO Steering Committee.
- c. In order for a Participating Association to register an Elite team at 16U, the Participating Association must have an Elite team at either 15U or 18U or both. In order for a Participating Association to register an Elite team at 18U, the Participating Association must have an Elite team at either 15U or 16U or both. A Participating Association may register an Elite team at 15U without having an Elite team at either 16U or 18U.
- d. The EBLO Steering Committee is permitted to review and rule on requests for exceptions to the program policy as may be requested by a Local Association.
- e. Each Elite team shall post with Baseball Ontario a performance bond in an amount determined by the EBLO Steering Committee from time to time. The performance bond may be called upon should the Elite team fail to comply with its obligations under the EBLO's benchmarks, guidelines and playing rules.

iv. **Tryouts and Releases**



- a. There will be 15U, 16U and 18U teams, with 14U, 15U, 16U and 18U aged players, participating in the EBLO.
- b. Tryouts for these Elite teams may start as early as July 1<sup>st</sup> and must be completed no later than the second Sunday in September.
- c. The respective Elite teams will determine the number of players on their team within the guidelines as outlined in the Procedures and Playing Rules of the Rep Division. It is recommended that Elite teams have at least 14 players on their roster.
- d. Except as set forth in clauses RP1.14 q) and r), any player signed by an Elite team will be deemed to have a Local Association, and where required an Affiliated Association, release as long as the applicable Affiliated Association has agreed to participate in the EBLO.
- e. A 15U team, which proposes to sign more than 2 14U-aged players to its roster, and all players intending sign with such team are not entitled to rely upon RP1.14 p) and will require a Local Association and, where required, an Affiliated Association release. To be clear a 15U team may have more than 2 14U-aged players if it complies with this clause RP1.14 q).
- f. A player requesting to be signed by an Elite team after the second Sunday in September will require a Local Association and, where required, an Affiliated Association release. If the requested release is denied, the Rep release appeal process set out in RP1.6 is available.
- g. It is understood that the playing rights of a player, who tries out for one or more Elite team(s) and is not selected, will remain where they were as determined by section RP1.5 b) of the Procedures and Playing Rules of the Rep Division.
- h. Each Elite team will forward their roster to the Baseball Ontario Office no later than the Wednesday following the second Sunday in September. The Elite team will copy its Affiliated Association on the submission of its roster to the Baseball Ontario Office.
- i. All managers, coaches and assistant coaches must have obtained the coaching certificate level to be eligible to participate at the Rep National Qualifiers for the age category. In the case of 16U Elite teams, the 18U Rep National Qualifiers shall be the applicable requirement.
- j. Any players, managers, coaches, assistant coaches that participate in non-recognized programs are not eligible to participate in the EBLO.

**v. League Play**

- a. There must be a minimum of six teams at a series to form an EBLO League for the respective age group.
- b. The EBLO shall schedule a meeting of Participating Affiliated Associations and Participating Associations in the spring to establish benchmarks, guidelines and playing rules for the subsequent playing season (e.g., a meeting in the spring of 2021 would establish benchmarks, guidelines and playing rules for the 2022 season). At such meeting, each Participating Affiliated Association and Participating Association shall have the votes set out in clauses RP1.14 f) and g).
- c. The benchmarks, guidelines and playing rules established must be consistent with the vision for the EBLO and the OBA Procedures and Playing Rules and the Rep Division

Procedures and Playing Rules. If the EBLO desires to enact a benchmark, guideline or playing rule inconsistent with the Rep Division Procedures and Playing Rules, then the EBLO requires the approval of Rep Council to enact such provision.

- d. In June of each year, the EBLO shall host an information meeting to present the benchmarks, guidelines and playing rules established at the spring meeting to prospective Elite teams interested in participating in the EBLO in the subsequent season.
- e. EBLO shall charge Elite teams a marketing fee established by Baseball Ontario's Board of Management and Rep Council in consultation with the EBLO Steering Committee.
- f. All Elite teams will be classified as AAA.
- g. Notwithstanding clause RP3 k), at least one Level III umpire shall be assigned to each EBLO game. (The preference is that all umpires assigned to EBLO games be at least Level III.) If the home team is unable to arrange for the assignment of at least one Level III umpire, then the manager or coach of the home team must notify the manager or coach of the visiting team of the situation at least 48 hours in advance of the scheduled start of the game. The manager or coach of the visiting team shall have the option of either playing the game or postponing the game.

# Rep Rule Book: RP2 - Special Playing Rules

## RP2 - SPECIAL PLAYING RULES

The Official Rules of Baseball shall govern all games except as provided in the playing rules below. **NOTE:** Where there is a change made to The Official Rules of Baseball, the change shall not take effect until the Rep Council approves the application of the change.

### RP2.1 UNIFORMS/EQUIPMENT

- a. In all games in all Rep series, all team personnel, including the manager and coaches, must be in complete baseball uniform. Note: Complete baseball uniform shall consist of:
  - i. corresponding tops or jerseys (with proper numbers)
  - ii. corresponding (similar) baseball caps
  - iii. baseball pants (no shorts)
  - iv. corresponding stirrup or baseball socks
- b. Provided the teams are completely uniformed the uniformity as laid down by the Official Playing Rules of Baseball will be disregarded and no protest will be considered by the OBA after the game has been played.
- c. The on-deck batter, batter, base runners, and batboy/batgirl must wear a prescribed protective helmet with flaps, covering both ears. Chinstraps and C-Flaps may be worn at the players' discretion but are not required at any age category. Senior aged players shall be permitted to wear either single ear or double ear flapped helmets in Senior OBA play.

#### ***As of 2026, RP2.1 c) will change to:***

The on-deck batter, batter, base runners, and batboy/batgirl must wear a prescribed protective helmet with flaps, covering both ears. This may not be changed except after the inning has been completed, or the player has been retired or has crossed home plate. In T-Ball, 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U, and 12U, and helmet chinstraps are mandatory unless the presence of a manufacturer installed face guard (C-Flap) prevents the use of the chinstrap and will be worn as designed by the manufacturer.

- d. In T-Ball, 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U, 12U, and 13U and 16U Girls shoes with metal cleats are prohibited.

#### ***As of 2026, RP2.1 d) will change to:***

At 13U and below, shoes with metal cleats are prohibited.

- e. All catchers are required to wear a mask with throat protector, helmet, chest protector, shin guards, cup, and an athletic supporter (jock or jill).

- f. A team member shall be deemed as "warming up a pitcher" the moment either:
  - i. the pitcher stands on the rubber (on the field or bullpen)
  - ii. the team member assumes a squatting position to receive a thrown ball from the pitcher, regardless of position on the field or bullpen; or
  - iii. the team member assumes a position behind home plate
- g. Any team member serving as a catcher to warm up a pitcher shall wear a mask with throat protector. **Penalty:** Coaches and players will be instructed to wear a mask and warned on first offense for failure to comply with this rule. Only one warning per team will be given throughout the game. After warning, any further violation of this rule by any team member will result in their immediate ejection.
- h. Players, coaches, and managers who use electronic devices on the field will be ordered by the umpire to remove them from the field immediately. Failure to do so will result in ejection. Umpires who use electronic devices on the field during the game are subject to suspension and potential loss of accreditation. Fitbits, FuelBands, and other fitness trackers are considered electronic devices for the purposes of this rule and are not permitted except where required for medical reasons (i.e.: heart rate monitor prescribed by a physician). **Exception:** Dedicated watches, stopwatches and electronic pitch counters/indicators are permitted.
- i. Electronic Pitch Communication systems (ie: PitchCom) are permitted at all Rep play. They are not considered electronic devices for the purposes of RP2.5(j).
- j. All players, including pitchers, are permitted to wear compression sleeves on one or both arms. If only wearing one, it may be worn on either the pitching or glove arm. A compression sleeve extending only to the elbow shall have the same restrictions as a compression sleeve extending to the wrist. Pitchers must wear compression sleeves which are solid in colour and may not be white or Pitchers may not wear compression sleeves which are distracting in nature including designs and reflective material.
- k. Except the pitcher, players may wear a playbook arm band on their arm or attache to their belt. Pitchers must remove these bands prior to taking the mound.
- l. With the exception of piping (strings), no part of the pitcher's glove may be white or grey. The pitcher's glove may not, in the judgement of the umpire, be distracting in any manner. No fielder, regardless of position may use a fielding glove that, in the judgement of the umpire, mimics, or attempts to mimic the colour of a baseball.

## RP2.2 GAME LENGTH

- a. All games in a Rep Play-off or National Qualifier Tournament shall be 7 complete innings (6 1/2 complete innings if the home team is ahead), or until a winner is declared.
- b. Subject to RP2.7(a), a 7-inning game will be considered an official game after 4 innings of play or 3-1/2 innings if the home team is ahead.
- c. In tournament play if a game is delayed due to curfew, darkness, light failure, or weather-related conditions at any point prior to completion, the game shall be resumed from the point of delay.
- d. In the case of bad weather or other emergency situations, the schedule may be revised at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.

- e. In home and home style Rep Play-off games called due to curfew, darkness, light failure, or weather-related conditions after becoming an official game shall be declared a complete and official game even if less than 7 innings were. If the game is called prior to becoming an official game, then it is resumed from the point of delay.
- f. Except at 10U/11U, time limits are not permitted in any Rep Play-off or National Qualifier games.
- g. In Rep Open or Invitational Tournaments when a time limit or curfew is in effect in the tournament rules, it shall be interpreted as follows: No new inning may be started after the time limit or curfew. An inning shall be deemed to have started immediately after the last out in the bottom of the previous inning has occurred.
- h. In all OBA Rep games, the following mercy rule will apply:
  - i. 18 runs after 3 innings
  - ii. 15 runs after 4 innings
  - iii. 10 runs after 5 innings or any subsequent inning thereafter.

NOTE: If the home team leads after the top half of any such inning, the game shall be considered a mercy and the home team will not bat.
- i. Where the home team scores to take the lead in the 7<sup>th</sup> inning, any extra inning or any inning that will be the last inning because of a time limit, the game ends immediately. Similarly, if the home team scores a run that results in a mercy pursuant to g), the game ends immediately with that run.

### RP2.3 LINE-UP RULES

- a. Each manager will see that the umpire-in-chief is provided with a batting order card listing the batting order of his/her players for the commencement of the game. This card shall list (i.e., print legibly) each player's first and last name, their uniform number and position. It shall also list the substitute players, coaches and manager including their uniform number. Bona fide players of either team, who arrive after the commencement of the game, may have their names added to the list upon reporting to the umpire-in-chief.
- b. In 8U, 9U, 10U and 11U games, all players present at the game shall be listed on the team's batting line-up in the order desired by the manager/coach and late arrivals shall be added to the bottom of this batting order.
- c. In 10U and 11U games, if a player is removed from the game due to injury, illness or official ejection, the player's spot in the batting order shall be deleted. In the event a batter must be removed due to injury, official ejection, or has to leave for any reason during the time at bat, the next batter in the batting order shall come to bat assuming the balls and strikes count at the time the batter is removed. If the batter becomes an out, such batter shall then take their regular turn at bat.
- d. **Extra Player Rule:** In 12U, 13U, 14U and 15U, teams may opt to utilize 10 batters in the starting line-up. The additional batter shall be deemed as the Extra Player (EP). The following rules for the EP shall apply:
  - i. The option to use the EP must be declared when handing in the line-up card prior to the start of the game.

- ii. The EP may bat in any place in the batting order.
- iii. The EP will be considered a defensive position and eligible for re-entry.
- iv. If a team using the EP has any players ejected or injured and it results in the team having less than 10 players in the line-up the game shall continue with 9 players. The batting order will be shifted up to fill the void but otherwise remains the same.

**Note:** If the player starting in the EP is moved into a defensive position his place in the batting order does not change. The new EP will bat in the place of the player they replaced.

- e. At 16U and 18U, a team may use either an EP as in RP2.3(d) or a designated hitter as in RP2.3 f), but the team may not use both an EP and a designated hitter in the same game. For clarity, a team may also choose not to use either an EP or a designated hitter.
- f. A designated hitter may be used for a pitcher from 16U to Senior as per the Official Rules of Baseball.
- g. For tournament play the Tournament Convenor shall appoint an official scorer for each game (who may be the scorer of one of the teams playing). For all home and home style OBA Play-off games the home team score keeper shall be the official score keeper.
- h. Senior AAA teams are permitted to mutually affiliate themselves with any one 22U team within their Affiliated Association as long as their Local Association does not have a 22U team.
- i. If the Baseball Canada 22U Nationals are hosted by an Ontario team – the players on the 22U host team are only permitted to be called up to a Senior team during National Qualifiers as long as they are a member of the same local association.
- j. Senior AAA teams are permitted a maximum of 5 22U-aged call-ups for National Qualifiers.
- k. At 16U and above, in the event the starting pitcher will bat for themselves as the DH, the player will be considered two separate people for the purposes of OBR 5.11(a). In such cases, the Manager should list 10 players on the line-up card and this player should be listed twice – once as the starting pitcher and once as the Designated Hitter. Thus, if the starting pitcher is replaced, they can continue as the DH (but can no longer pitch in the game), and if the DH is replaced, they can continue as the pitcher (but can no longer hit for themselves). If the player is simultaneously replaced both as the starting pitcher and the DH, they cannot be replaced by another two-way player filling both roles; they must be replaced by two separate players.
- l. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in OBR 5.11(a), if the starting pitcher/DH is switched to a position on defense instead of DH, such move will terminate the DH role for the remainder of the game.

## RP2.4 SUBSTITUTIONS

- a. Except as required in RP2.10(c), in 10U and 11U games, unlimited substitutions defensively are allowed (including for injury or official ejection).
- b. From 12U to 18U and Senior Women, any starting player may be substituted for and returned to the game one time only. They must return to their original place in the batting order. Any further substitutions do not jeopardize the right of re-entry for the original/starting player. Any starting

player returned to the game may pitch as long as they have not previously assumed the pitching position. A pinch runner or pinch hitter may be inserted for a pitcher, who was listed in the starting batting order, and the pitcher may return to pitch under this re-entry rule **only if** the player is re-entered immediately as a pitcher when his/her team takes the field defensively.

- c. At all levels, courtesy runners for the catcher or any other players are prohibited. Pinch runners may be substituted in accordance with the Official Rules of Baseball except where contravened herein.
- d. From 12U to 18U and Senior Women, in the event that all players have entered the game and an injury(s) occurs, the opposing manager shall have the right of selecting any remaining player(s) as the replacement. **Note:** This rule does not apply to ejections from a game.
- e. If a player re-enters or enters the game illegally: offensively, this shall be considered as a batter hitting out of order; defensively, the proper player shall replace them.

## RP2.5 PITCHING RULES

- a. In 10U and 11U, the number of trips to the mound by the Manager/Coach shall not be limited except when, in the judgement of the umpire, the purpose of the trip is to delay the game.
- b. In 12U and 13U, a third trip by the Manager/Coach to the same pitcher in the same inning shall result in the pitcher's automatic removal from the pitching position.
- c. Except at Senior, a pitcher once removed from the pitching position, regardless of the number of trips to the mound by the Manager/Coach, may continue in the game at another position but shall not be permitted to return to pitch in that game. **Exception:** Where re-entry rules apply, pitchers who are substituted for offensively by either a pinch runner or pinch hitter may return to pitch in the next defensive inning so long as no other player has pitched for that team.
- d. From 14U to Senior, a second trip by a Manager/Coach to the same pitcher in the same inning shall result in the pitcher's automatic removal from the pitching position. The pitcher, once removed after the second trip in an inning may continue to play at another position but shall not be permitted to return to pitch in that game.
- e. When a pitcher takes their position at the beginning of each inning, or when they relieve another pitcher, they shall be permitted to pitch up to eight preparatory pitches to the catcher, during which play shall be suspended. The plate umpire may reduce this number if, in their judgement, there has been unnecessary delay by the pitcher and/or catcher. If a sudden emergency causes a pitcher to be summoned into the game without sufficient opportunity to warm up, the plate umpire shall allow them as many pitches as the plate umpire deems necessary.

## RP2.6 BASE RUNNING RULES

### **Malicious Contact:**

- a. Malicious contact is to be penalized whether committed by an offensive or defensive player. Contact shall be considered malicious if:
  - i. the contact is the result of intentional excessive force, and/or
  - ii. there is an intent to injure.
- b. The umpire shall determine whether contact was avoidable or if the fielder blocks the base path, the runner may make contact, slide into or collide with the fielder as long as the runner is making a legitimate attempt to reach the base/plate.
- c. Runners are instructed to slide or attempt to avoid making contact with a fielder. A player who maliciously runs into another player is to be declared out (unless he/she has scored prior to committing the infraction) and is to be automatically ejected (whether or not declared out).
- d. If the defensive player blocked the base path clearly without possession of the ball, obstruction shall be called. The runner is safe, and a delayed dead ball is called.

## RP2.7 FIELDING RULES

- a. A fielder may not enter the dugout or bench area to make a legal catch. Any such ball shall be declared dead.
- b. Where a fielder carries a live ball into dead ball area, the ball shall be declared dead, and all runners shall be awarded 1 base without liability of being put out.

## RP2.8 EXTRA-INNING RULES

At 22U and below, the following extra inning procedure will be followed when the game is tied at the end of regulation play for all Baseball Ontario Rep sanctioned tournaments, Rep Play-offs, and Rep National Qualifier Tournaments:

- a. Each team will begin the extra inning (and any subsequent necessary extra innings) with a player on second base only, no outs.
- b. The batter with the last full plate appearance in the previous inning will be placed at second base.
- c. The traditional system of the visiting team hitting in the top of the inning and the home team hitting in the bottom of the inning will remain in effect until a winner is determined.
- d. All other Official Baseball Rules and Baseball Ontario rules remain in effect during extra innings.

**Example:** *If the last inning ends with the #6 batter having the last plate appearance, then the extra inning begins with the #7 batter at bat, and the #5 batter at second base.*



## RP2.9 PROTESTS

- a. Protests based on umpires' judgment decisions will not be permitted. A protest based on an umpire's interpretation of the rules must be lodged with the umpire before the game resumes, and the opposing team must also be advised by the umpire before the game resumes.
  - b. No protests will be entertained regarding coaches or managers being listed on a team roster. A coach or manager signed with one team in an organization may act as coach or manager for any other team in that organization.
  - c. Tournament Style Rep Play-offs:
    - i. A Protest Committee shall be established by the host Local Association.
    - ii. The Protest Committee has the right to rule whether a protest will be heard.
    - iii. All protests must be ruled on at the time of their occurrence by the Protest Committee.
    - iv. If the protest is heard and denied, the team will be billed \$50.
  - d. Home and Home Style Rep Play-offs:
    - i. Protests are to be emailed to the Rep Protest Chair postmarked within 24 hours of the end of the game under protest. A protest fee of \$50.00 must be electronically transferred.
    - ii. The Protest Chair will obtain a copy of the Umpire's report regarding the incident.
    - iii. The Protest Chair will obtain written reports from each Manager regarding the incident.
    - iv. The Protest Chair, in consultation with the Rep Commissioner will determine if there is reason for holding a protest meeting.
    - v. Should a protest meeting be deemed necessary, the Panel shall include the Series Chair, the Rep Commissioner, and the Protest Chair (Competition Chair).
    - vi. Results of the Protest Meeting will be delivered by the Protest Chair to the Rep Commissioner, both teams, the OBA Office, the Rep Series Chair, and the Rep Overall Series Chair.
  - e. Once a protest has been dealt with by the OBA or a committee delegated to act in such matters by the OBA, any ruling handed down must be considered as final by the OBA. No further action will be taken.
  - f. The Rep Protest Chair has the power in a home and home style OBA Play-off to appoint a committee to handle all protests which must be disposed of 5 days from the time the Rep Protest Chair receives the complete protest, etc.
  - g. All correspondence regarding protests and defence of appeals must be forwarded by email.
  - h. Even if it is held that the protested decision violated the rules, no replay of the game will be ordered unless in the opinion of the Rep Protest Chair the violation adversely affected the protesting team's chances of winning the game.
  - i. Teams or players which knowingly play against ineligible players and do wilfully conceal this knowledge from the OBA until it shall suit their convenience to use it in any protest which may arise shall be considered equally guilty with the offending team or players and shall be dealt with accordingly.
- Emergency Situations:**
- j. In an emergency situation the protest will be dealt with by the Rep Series Chair in consultation with the Rep Protest Chair and the Rep Commissioner.

## RP2.10 10U/11U PLAYING RULES

- a. Home base shall be marked by a five-sided slab of rubber. It shall be a 21-inch square with two of the corners removed so that the front edge is 21-inches wide, and the back of the plate comes to a point at the intersection of the lines extending from home base to first base and to third base.
- b. A team's turn at bat in an inning will end after three outs have been recorded or four runs have been scored. The last inning will have an eight-run maximum. On any play where the last allowed run in an inning is as a result of the ball leaving the playing field and the awarding of home base (ie: home run, overthrow, etc) results in more than the maximum runs allowed in an inning scoring, all awarded runs will score; this only applies to dead ball awards.

*Ex. 1: Runners on 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. 2 outs. 3 runs have already scored in the inning. The batter hits a groundball to the shortstop, who overthrows first base. The ball goes out of play. Because this is the first play by an infielder, all runners get awarded 2 bases from the time of pitch. 2 runs score for a total of 5 for the inning.*

*Ex. 2: Runners on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. 2 outs. 3 runs have already scored in the inning. The batter hits a ball in the gap between outfielders. Despite the fact that two runs would have scored easily, because the ball stayed in play, the inning ends when the runner from 3<sup>rd</sup> touches the plate. 1 run scores on the play for a total of 4 runs for the inning.*

*Ex. 3: Runners on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. 3 runs have already scored in the inning. The batter hits a ball down the left field line which rolls past an out of play line. Ball is dead. This is a 2-base award, so 2 runs score on this play, with a total of 5 for the inning.*

- c. The following mercy rules shall apply at 10U/11U only:
  - i. 18 runs after 3 innings
  - ii. 15 runs after 4 innings
  - iii. 10 runs after 5 innings
  - iv. 9 runs after 6 innings.

If the home team leads by mercy after the top half of any such inning, the game shall be considered a mercy and the home team will not bat.

- d. No new inning shall be permitted to start after 2 hours have elapsed from the start of the game. No time limit during the final championship game. Local tournament rules for regular season tournaments can impose a shorter time limit. In all Rep Play-off tournament games and all play-off round games of regular season tournaments must have a winner declared, so extra innings are to be played regardless of the time limit.

- e. A 10U/11U game ends when the time limit is reached and a full inning has been completed. If the time limit passes during an inning, such inning will be the last inning however it will not be treated as the last inning for the purposes of the 8-run maximum rule. If the top of a new inning is started within 15 minutes of the time limit, the umpire will declare that inning to be the last inning and the 8-run maximum will apply.
- f. A 10U/11U game ends at any time when a team is unable to score enough runs to win or tie the game based on the innings remaining in the game and the prescribed run limits per inning (RP2.10 (b)), excluding runs allowed because of dead ball awards.
- g. In games where extra innings are required to determine a winner, the 8 run maximum will apply for all extra innings.
- h. Unlimited substitutions defensively are allowed (including for injury or official ejection).
- i. The number of trips to the mound by the Manager/Coach shall be limited to 3 trips per inning per pitcher.
- j. Base runners cannot leave the base until the ball leaves the pitcher's hand. If an infraction occurs, the ball will be declared dead, and runners may not advance. One warning will be issued and for any further infractions thereafter, the runner will be called out. (Each team to receive 1 warning).
- k. If a player is removed from the game due to injury, illness, or official ejection, the player's spot in the batting order shall be deleted. In the event a batter must be removed during their time at bat, the next batter in the batting order shall come to bat assuming the balls and strikes count at the time the batter is removed. If the batter becomes an out, such batter shall then take their regular turn at bat.
- l. If a runner is removed by reason of injury or official ejection from the game, the player last put out shall act as pinch runner for the removed player. By virtue of the rules there shall be no pinch runners allowed.
- m. The batter shall not become a runner when a third strike is not legally caught by the catcher. The ball remains live, and all other runners may advance at their own risk.

## RP2.11 ELIGIBILITY

- a. Players are not eligible to register with the OBA for the then current playing season if they have registered with a non-recognized baseball program operating in the Province of Ontario for any part of such playing season. Players registered with the OBA for the then current playing season who register with a non-recognized baseball program shall be subject to suspension in accordance with section RP7.1.
- b. Individual players may participate with a non-recognized program outside of the province if he secures letters of permission from: (1) Rep Coach and/or Manager (2) Local Association Executive and (3) Affiliate Association Executive; allowing him/her to play with a specified team or organization. (All letters and information shall be forwarded to the OBA through the Affiliated Association). A player participating with a non-recognized program outside of the province without these approvals shall be automatically suspended indefinitely. Any further penalty shall be decided by the OBA Rep Council.

- c. Managers, coaches, Rep Council members, Local Association and Affiliated Association Board Members shall immediately disqualify themselves for participation within Baseball Ontario's Rep Division, its Affiliated Associations and Local Associations, if they are directly involved in any way with a non-recognized baseball program within the Province of Ontario.
- d. For the purpose of this section RP1.12, the following terms shall have the following meanings:
  - i. "non-recognized baseball program" shall mean any baseball program other than (1) a baseball program operated exclusively by the OBA, its Affiliated Associations, and its Local Associations, (2) a high school, college or university baseball program, (3) a baseball program operated exclusively by an associated member of the OBA, (4) a baseball program recognized by the Rep Council, or (5) a baseball program operated by the PBLO in accordance with the PBLO Agreement.
  - ii. "playing season" shall mean the period from April 15 through to the end of the Labour Day weekend.
  - iii. "registered" includes any form of signing or registration process and any player participating on a regular basis with a non-recognized baseball program shall be deemed to have been registered with such program.
- e. A player participating in another recognized program shall have the right to sign only with:
  - i. the Local Association in whose territory the player lives, or
  - ii. the Local Association with which the player was last rostered.

If the player is not signed by such Local Association, then he/she shall not be entitled to sign with another Local Association.

Senior players are exempt from RP1.12 e).

## RP2.12 PBLO

***NOTE: the deletion of this section effective for the 2025 season was approved at the AGM held November 17, 2023***

- a. The terms of the PBLO Agreement shall govern teams operated by PBLO Franchises.
- b. The provisions of Sections RP1.1 to RP1.12 shall not apply to teams playing in the PBLO unless the Franchise operating such teams determines to operate as a Residency Franchise in which case those provisions shall apply to the teams operated by such Residency Franchise.
- c. The PBLO shall determine such residence and release requirements, if any, as shall apply to PBLO Non-Residency Franchises.
- d. The PBLO shall determine such registration procedures and policies as shall apply to PBLO Franchise teams.
- e. PBLO Non-Residency Franchises may not operate teams other than as set out in the PBLO Agreement. Accordingly, Affiliated Associations and Local Associations may not operate PBLO Non-Residency Franchises. However, since PBLO Residency Franchises may operate additional teams, Affiliated Associations and Local Associations may operate PBLO Residency Franchises.

- f. Players playing on a PBLO Non-Residency Franchise team may also register with a team of a Local Association in accordance with RP1.12 e) i) or ii).
- g. Players playing on a PBLO Residency Franchise may not sign with another team.
- h. PBLO Non-Residency Franchise teams are not eligible to compete in Rep National Qualifier tournaments and/or Rep Play-offs, other than the AAAA championships determined by PBLO. PBLO Residency Franchise teams are eligible to compete in Rep National Qualifiers and/or Rep Play-offs at the AAA level.
- i. The provisions of RP2, RP3, RP4, RP5, RP6 and RP7 do not apply to the PBLO, PBLO Franchises or PBLO Franchise teams, except that RP5 and RP6 apply to PBLO Residency Franchise teams participating in Rep National Qualifiers and/or Rep Play-offs at the AAA level.

## **Rep Rule Book: RP5 - Rep Play-Off Procedures**

### **RP5.1 REP PLAY-OFF PROCEDURES**

- a. The OBA shall conduct and assist the different Affiliated Association representatives to meet and play off to determine the OBA champions.
- b. The Rep Council shall annually set the fees for the OBA Rep Play-Offs.
- c. Once Classifications have been finalized, failure to participate in the Rep Play-Offs shall result in a fine equivalent to 1.5 times the amount of the Provincial Championship fee as determined by Rep Council annually.
- d. The Rep Council shall appoint a Series Chair to handle each series Rep Play-offs.
- e. In order to be eligible to participate in the Rep Play-offs, teams must represent a city, town or municipality within the boundaries of the Province of Ontario. Players must be bona fide and continuous residents of the province in accordance with the Rep Rules and Regulations.
- f. Whenever possible, the Rep Play-offs shall be a tournament. If no host is found by the July meeting of the Rep Council, then that series shall become a home and home style Rep Play-off. Rep Play-off Tournaments will be comprised of 1 team from each Affiliated Association, which has classified a team for such Rep Play-off Tournament, plus a host team. At 22U and Senior, the AAA Play-off shall be the Rep National Qualifier Tournament.
- g. Coaches must have a copy of their OBA approved roster with them in case it is required during the tournament.
- h. Barring extenuating circumstances, if 1 team is not able to start a game within 30 minutes of the scheduled starting time for such game, the game will be forfeited to the other team and in tournament style Rep Play-offs, the offending team will not be allowed to continue in the tournament. The game will count as a game played and not count as a bye in the tournament and the published chart shall not be changed.
- i. Any team failing to play a game when ordered will automatically forfeit their right to continue in Rep Play-offs. This causes a \$500.00 fine to be assessed to the team forfeiting. A team that has been suspended shall have the right to appeal to the Rep Council for a hearing. All appeals must be accompanied with a fee of \$50.00.

- j. The Rep Tournament Chair shall provide, immediately, to the Affiliated Associations a listing of any and all disciplinary problems with managers, coaches, players or other team personnel, as reported by the Series Chair.
- k. In all Rep Play-off games, the diamond must be properly laid out; the batter's box marked; the pitcher's mound properly built up and the playing field kept sufficiently clear of spectators and obstructions for the proper performance of the players.

## RP5.2 TOURNAMENT STYLE REP PLAY-OFFS

- a. When the number of entrants to a tournament-style Rep Play-off is restricted by other organizations, such as those tournaments played during the Ontario Summer Games, a preliminary round(s) shall be arranged to provide the necessary representatives. Where such preliminary rounds are required to reduce the number of entries, the names of all Affiliated Associations with teams in that Series shall be entered into a draw to determine the pairing(s) of the preliminary round(s). Where such preliminary rounds are required to increase the number entries, the names of all teams in that Series (after the determining the Affiliated Association representatives) shall be entered into a draw to determine the pairing(s) of the preliminary round(s).
- b. Each Affiliated Association shall notify the Rep Series Chair by Tuesday midnight in advance of the start of the first game of the Rep Play-off Tournament, of its representative in that series and classification. Failure to make such information available by the required deadline, to the Series Chair, shall result in the Affiliated Association forfeiting its place in the Rep Play-Offs, subject to RP5.1(g), plus any other penalty that might be imposed by the OBA.
- c. All draws for tournament style Rep Play-offs will be conducted by the OBA Office.
- d. The host shall designate a Tournament Convenor to convene the tournament. The Tournament Convenor shall not be a member of the host's team in such tournament.
- e. At 8U/9U and Senior AAA Rep Play-offs, the number of rounds scheduled to be completed on Friday may be 1.5 rounds with the Winner's bracket playing Round 2 on Friday while the Loser's bracket will play Round 2 on Saturday. In all other circumstances, each round must be originally scheduled to be completed on the same day.
- f. At 22U and below, except as set out in this paragraph, no team may play more than 2 games in a calendar day. At Senior, teams may not play more than 3 games in a calendar day without written consent of the team. At all age categories, on one day of the tournament, a maximum of 3 games may be played. A suspended game shall count as a game played on both the day it commenced and the day it is completed if 3 or more innings have been played each day. If less than 3 innings are played on the day it is completed, it will not count as a game played on that day. **Note:** Please see RQ2 for rules applying to 8U/9U.
- g. Where scheduling concerns warrant the National Qualifier of teams as early as the first day of the tournament, a maximum of two rounds may be played on day one.
- h. Before distribution to the teams by the Tournament Host Association the complete schedule must be forwarded to the Rep Tournament Chair at least two weeks prior to the tournament for approval.

- i. Teams must be prepared to play on the Friday no earlier than 9:00 a.m. if necessary. In all series up to and including 15U, no game shall start after 9:30 p.m. on any day and no new inning may begin after 12:59 a.m. (or such earlier time as may be provided by local by-law). In all series up to and including 15U, where the published schedule has a team starting a game at 8:30 pm or later, then the team cannot be scheduled to play earlier than 9:00 am on the following day.
- j. Where a team drops out of a tournament style Rep Play-off 7 or more days prior to the start of the tournament, the schedule for the tournament, if published, will be redone. If a team drops out of a tournament style Rep Play-off less than 7 days prior to the tournament and the schedule for the tournament has been published, any scheduled games not played due to teams having dropped out of the tournament shall be considered defaults and shall count as a game played and not as a bye in the tournament and the published chart shall not be changed.
- k. Where a team drops out of a tournament style Rep Play-off 7 or more days prior to the start of the tournament, and there exists one or more teams that were classified at the relevant classification for the tournament which are not scheduled to attend the tournament because their Affiliated Association's allotment of teams was filled by other teams, then the spot of the team which dropped out shall be filled as follows:
  - i. by a team from the same Affiliated Association as the team dropping out if applicable; and
  - ii. by a team from a different Affiliated Association as determined by the applicable series chair.
- l. Where a team drops out of a tournament style Rep Play-off 7 or more days prior to the start of the tournament, and there is no team that was classified at the relevant classification, which is not scheduled to attend the tournament, then the schedule for the tournament, if published, will be redone. If a team drops out of a tournament style Rep Play-off less than 7 days prior to the tournament and the schedule for the tournament has been published, any scheduled games not played due to teams having dropped out shall count as a game played and not a bye in the tournament and the published chart shall not be changed.
- m. Where a team is playing multiple consecutive games on the same day, the team must be given a minimum of 30 minutes from the time of completion of the first game of the day until the start of their second game of the day and a minimum of 60 minutes from the time of completion of the second game of the day until the start of their third game of the day. If a team must travel from another location between games, appropriate travel time shall be added to these periods. A team may agree to waive the minimum period and play at an earlier time.
- n. Byes are to be awarded as follows:
  - i. No team shall receive a back-to-back bye in successive rounds.
  - ii. No team shall receive a second bye until all remaining teams have received their first bye.
  - iii. If more than 1 team is eligible for a bye, the undefeated team shall automatically receive the bye.
  - iv. If more than 1 team is eligible for a bye, the bye team will be determined by means of a draw with the first team drawn receiving the bye.
- o. The OBA Convenor's Report and specified attachments must be submitted electronically on the OBA website within 10 days following the tournament.



### RP5.3 HOME AND HOME STYLE PLAY-OFFS

- a. The secretary of each Affiliated Association shall notify the Rep Series Chair as to the representatives of their Affiliated Association, after which all arrangements regarding Rep Play-offs are to be completed through the management of the teams and respective Series Chair.
- b. All series shall be the best 2 out of 3; except in the final series in any category, if both teams agree, a longer series may be permitted. The Rep Council shall reserve the right to order a sudden death game in any semi-final or final Rep Play-off.
- c. In order that the final game may be played within a reasonable time, all teams competing in Rep games will be required to play 2 or more games a week.
- d. The home team shall have control of the arrangements for grounds, officials, convenors, etc. The said arrangements are subject to the approval of the Rep Series Chair.
- e. Where the home team operates under floodlights they shall reserve the right to play any or all the Rep Play-off games under the lights.
- f. No home and home style Rep Play-off game shall be scheduled before 1:00pm if the traveling team involved is further than 160 kilometres from location of said game unless previously agreed upon by both teams.
- g. No playing member of either team involved in any series will be allowed to act as convenor.
- h. The Convenor making arrangements for home and home style Rep Play-offs must contact both teams personally regarding dates and times for all games and any further arrangements that might be necessary at least 48 hours in advance of said dates and times.
- i. In all home and home style Rep Play-off games, the period for batting and fielding practice shall be: home team batting practice up to 45 minutes before advertised time of game; visiting team batting and infield practice for the next 30 minutes; home team fielding practice for the next 10 minutes. The home team shall be required to notify the teams of the termination of their allotted time for the various practices. It shall be the duty of the manager of the team at practice to order his/her team to vacate the diamond immediately. When a team is late for its allotted practice time they will forfeit their practice rights.

### RP5.4 FORMAT FOR OBA PLAY-OFF TOURNAMENTS

***Available as a separate download from the Baseball Ontario website***

**Note:** Standard tournament formats for all Rep Play-off tournaments must be used, and those brackets not identified in this RP5.1 will be provided by the OBA Office to the tournament host before the close of business on the Friday following the Rep Classification Meeting.

### RP5.5 DETERMINING THE HOME TEAM

- a. The home team will be decided by a coin toss prior to each Rep Play-off Tournament game with the team from the municipality furthest away from the tournament site calling the toss.



## RP6 REP NATIONAL QUALIFIER TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES

- a. The Rep National Qualifier Tournament is sanctioned by the OBA in order to produce an Ontario representative to the National Championship Tournament sponsored by the Canadian Federation of Amateur Baseball.
- b. All Rep National Qualifier Tournaments and Rep National Qualifier Tournament games shall be governed by the OBA Procedures and Playing Rules, Rep Procedures and Playing Rules, the Official Rules of Baseball, the Rep Tournament Rules and these Rep National Qualifier Tournament Rules.
- c. The OBA, the local Host Association and their respective officials accept no responsibility for any injuries to any player, team official, or any other person, either on or off the field during an OBA National Qualifier Tournament.
- d. Only Rep registered teams and players may participate in a Rep National Qualifier Tournament.
- e. Teams participating in a Rep National Qualifier Tournament shall automatically be classified by the Rep Council as follows:
  - i. 13U AAA
  - ii. 15U AAAA
  - iii. 18U AAAA
  - iv. 22U AAA
  - v. Senior AAA
- f. Any team participating in a National Championship as a host team shall be classified as indicated corresponding to the age category in RP6 e) i.)-v.).
- g. Applications to enter a Rep National Qualifier Tournament must be received by the OBA Office by June 15<sup>th</sup>. The entry fee (payable to OBA), written permission from the team's Affiliated Association, and a proof of each coach's & manager's NCCP number must accompany the application. Applications to enter a Rep National Qualifier Tournament received after June 15<sup>th</sup> but prior to the draw being held for the tournament shall be accepted only if accompanied by a late fee of \$100 for each day after June 15<sup>th</sup> that the application is late.
- h. An information package, including a complete schedule of Rep National Qualifier Tournament games, rules, and a Rep approved tournament chart will be forwarded to each host by June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- i. Where a team drops out of a Rep National Qualifier Tournament 7 or more days prior to the start of the tournament, the schedule for the tournament, if published, will be redone. If a team drops out of a Rep National Qualifier Tournament less than 7 days prior to the tournament and the schedule for the tournament has been published, any scheduled games not played due to teams having dropped out of the tournament shall be considered defaults and shall count as a game played and not as a bye in the tournament and the published chart shall not be changed. A team which drops out of a Rep National Qualifier Tournament after the draw shall forfeit its entry fee and shall not be classified for the Rep Play-offs.

**Note:** *If possible a late entry team may be used as a substitute where applicable.*

- j. The Rep National Qualifier Tournament shall be a double loss knock-out tournament and may require play-downs to be played prior to the tournament. The final Rep National Qualifier Tournament shall be held on the Civic Holiday weekend annually, except at 13U and 15U which will be held one week prior to the Civic Holiday weekend.
- k. The published chart for Rep National Qualifier Tournaments may provide for predetermined byes in early rounds (not exceeding the fifth round) of the Rep National Qualifier Tournament. Thereafter, byes are to be awarded as follows:
  - i. No team shall receive a back-to-back bye in successive rounds.
  - ii. No team shall receive a second bye until all remaining teams have received their first bye.
  - iii. If more than 1 team is eligible for a bye the undefeated team shall automatically receive the bye.
  - iv. If more than 1 team is eligible for a bye, the bye team will be determined by means of a draw with the first team drawn receiving the bye.
- l. A local host shall not use any special or local rules in any Rep National Qualifier Tournament or game(s).
- m. Where scheduling concerns warrant the National Qualifier of teams as early as the first day of the tournament, a maximum of two rounds may be played on day one.
- n. Teams must be prepared to play on the Friday, if necessary (Thursday in the case of 13U, 15U and 18U). In all series up to and including 15U, no game shall start after 9:30 p.m. on any day and no new inning may begin after 12:59 a.m. (or such earlier time as may be provided by local by-law).
- o. At 18U and below, Rep National Qualifier Tournaments with 18+ teams where more than 8 rounds of play may be required, the tournament shall be scheduled to begin on the Thursday prior to the Civic Holiday Weekend. Notwithstanding RP6 l), when a Thursday start is required, only one round shall be played.
- p. At 22U, when the Rep National Qualifier applications exceed 16 teams, a qualifier tournament will be held on the weekend two weeks prior to the Civic Holiday weekend. The top 12 teams from the previous season's 22U Rep National Qualifier Tournament shall receive an automatic berth into the Rep National Qualifier Finals Tournament and the remaining teams will participate in the Rep National Qualifier Qualifier(s). The top 4 teams from the Rep Qualifier earning entry into the Rep National Qualifier Finals Tournament on the Civic Holiday weekend. No Rep Qualifier Tournament shall permit more than 12 teams to participate, if there are more than 12 teams playing for the 4 remaining spots, the Rep Qualifier shall be split into two separate tournaments and a random draw will determine with the two finalist of each Rep Qualifier earning a spot in the Rep National Qualifier Finals Tournament.
- q. At the Senior AAA Rep National Qualifier, the number of rounds scheduled to be completed on Friday may be 1.5 rounds, with the Winner's bracket being scheduled to play Round 2 on Friday while the Loser's bracket will be scheduled to play Round 2 on Saturday. In all other circumstances, each round in a double National Qualifier tournament must be originally scheduled to be completed on the same day.
- r. No game may be scheduled to start prior to 9:00 am for the duration of the Rep National Qualifier Tournament or any Qualifier. In the event that weather or other unforeseen circumstances

require the start time of games to change, the Rep Series Chair shall have sole authority to order a game to begin earlier than 9:00 am provided that teams receive no less than 8 hours prior notice of the change (ie: midnight for an 8:00am start). Under no circumstances may a Rep National Qualifier Tournament game start prior to 8:00 am.

- s. At the 22U Rep National Qualifier Tournament, the roster shall be capped at a maximum of 30 players. A maximum of 25 players can appear on a line-up card for any one game. At all other Rep National Qualifier Tournaments, a maximum roster of up to 25 players will be allowed.
- t. Coaches must have a copy of their OBA approved roster with them in case it is required during the tournament. The coach must write the OBA roster number in the space provided on the tournament sign-in sheet.
- u. The tournament host will maintain a sign-in list for all umpires used in the tournament and forward the sign-in list to the Tournament Chair with the Tournament Report.
- v. Teams must be given a minimum of 30 minutes from the time of completion of the last game that they played, until the start of their next game. If a team must travel from another location, appropriate travel time shall be added to the 30-minute period.
- w. Barring extenuating circumstances, if 1 team is not able to start a game, within 30 minutes of the scheduled starting time for such game, the game will be forfeited to the other team and the offending team will not be allowed to continue in the tournament. The game will count as a game played and not count as a bye in the tournament and the published chart shall not be changed.
- x. The home team will be decided by a coin toss prior to each Rep National Qualifier Tournament game with the team from the municipality furthest away from the tournament site calling the toss.
- y. Awards shall be presented to teams as determined by the OBA Awards Committee.
- z. The Rep Convenor's Report and specified attachments must be mailed (postmarked) to the Rep Tournament chair within 10 days following the tournament.

#### RP7.1 EXHIBITION GAMES AND OUT OF PROVINCE PLAY

- a. All teams registered with the OBA, which desire to participate in exhibition games, must first secure the permission of their Local Association and Affiliated Association. (Any game or tournament that has not been sanctioned by the OBA is defined as an exhibition game. Local Associations and Affiliated Associations may approve exhibition games where their own member teams are playing against each other within their own boundaries.)
- b. Teams wishing to play an exhibition game(s) outside the Province of Ontario must first secure the permission of their Local Association and Affiliated Association and submit same to the OBA Office for approval.
- c. Teams wishing to play an exhibition game(s) involving a team(s) from outside the Province of Ontario must first secure the permission of their Local Association and Affiliated Association and submit same to the OBA Office for approval.
- d. In an exhibition game(s) teams may only use players who have signed OBA approved rosters. Except with the permission of the management of the team with which the player is rostered, a team may not use pick-ups in an exhibition game.

- e. Applications can be made to the Rep Council to make exceptions to the rule.

## RP7.2 OPEN, INVITATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES

- a. Any team, Direct Entry, Local Association or Affiliated Association, wishing to hold a tournament where 3 or more teams are competing, must first apply for permission to hold same from the Rep Council. A fee determined by the OBA Board of Management and Rep Council must accompany each application only if teams are from outside the area Affiliated Association. This application must have been approved by the Affiliated Association secretary in the area from which it came. If more than one series or classification which results in more than 1 tournament schedule being scheduled (e.g. Minor, Major, AAA, AA/A) a fee determined by Rep Council must be paid for each tournament.
- b. The Rep Tournament Chair shall have the power to appoint a Rep Representative to any Rep sanctioned tournament.
- c. A list of all Rep sanctioned tournaments will appear on our website, <https://playoba.ca>.
- d. A declared representative from an Affiliated Association must first honour its Rep Play-off and Affiliated Association obligations before participating in a tournament.
- e. Any team not fulfilling its commitment to any Rep sanctioned tournament may be fined and/or suspended from further participation in any Rep sanctioned tournament and the Rep Play-offs provided that this information is provided to the Rep Tournament Chair in writing. The fine for a team not fulfilling its commitment to a tournament is \$500. Any fine collected (after any appeals) is to be split 50/50 between the Rep and the tournament host.
- f. Non-OBA teams registered in Ontario may compete in open, invitational or international tournaments, only if permission of the Rep Tournament Chair is requested. Such non-OBA teams must provide proof of accident and liability insurance to the tournament host prior to being permitted to play in the tournament.
- g. The tournament host is responsible for ensuring that each team in the tournament is either: (i) Rep rostered, (ii) Select registered, (iii) recognized under RP7.3(f) or RP1.12, or (iv) from outside of the Province of Ontario.
- h. Failure by an OBA team to provide a tournament host with a valid OBA roster number will result in a \$200 fine to the team.
- i. The Host Committee must notify each application of acceptance or rejection into the tournament within 10 days following the final deadline date. Failure to comply with such provisions may lead to the tournament not being approved the following year.
- j. A final date for applications for acceptance to the Rep sanctioned tournament must be in the hands of the Host Association at least 21 days in advance of the first date of the tournament.
- k. The complete schedule of tournament games must be sent to each participating team at least two weeks prior to the first game. A fine of \$500 will apply for Local Associations in violation of this timeline for each tournament.
- l. Only Rep rules shall apply for all Rep tournaments, with the exception of curfews, game length (ie: 7 or 9 innings), time limits, and playoff formats, local rules shall not apply. Tournament convenors shall determine curfews, game length, and schedules, including playoff formats.

Tournament hosts are responsible to send a list of these rules as well as a copy of the OBA Arm Care and mercy rules out to all participants with the tournament schedule at least two weeks prior to the first game.

- m. The final score of any game ended by a game length rule will be the score at the time the game ends regardless of whether an inning was incomplete.
- n. Where a tournament is cancelled prior to any game being played the total tournament entry fee must be refunded to all teams. Where a tournament is cancelled after games have been played the teams will be refunded on a pro rata basis for the games not played.
- o. No special concessions will be granted to any team(s) participating in any of these tournaments.
- p. The tournament host is responsible for ensuring that each umpire is properly carded. Teams may request that the host produce verification of umpire certification prior to the game. Teams may not protest a game based on the carding of the umpires during or after a game.
- q. No tournament game shall start before 8:00am on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, and no tournament game shall start later than 9:30pm on any night. Where the published schedule has a team starting a game at 8:30 pm or later, then the team cannot be scheduled to play earlier than 9:00 am on the following day.
- r. Teams must be given a minimum of 30 minutes from the time of completion of the last game that they played, until the start of their next game, without jeopardy of forfeit. If a team must travel from another location, appropriate travel time shall be added to the 30 minute period.
- s. Barring extenuating circumstances, if 1 team is not able to start a game within 15 minutes of the scheduled starting time for such game, the game will be forfeited to the other team, and the forfeiting team fined \$500. Teams failing to return for the second half of a suspended game shall forfeit the game and be subject to an automatic \$500 fine.
- t. At 22U and below, except as set out in this paragraph, no team may play more than two games in a calendar day. At 8U and 9U and Senior, teams may not play more than three games in a calendar day. At Senior only, a team may consent but may not be required to play four games in a calendar day. At all age categories, on one day of the tournament, a maximum of three games may be played. A suspended game shall count as a game played on both the day it commenced and the day it is completed if three or more innings are played on each day. If less than three innings are played on the day it is completed, it will not count as a game played on that day. Regardless of these rules, pitch counts must be entered on the day the pitch was actually thrown and days rest are applied according to the day the pitch was actually thrown.
- u. The Rep Convenors Report and specified attachments must be emailed to the Rep Tournament Chair within 10 days following the tournament.
- v. If these rules are not adhered to, the tournament shall not be approved or, if already approved, the host association may be fined \$200.00 and the tournament may not be approved the following year.
- w. The Rep Tournament Chair shall provide, immediately, to the Affiliated Associations a listing of any and all disciplinary problems with managers, coaches, players or other team personnel, as reported by the tournament convenors.

- x. Tournament hosts may determine what awards they give to teams and/or players entering their tournaments, provided, however, that cash prizes may only be given to teams (not players) at 22U or Senior tournaments.

### RP7.3 TIE BREAKER RULES

- a. Where tie breaking rules are required, the following tie breaking rules will be used for each placement independently:
  - i. Teams with a forfeit loss are ineligible for tiebreakers
  - ii. Head-to-head record among tied teams;
  - iii. Team with the smallest runs against ratio (runs allowed / number of defensive innings played) in games among tied teams;
  - iv. Team with the smallest runs against ratio (runs allowed / number of defensive innings played) in all games;
  - v. Team with the highest runs for ratio (runs scored / number of offensive innings played) in games among tied teams;
  - vi. Team with the highest runs for ratio (runs scored / number of offensive innings played) in all games;
  - vii. Coin toss
- b. When there are 3 or more teams tied, the tiebreakers will exclude RP7.4(a)(ii). After the winner of that tie breaker is determined, the tiebreakers will continue, if necessary, excluding RP7.4(a)(ii) as long as there are 3 or more teams tied. When only 2 teams remain, the tiebreaker will start at RP7.4(a)(i).

# RQ1 APPROVED RULES OF T-BALL

## RQ1.1 GENERAL

- a. **The Game:** T-Ball is a game of baseball between 2 teams of 11 players, under the direction of a manager and coaches played in agreement with the Official Playing Rules (RQ1-1 d) under the authority of an umpire or umpires on a recommended T-Ball field. It is designed to get young people interested in the game of baseball by stressing and maintaining active participation of all the players; with mandatory alternation of players at a game (RQ1-4 c), with the offensive team utilizing the 11 players as batters to score as many runs as possible and the defensive team using 2 extra outfielders to make as many outs as possible in accordance with the rules.
- b. **Insurance:** Liability insurance must be carried by all T-Ball leagues. Proof of Liability insurance must be sent to the OBA Office.
- c. **Official Playing Rules:** T-Ball is a game of baseball played in accordance with regular baseball rules with the incorporation of the rules contained in these Approved Playing Rules of T-Ball.
- d. **Rosters:** See OBA Rules. Min. - 11. Max. - 25.
- e. **Field Decorum:**
  - i. The actions of players, managers, coaches, umpires and league officials must be above reproach.
  - ii. The use of tobacco, alcohol or illicit drugs in any form is prohibited on the playing field, benches or in dugouts.
  - iii. Players or coaches while participating in a scheduled game are not permitted to deliberately harass or direct discourteous remarks at the officials or any member of the opposing team.
  - iv. Managers, coaches or players engaged or persisting in conduct contrary to the spirit, principles and objectives of good sportsmanship in T-Ball, shall receive a single warning from the umpire. If the offences continue, offender or offenders will be removed from the game.
  - v. Anyone removed from the game must leave the playing field and the spectator area. Failure to do so could result in a forfeiture of the game (RQ1-4 b).

## RQ1.2 EQUIPMENT

- a. **Uniforms:** Uniforms shall consist of a sweater, cap, pants and socks and must be worn by all players and coaches while participating in a game. Sweaters shall be individually numbered.
- b. **Gloves:**
  - i. The catcher may wear any type of baseball glove.
  - ii. The first baseman shall be permitted to wear a trapper or fielder's glove.
  - iii. All other members of the fielding team must wear fielder's gloves.
- c. **Helmets:** Each team must supply at least 6 double ear-flapped protective helmets with chinstraps. They must be worn when the players are at bat, while running the bases, while acting



as batboy and while in the next batter's circle. Chinstraps must be worn as designed by the manufacturer.

- d. **Footwear:** Shoes with metal cleats are prohibited. Shoes with moulded rubber cleats may be used.
- e. **Catcher's Equipment:** The catcher's equipment shall consist of a chest protector, shin guards, facemask and helmet, which must be worn during practices, game warm-ups and regular games. A metal, fibre or plastic cup-type athletic support must also be worn.
- f. It is recommended that all players wear athletic supports of the plastic cup-type.
- g. **The Ball:** The ball shall weigh not less than 5 oz. or more than 5.25 oz. It shall measure not less than 9 in. or more than 9.25 in. in circumference. OBA approved baseballs.
- h. **The Bat:** The bat shall be round and made of wood or aluminium. It shall not be more than 33 in. in length. It shall not be more than 2 1/4 in. in diameter at its largest part and not less than 1 1/16 in. in diameter at its smallest.
- i. **The Batting Tee:** The batting tee shall be a stand that will be placed on home plate for the purpose of holding the ball for the players to swing at. It should be portable and adjustable to the height of the player's choice. Each team may use its own tee when at bat. Safety must be a key element when selecting a batting tee.
- j. The Playing Field:
  - i. The distance between all bases shall be 60 ft.
  - ii. The distance between the point of home plate and the pitcher's rubber shall be 50 feet.
  - iii. Batter's boxes shall be 3 ft. wide and 6 ft. long. The inside line shall be parallel to and 4 in. away from the side of home plate. It shall extend 3 ft. in front of and 3 ft. behind the centre of home plate.
  - iv. The coach's box shall be 4 ft. wide and 8 ft. long, and shall not be closer than 6 ft. to the base lines.
  - v. The infield arc is a line dividing the infield playing area from the outfield. It has a 50 ft. radius from the centre of the playing line (RQ1.3 a) extending from foul line to foul line.

### RQ1.3 DEFINITIONS

- a. **Playing line** - is an imaginary line running directly from first base to third base, which is a guide for the plate umpire to determine a fair hit ball.
- b. **Forfeited game** - is a game declared ended by the umpire for violation of the rules. The score will be recorded 5-0 for the offended team.
- c. **Fair hit ball** - is a legally batted ball that in the plate umpire's opinion will or could have firmly crossed the playing line (RQ1.3 a) in fair territory, even if it is fielded before crossing the line.
- d. **Dead hit ball** - is a legally batted ball that, in the umpire's opinion will not or could not have firmly crossed the playing line, even if fielded in front of the playing line. This excluded a ball put into play by an illegal swing (RQ1-3 I). If the ball is caught in flight by the defensive team, the batter is out and the ball is in play until time is called.
- e. **Strike** - is when:
  - i. the ball is swung at by the batter and is completely missed.



- ii. the ball is a dead hit, fouled or put into play by an illegal swing (RQ1.3 l) by the batter when he/she has less than 2 strikes.
- f. **Illegally batted ball** - is when the batter hits the ball, either dead, fair or foul with one or both feet on the ground entirely outside the lines of the batter's box (RQ1.3 k).
- g. **Fielder's choice** - is when any defensive player has control of the ball in the infield area (RQ1.3 h) and in the judgment of the plate umpire there is no attempt to make a play on any of the base runners, time will be called, and the base runners, in the judgement of the umpires, will be held on the base they last occupied or the unoccupied base they were approaching when time was called. A player raising his/her hand with the ball therein above his/her head will not automatically attain a call of time by the umpire.
- h. **Infield area** - is the area, in the judgement of the plate umpire, in which the defensive infielders would normally play in performance of their duties. It also includes the adjacent foul territories which are encompassed by the playing line being extended to the playing field boundaries.
- i. **Appeal** - must be made before "play" is called for the next batter; in the case of the last batter, it must be made before the last defensive player is off the field.
- j. **Lead-off** - is when a runner is off his/her base when the batter hits the ball off the tee.
- k. **Batter's box** - is an area on each side of home plate, within which the batter shall have both his/her feet during his/her time at bat.
- l. **Illegal swing** - is when the batter does not take a full swing or chop swings downward at the ball. This is considered bunting and is contrary to RQ1.4 a). (Penalty see RQ1.5 n).

#### RQ1.4 GENERAL RULES

- a. In T-Ball there shall be no pitching to the batter, therefore there will be no base-on-balls awarded; there is no bunting and the infield fly rule does not apply.
- b. Each team shall have a starting line-up of 11 players. If at any point during the game a team cannot field the 11 players, the game will be forfeited to the opposing team.
- c. All players listed in the game line-up in which their team is participating must be scheduled to play at least 2 innings of a 5 inning game. It is compulsory that players play a complete inning when alternated and must be put in at the beginning of an inning.
- d. 10 minutes before the scheduled starting time, the manager must give a copy of his/her batting line-up for each of the 5 innings to be played to the opposing manager and the official scorekeeper. A player must be listed to bat in the same batting position for each inning until substituted. He/she may return to the same or any other batting position in the line-up following the inning in which he/she was substituted. No changes to the line-up will be permitted in the first 3 innings of the game, except in the case of injury or sickness. (A player substituted for because of injury or sickness may not re-enter the game until the following inning.) Prior to the start of the fourth and/or subsequent innings, valid additions or changes to the line-up must be made before the plate umpire calls play for the first batter at the beginning of that inning. All line-up changes must be reported to the plate umpire, official scorekeeper and the opposing manager. If a player is listed on the game score sheet but is not in attendance at the game when his/her scheduled time at bat or his/her turn to take a defensive position occurs, the offending

team shall forfeit the game. Late arriving team players who are not listed on the home score sheet may only be inserted into the line-up to play the fourth and fifth innings at the manager's discretion (RQ2.4 c).

- e. The batting orders must be followed for each inning. A batter who fails to bat in his/her proper batting position shall be declared out on an appeal by the defensive team, if another player completes a time at bat in his/her place. However, the proper batter may take his/her place in the batter's box at any time before the improper batter becomes a runner or is put out and any strikes will be assumed by the proper batter. If the improper batter becomes a base runner or is put out and the proper appeal is made the plate umpire shall:
  - i. declare the proper batter out,
  - ii. nullify any advances or scores made by the base runners because of a ball batted by the improper batter, and
  - iii. the next batter will be the player in the batting position following the player who was called out because of missing his/her turn at bat. If the appeal is made too late then the improper batter becomes legal and the player in that batting position is considered to have completed his/her turn at bat. The next batter will be the player in the next batter position in the line-up.
- f. If at the time a game is scheduled to begin, a team does not have a minimum of 11 eligible players, a maximum extension of 15 minutes will be allowed before the plate umpire declares the game forfeited to the non-offending team.
- g. If 15 minutes past the scheduled game time, neither team can field 11 eligible players the umpire shall declare a double forfeit.
- h. Each defensive team shall have:
  - i. a catcher who shall play a position normally taken by the catcher behind home plate, far enough back so he/she does not interfere with the batter while batting,
  - ii. a pitcher who shall play in the infield and must assume a set position with both feet on the pitcher's rubber until the ball is hit,
  - iii. a first baseman, a second baseman, a third baseman and a shortstop who shall play in positions regularly played by these infielders and they shall not cross the playing line until the ball is hit. Penalty - in the event a defensive player, in the judgement of the umpire, does cross the playing line before the ball is hit the umpires will call time immediately and the ball is dead,
  - iv. 5 outfielders who shall play in the area regularly played by outfielders, and
  - v. a maximum of 4 adults in the dugout.
- i. The offensive team shall have no more than 2 adults in the dugout and will be allowed only 2 coaches in the coaching boxes (1 near first base and 1 near third base) for a total of 4. Coaches and managers shall:
  - i. be adults,
  - ii. remain within the dugout or within the coaches boxes at all times,
  - iii. not physically assist any runner while he/she is in play (in the event he/she does, the base umpire will call the runner out at the time of the infraction), and
  - iv. talk to members of his/her own team only.

- j. A regulation game will consist of 5 complete innings, provided 1 team has scored more runs than the other. If the score is tied at the end of 5 innings, play is continued until 1 team has scored more runs than the other in an equal number of innings or when the home team has scored the winning run in the last inning. In the event the umpire terminates the game before the end of the fifth inning and there has been at least 3 completed innings played, the score will revert back to the last completed inning. In the event that a league game is tied after 3 or more completed innings and halted by the umpire, it shall be scored a tie. In the event that a league game is halted before 3 complete innings, it shall not be considered a regulation game and will be replayed from the beginning at a later date. In tournament play, if a game is halted before it is a regulation game but at least 1 inning has been completed, the game will continue from the exact point play was halted.
- k. **Protesting a Game:** The managers of the contesting teams only shall have the right to make protests. A protest will not be considered on a decision involving umpire's judgement but only when based on the violation or interpretation of a playing rule, an eligible player or if a player does not play at least 2 innings of a 5 inning game. Protests shall be made as follows:
  - i. The protesting manager shall immediately and before any further play begins, notify the plate umpire that he/she is playing the game under protest.
  - ii. Following such notice the umpires shall consult with each other and if they are convinced that the decision is in conflict with the rule the decision shall be reversed. If, however, after consultation they are convinced that the decision is not in conflict with the rules, the plate umpire shall announce that the game is being played under protest and play will continue.
  - iii. Protests made due to the use of an ineligible player or a player not playing enough innings may be considered only if made to the plate umpire before the last batter of the final inning or half inning has completed his/her turn at bat.
  - iv. Any protest for any reason whatsoever must be submitted in writing within 48 hours after completion of the game by the protesting manager and the plate umpire to the proper league officials who shall deal with it as they see fit.
  - v. In tournament play, all protests are settled on the playing field before any further play continues. The umpires shall consult with each other and if they cannot resolve the protest between them, they shall call in the tournament umpire-in-chief or protest committee and this decision is non-appealable.

#### RQ1.5 PLAYING RULES

- a. To begin the game, the plate umpire shall instruct the home team to take their positions in the field, place the tee of the batting team on home plate and call "play" for the first batter of the offensive team.
- b. The batter becomes a base runner when:
  - i. he/she hits the ball hard enough to cross the playing line in fair territory (RQ1.3 a) and c).
  - ii. the catcher interferes with him/her while he/she is attempting to hit the ball. The batter is awarded first base, the ball is dead and no runner may advance except those forced by

the batter becoming a base runner. In the event that the batter, in spite of the interference, hits the ball fairly (RQ1.3 c) and reaches any base safely and all runners have advanced at least 1 base safely, then the interference is disregarded. In the case of catcher interference on the last batter while he/she is attempting to hit the ball, the ball is dead, no runners may advance and the last batter is allowed to continue his/her turn at bat with the same count. In the event the last batter, in spite of the catcher interference, hits the ball fairly and reaches home plate safely, the ball is alive and the catcher interference is disregarded. However, in all cases of catcher interference, the offensive manager has the option of accepting or refusing the catcher interference.

- c. A batter is out when:
  - i. his/her fair hit, dead hit, foul fly or fly ball put into play by an illegal swing is caught by a member of the defensive team. The ball is alive and in play until time is called.
  - ii. he/she hits the ball illegally. The ball is dead and runners may not advance (RQ1.3 f).
  - iii. he/she has 3 strikes called on him/her. The ball is dead and runners may not advance (RQ1.3 e).
- d. A base runner is out:
  - i. on a force play, when the base they are advancing to is tagged by a member of the defensive team with a live ball.
  - ii. when he/she is tagged.
  - iii. when running off his/her baseline to avoid a tag.
  - iv. when he/she is hit by a fair batted ball, either on or off his/her base, before the ball has touched or passed an infielder trying to make a play on the ball not including the pitcher. The ball is dead and no runner may advance.
- e. **Lead-offs:** No player on the offensive team, while a base runner, shall take a lead-off from the base he/she is on until the batter has hit the ball from the tee. When any runner has taken a lead-off, the base umpire shall indicate same by dropping a red flag. Play is permitted to continue and all runners are in jeopardy. At the end of the play when time is called, any outs will stand and all other runners will return to their original bases and the batter, if not put out will return to bat with the same count. In the event that lead-off occurs on the last batter, play will continue and all legal runs are allowed to score except player(s) who lead-off.
- f. If a fielder intentionally drops a fly ball or line drive, when first base is occupied, the force is removed and the base runner must be tagged.
- g. **Overthrows:** Base runners may advance when a ball is overthrown to any base until such time a defensive player has control of the ball in the infield area and there is no attempt to make a play (RQ1.3 g and h). In the event the overthrown ball leaves the playing field, the base runners shall be permitted to advance to the base they were approaching when the ball was thrown plus 1 more base. Runners with last batter status (RQ1.5 i) are allowed to continue to score.
- h. The offensive team's turn at bat ends when:
  - i. the last batter has 3 strikes.
  - ii. the last batter has hit the ball illegally (RQ1.3 f).
  - iii. when the catcher (only) touches home plate with the last batter's fair hit ball (RQ1.3 c) in his/her possession. The ball must be thrown over the playing line (RQ1.3 a) at least once

on its way to the catcher unless the fair hit ball was fielded in front of the playing line. The pitcher, only, is allowed to assist the catcher in the home plate area. Penalty - In the event a defensive player other than the pitcher, in the judgement of the umpire crosses into the home plate area, the umpire will call time and allow all legal runs to score.

- iv. base runner with last batter status (RQ1.5 i) is hit by a fair hit ball either on or off his/her base before the ball is touched by an infielder or has passed an infielder, excluding the pitcher, the ball is dead and no runs may score.
- v. the last batter's fly ball is legally caught and there are no runners on the bases.
- i. **Last Batter Status:** Any players on the offensive team who are base runners when the last batter is at bat are regarded in the same manner as the last batter and no defensive play can be made on them on the bases. They are all forced to home plate when the last batter has hit the ball fairly (RQ1.3 c).
- j. In the event the last batter's fair hit ball leaves the playing field by going over the outfield fence, either in flight or bouncing over, it will be considered a home run and all runners having last batter status will be allowed to score. However, if the ball goes under or gets caught in the outfield fence and in so doing interferes with the fielder's chances to field the ball, all base runners will be allowed to score, but not the batter.
- k. In the event that the last batter of the offensive team is out on a fly ball, the players who are base runners shall be permitted to score, provided they are on the base when the ball is caught or they retouch it after the ball is caught before touching the next base. These runners have to score prior to the ball being returned to home plate.
- l. In the event that the last batter of the offensive team or any base runner with last batter status is obstructed in any manner by any defensive player while running the bases, it shall be the discretion of the umpire as to how far he/she would have advanced had there been no obstruction.
- m. A run does not count when a runner with last batter status:
  - i. reaches home plate after the plate has been legally touched by the catcher.
  - ii. has led-off and reaches home plate safely.
  - iii. has not tagged up and reaches home plate safely.
- n. **Illegal Swing:** When a batter puts a ball into play by an illegal swing (RQ1.3 l) the plate umpire shall indicate same by dropping a red flag; play is permitted to continue and all runners are in jeopardy. At the end of play, when time is called, all outs will stand and all other base runners will return to their original bases. The batter, if not put out, will resume his/her turn at bat with a strike added to his/her count (no third strike can be applied, RQ1.3 e ii). In the event the last batter puts the ball in play by an illegal swing it shall be considered a dead ball unless caught in flight by a defensive player.

## RQ1.6 UMPIRES

- a. Once the batting line-ups have been exchanged the plate umpire takes charge of the game and takes his/her place behind home plate.

- b. The decisions of the umpire shall be final; however, the managers of each team shall be entitled to ask for permission to approach the umpires for an interpretation of the rules. No umpire shall overrule any other unless invited into consultation.
- c. The umpires are the only ones that can call "time".
- d. To resume play after time has been called, the plate umpire will call for the next batter, and after the next batter has stepped into the batter's box, the umpire will place the ball on the tee and call "play". The batter is then allowed to hit.
- e. In the interest of safety, the plate umpire must remove the tee from home plate to prevent any interference with a play at home plate. Failure to do so will be no cause for the umpire to change the results of the play.
- f. The plate umpire must call out all strikes, dead hits and foul balls as quickly as possible. He/she must also indicate an illegal swing by dropping a red flag.
- g. The plate umpire shall notify opposing managers of any changes or additions to the original line-up as reported to him/her (RQ1.4 d).
- h. Base umpires shall:
  - i. judge the position of the runners when the ball is thrown out of the playing area (RQ1.5 f),
  - ii. watch for and indicate lead-offs (RQ1.5 d) and inform the plate umpire which runner(s) lead-off if they have last batter status (RQ1.5 j),
  - iii. watch for and inform the plate umpire of runners that do not retouch when the last batter's fly ball is caught (RQ1.5j) and
  - iv. hold up runners when time is called (RQ1.3 g).
- i. All umpires must make sure the fielders are all behind the playing line and the pitcher is in his/her proper position before play is called for the next batter.
- j. It is the duty of the plate umpire, after he/she has been notified, to call out "last batter". Failure to do so does not nullify the play.
- k. The plate umpire may terminate a game before its completion for reasons of darkness, bad weather or dangerous field conditions, etc.
- l. The umpires shall have the authority to rule on any situation not covered specifically in the Official Playing Rules.

# RQ2 APPROVED PLAYING RULES OF 8U/9U

## RQ2.1 REGULATIONS

All Rep Rules & Regulations pertaining to membership, territorial rights, registration, players signing, fees, insurance, classification, Rep Play-offs, and tournaments shall apply as stated in the current version of the OBA Procedures and Playing Rules and the Procedures and Playing Rules of the Rep Division, as amended each year at the Annual Meetings.

The Approved Playing Rules of 9U apply to both 9U and 8U.

## RQ2.2 DIAMOND LAYOUT

- a. The pitching machine is placed directly in front of home plate at a distance of 44 ft.
- b. An 8 ft. diameter safety circle shall be marked off directly in front of home plate and its centre shall be 44 ft. from home plate. No player is permitted to enter the safety circle, which is considered a dead ball area. Enter means that any part of the body enters the safety circle.
- c. Electrical cord must run along or under the ground from the pitching machine to the electrical source. A ball that hits the cord outside of the safety circle shall remain live and in play.
- d. In addition to electrical pitching machines, Louisville Slugger UPM 45 Blue Flame Pitching Machines are approved for Rep 9U play. It is recommended that a radar gun be present to confirm the machine settings produce pitches at the speed contemplated by RQ2.3 f). Note: A tournament may use either electric or mechanical machines, but not both.

## RQ2.3 PLAYING RULES

- a. A team shall comprise of a minimum of 10 players and a maximum of 25 players, all signed to team rosters of the series and classification of the team entered. Each team must have at least 1 manager and/or 1 or more coaches signed to a team roster clearly marked manager or coach and who shall be responsible for that team.
- b. Each team shall have a catcher, a first baseman, a second baseman, a third baseman, a shortstop, a left fielder, a right fielder, 1 pitcher and 2 centre fielders in the line-up. A team may play as long as it has 9 players at the game. If it drops to 8 or few players at a game, then the game is forfeited to the other team.
- c. The pitcher must stand beside the pitching machine outside of the safety circle and behind the release point of the pitching machine. Lines shall be drawn from the release point to 4 ft. beyond the circle. The pitcher must have both feet on or within 4 feet behind the white line until the ball is released from the machine. Once the ball is released from the machine, the pitcher may move in front of the line, but may not move through the circle. The machine shall be 44 ft. from home plate. Only the pitcher may return a live ball to the operating coach with runners on base. The



pitcher must wear a NOCSAE approved batting helmet with facemask and chinstrap attached as designed by the manufacturer and may not be removed until the play is complete. Penalty: Time will be called at the completion of the play and 1 base will be awarded from the position of the runners at the time the play was completed. Neither the pitcher nor any other player may in any way break the plane of the 8 foot diameter circle around the machine whether stepping on the circle line or reaching into the circle while in an attempt to field a ball. Play will be called dead and 1 base will be awarded. All other forced runners will move 1 base.

- d. Infielders can ask for time in the infield area. Time will be given at the umpire's discretion when continuous action from the play has stopped. **NOTE:** The ball does not have to go back to the pitcher before an infield may ask for time. Continuous action ends when the defense stops trying to field the baseball, and the offense stops trying to advance.
- e. Until the ball is fed into the machine, outfielders shall position themselves at least 15 feet beyond the base paths, or on the outfield grass, whichever is closer.
- f. The pitching machine speeds cannot be altered except at the end of an inning. Any tampering with the machine speed by the coach feeding the machine shall result in the coach's immediate ejection. If the speed or the flight of the ball becomes erratic, it shall be corrected at the direction of the umpire. (This may be done at any time.) If the correction is done between innings, both teams will be notified by the umpire. Height can be adjusted at any time. Machine speed is a maximum of 40mph and a minimum of 35mph.
- g. All 8U/9U baseball games shall be 7 innings or until a winner is declared. The game ends immediately after the deciding run scores, except for a home run out of the playing field or where additional runs are scored through the awarding of bases by rule in which case all runs are counted up to the 7 run inning maximum. Four innings shall constitute an official game except that a winner is declared and the game declared official at any point that the opposing team is unable to win or tie the game.
- h. Each batter shall receive a maximum of 5 strikes as called by the umpire. The batter shall not be called out if the 5<sup>th</sup> strike is called a foul ball. If a ball crosses the plate over the batter's head or bounces into the dirt, the umpire will not count it as a strike unless the batter swings at the pitch.
- i. Batters cannot walk or bunt. (Bunts are automatic outs.)
- j. There shall be no passed balls or wild pitches.
- k. Base Runners cannot leave the base until the batter makes contact with the ball. If an infraction occurs, the ball will be declared dead and the offending runner will be called out. No other runners may advance. No stealing allowed.
- l. If a batted ball hits the pitching machine or any adult in the playing field, then the ball is declared dead and the batter is awarded first base with the corresponding move of any base runners who may be forced to move. The coach feeding the machine must not interfere with any play being made by the defensive team. Otherwise, the batter will be called out and the runners will be returned to their base of origin. In case of the third out the side is retired.
- m. When a thrown ball hits the pitching machine or the cord within the circle, then the ball is declared dead and each base runner (including the batter-runner) shall advance one base from the time the ball becomes dead.
- n. The plate umpire shall be behind the catcher. The second umpire is the traditional base umpire.



- o. The on deck batter, the batter and base runners must wear a prescribed protective helmet with flaps covering both ears. Chinstraps are mandatory and will be worn as designed by the manufacturer. Helmets may not be changed except after the inning has been completed, or the player has been retired or has crossed home plate.
- p. Shoes with metal cleats are prohibited.
- q. All catchers are required to wear a mask with throat protector, helmet, chest protector, shin guards, cup and cup type supporter during the game and during any warm-up, machine set-up, etc.
- r. In addition to wooden bats, metal bats shall be allowed in OBA play. Except with respect to diameter, these bats shall meet the dimensional requirements specified in the Official Rules of Baseball. The maximum diameter of the bat barrel may be 2 ¾.
- s. All players in uniform (Rep Rostered) must be put in a continuous batting order, with the bat person being the exception. If a player is removed from the game due to injury, illness or official ejection, the player's spot in the batting order shall be deleted. In the event a batter must be removed due to injury, official ejection, or has to leave for any reason during the time at bat, the next batter in the batting order shall come to bat assuming the pitch count at the time the batter is removed. If the batter becomes an out, such batter shall then take his/her regular turn at bat.
- t. A coach/manager may only communicate positive instructions to his/her players on the field.
- u. Up to 3 games may be played in 1 day.
- v. An inning will be 3 outs or a maximum of 7 runs.
- w. The infield fly rule does not apply.
- x. The coach operating the pitching machine is required to wear a baseball helmet. For the purposes of this rule a skull cap is considered a baseball helmet. **Penalty:** the team will be warned one time to wear a helmet and for second violation or refusal to wear the helmet, the coach will be ejected.
- y. The coach operating the pitching machine may instruct the batter before feeding the machine, but shall not instruct runners during the play. **Penalty:** the coach shall be warned. If the action continues, the coach will be removed from the game.
- z. Batters at 9U must drop the bat and not throw it (intentionally or unintentionally) upon hitting the ball. **Penalty,** each team shall be entitled to one warning per game. After the warning, any further offences by a team shall result in the batter being declared out, the ball being dead and runners returning to their bases. If, prior to the team's warning, a batter throws the bat resulting in an injury, the ball is dead and play shall be halted and the team will receive its warning. The player's at bat will continue. **NOTE:** The pitch will count as one of the batter's 5 strikes. If it is the 5<sup>th</sup> strike, the batter will be declared out.
- aa. Once time has been granted by the umpire, the ball is returned to the Offensive Coach within the pitching circle. At this time, the plate umpire should say "Play" to make the ball live. The defensive pitcher may ask the offensive coach for the ball so he/she can make an appeal by tagging the base or the runner and indicating to the umpire the runner missed the base/left early/etc. The offensive coach must give the ball to the defensive player when requested. As per the Official Rules of Baseball, appeals must be made while the ball is live on either the base

that was missed by a runner or the runner – as long as the defense indicates clearly that an appeal is being made.

#### RQ2.4 APPROVED BALLS FOR 8U/9U

Any baseball approved for 11U play.

## REP APPENDIX A GUIDELINES FOR AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS

1. Affiliated Associations shall agree by and comply with all applicable Procedures and Playing Rules, By-Laws and Policies of the OBA.
2. Send a copy of the Affiliated Association's By-laws to the OBA Office.
3. Send a list of the Officers, along with their names, addresses and telephone numbers, of the Affiliated Association to the OBA Office within 30 days of the Annual Meeting of the Affiliated Association.
4. Send a copy of the Affiliated Association's Annual Financial Statement to the OBA Office within 30 days of the Annual Meeting of the Affiliated Association.
5. Send a copy of all minutes of meetings of Affiliated Associations to the OBA Office within 30 days of the meeting.
6. Notify the OBA Office as to the date, time and place of the Annual Meeting of the Affiliated Association 30 days prior to the meeting.
7. Pay annual affiliation fees, certificate tax and other fees that may be required by OBA.
8. Determine team classifications according to Article R6.01 of the Rep Procedures and Playing Rules.
9. Process playing rosters according to the current OBA roster procedures.
10. Notify the Rep Chair of each series as to the play-off representatives from the Affiliated Association.
11. Approve tournament requests prior to submission to the OBA.
12. Approve clinic requests prior to submission to the OBA.

## REP APPENDIX B AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS

Algoma Baseball Association	ABA
Central Ontario Baseball Association	COBA
Eastern Ontario Baseball Association	EOBA
Hamilton District Baseball Association	HDBA
Inter-County Baseball Association	ICBA
London District Baseball Association	LDBA
North Bay Baseball Association	NBBA
North Central Baseball Association	NCBA
National Capital Ontario Baseball Association	NCOBA

Niagara District Baseball Association	NDBA
Southern Counties Baseball Association	SCBA
Sun Parlour Baseball Association	SPBA
Timmins Area Baseball Association	TABA
Toronto Baseball Association	TBA
Thunder Bay Baseball Association	TBBA
Western Counties Baseball Association	WCBA
Western Ontario Baseball Association	WOBA
York Simcoe Baseball Association	YSBA

## B2 - AFFILIATED ASSOCIATION BOUNDARIES & TERRITORIAL RIGHTS

1. **ABA - ALGOMA BASEBALL ASSOCIATION:** Starting at, but excluding Massey on #553, then North on Highway # 553, excluding all area on said Highway, then on a straight line due West to Highway #129, then North on #129, including the Town of Chapleau, then on Highway #101 to Wawa and Lake Superior, then South along Lake Superior to Sault Ste. Marie, then East along Highway #17 to Massey.
2. **COBA - CENTRAL ONTARIO BASEBALL ASSOCIATION:** (Formerly Halton County Baseball Association). Starting at Lake Ontario, North along the Etobicoke Creek (Peel/York County Border) to Highway #50, then North on Highway #50 (excluding Bolton) to Highway #9, then West on Highway #9 (including Orangeville) to County Road leading to Fergus, then South on Highway #6, (excluding Guelph) to Highway #24, then South on Highway #24 to Highway #99 (excluding all centres), then East to Hamilton City Limits (excluding Dundas) to Lake Ontario, then East along Lake Ontario to starting point.
3. **EOBA - EASTERN ONTARIO BASEBALL ASSOCIATION:** The territory governed by the Eastern Ontario Baseball Association and approved by the Ontario Baseball Association shall begin at Lake Ontario and the Rouge River, north along the Rouge River to Highway 2; thence east along Highway 2 including the City of Pickering and the Towns of Ajax and Whitby to Region of Durham Road 23; thence north along Durham Road 23 to Highway 48; thence north and east along Highway 48 to Highway 35; thence North on Highway 35 to Minden; thence east on Highway 121 to Bancroft; thence south on Highway 62 to Madoc; thence east on Highway 7 to Sharbot Lake; thence south on Highway 38 to and including the City of Kingston, Howe Island, Wolfe Island, and Amherst Island; thence west along the shore of Lake Ontario including Prince Edward County to the starting point at the Rouge River.

4. **HDBA - HAMILTON & DISTRICT BASEBALL ASSOCIATION:** Starting at Lake Ontario, West along the Northern Boundaries of the City of Hamilton (including Dundas), South along the Hamilton-Wentworth Region boundary (including Ancaster) and East to Lake Ontario (including Glanbrook and Stoney Creek).
5. **ICBA - INTER COUNTY BASEBALL ASSOCIATION:** Starting at Highway 2 (Governors Road) and Highway 19 (Plank Line), excluding Thamesford; then east on Highway 2 to Oxford County Road 6 (Foldens Road); south on County Road 6 to County Road 12 (Sweaburg Road); then East on Sweaburg Road and south on Rural Road (Cedar Line) to Curries Road, east on Curries Road to Muir Line (Brant-Oxford County Line); north on Muir Line to Highway 53; then east on highway 53, including Brantford, to the boundary of Greater Hamilton; then northwest along the boundary to Highway 99; west along Highway 99 to Highway 24; then north on Highway 24 including Cambridge, Guelph and all centres on Highway 24 to Highway 7; thence west on Highway 7 including Bridgeport, Kitchener, Waterloo, New Hamburg and Stratford to Highway 19; then south on Highway 19 to Highway 2. Please note: St. Thomas 22U and Senior remain in the ICBA.
6. **LDBA - LONDON DISTRICT BASEBALL ASSOCIATION:** Starting at, but excluding Port Bruce on Lake Erie, North on County Road 73 (Imperial Road) to County Road 45 (John Wise Line); west on County Road 45 to County Road 35 (Springwater Road); north on County Road 35 to County Road 52 (Ron McNeil Line); East on County Road 52 to County Road 73 (Imperial Road); North on County Road 73, across Highway 401, north to Highway 2 (Dundas St.); East on Highway 2 to Highway 19, including Thamesford; North on Highway 19 to Highway 7, then west on Highway 7, excluding St. Mary's to Highway 81 including Strathroy to and along County Road to Christena on Highway 2 to and including Melbourne, then south along County Road leading to and including Port Talbot on Lake Erie.
7. **NBBA - NORTH BAY BASEBALL ASSOCIATION:** Starting at the Northern most point of Highway #539-A, but excluding any location on it and going due East to Temagami on Highway #11 to the Ottawa River, then South along the Ottawa River to the Northern boundary of the National Capital Senior Baseball Association, thence along the Northern boundary of Algonquin Park to the York Simcoe Baseball Association's Northern boundary, then due West on Highway #518 to Highway #69, but excluding any location on Highway #69, then due North to Warren, and excluding any location of this line including Warren.
8. **NCBA - NORTH CENTRAL BASEBALL ASSOCIATION:** Starting at Massey on the West, then North to the end of Highway #553, then due East to the end of Highway #539-A, then South through a point on Highway #17 at Warren to a Southern limit on Highway #69, excluding Parry Sound, then due West from Georgian Bay to include all of the Manitoulin Islands.
9. **NCOBA - NATIONAL CAPITAL ONTARIO BASEBALL ASSOCIATION:** The territory governed by the National Capital Senior Baseball Association shall be the newly incorporated city of Ottawa. Also included are the Counties of Dundas, Glengarry, Grenville, Lanark, Leeds, Prescott, Renfrew, Russell and Stormont. The legal description of the territory (by the Province of Ontario), shall be: the most southerly shores of the Ottawa River to the north; the Ontario-Quebec border, to the east; the most northerly shores of the St. Lawrence River, to the south; the most easterly

boundaries of Hastings-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington and the most easterly boundary of Nipissing, to the west.

10. **NDBA - NIAGARA DISTRICT BASEBALL ASSOCIATION:** Starting at the Niagara River, then South along the Niagara River to Lake Erie, then West along the shore of Lake Erie to and including Port Maitland, then North along County Road to Highway #3, then along Highway #3 (including Dunnville and Cayuga) to Highway #54, then North on Highway #54 to Highway #6 (excluding Caledonia), then North on Highway #6 to the Boundary of the Region of Hamilton-Wentworth, then East and South along the boundary of Hamilton-Wentworth to Lake Ontario, then East along the shore of Lake Ontario to the Niagara River.
11. **SCBA - SOUTHERN COUNTIES BASEBALL ASSOCIATION:** Starting at Port Maitland, north along County Road to Highway 3, excluding Dunnville and Cayuga, to Highway 54; then north on Highway 54 to and including Caledonia; then north on Highway 6 to the boundary of the former Region of Hamilton-Wentworth; then west along the boundary of Hamilton-Wentworth to Highway 99; then west along Highway 99 to Highway 24; then south on Highway 24, excluding Brantford; then west along the former Highway 53 to Muir Line (Brant-Oxford County Line); south on Muir Line to Curries Road; west on Curries Road and north on Rural Road (Cedar Line) to Sweaburg Road (Oxford Rd 12). Turn west on Sweaburg Road to Oxford Road 6 (Foldens Road). Turn north on Oxford Road 6 to Highway 2 (Governors Road). Proceed west on Governor's Road, excluding Thamesford, to County Road 73 (Elgin Road); south on County Road 73 to Elgin County Road 52 (Ron McNeil Line); west on County Road 52 to County Road 35 (Springwater Road); south on County Road 35, across Highway 3, to County Road 45 (John Wise Line); then East on County Road 45 to County Road 73 (Imperial Road); south on County Road 73 to Lake Erie, including Port Bruce.
12. **SPBA - SUN PARLOUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION:** Starting and including Essex County, the entire Townships of Romney and Tilbury East and that part of Raleigh Township, West of Kent County Road #6 and South of Kent County Road #14 of the County of Kent.
13. **TABA - TIMMINS AREA BASEBALL ASSOCIATION:** For the purpose of boundaries, the T.A.B.A. considers the Kirkland Lake area to be, the Town of Kirkland Lake and all communities and rural areas within 25 mile radius plus the city of Timmins and all communities and rural areas within 25 mile radius of that city.
14. **TBA - TORONTO BASEBALL ASSOCIATION:** Everything within the boundaries of the County of York which is South of Steeles Avenue and Markham Town Road or an Easterly extension thereof.
15. **TBBA - THUNDER BAY BASEBALL ASSOCIATION:** Starting at, and including White River on Highway #17, then North to, and including, Manitouwadge, Caramac, and Long Lac, then on a line due West on Highways 11 and #580, thence West from the terminus of Highway #580 to, and including English River, thence South on a straight line (91') to the International Boundary, then east along the Boundary and Lake Superior to, and including Heron Bay, then East on a straight line to White River.
16. **WCBA - WESTERN COUNTIES BASEBALL ASSOCIATION:** Includes all territory East of the following boundaries, starting at Kent County Road #6 and Kent County Road #14 of the County of Kent to the following Eastern boundaries, starting at and excluding Port Talbot on Lake Erie, North on County Road, to Highway #2, East on Highway #2 to and excluding Christena, then North

along County Road to Highway #81, then North along Highway #81 excluding Strathroy to and excluding Grand Bend on Lake Huron.

17. **WOBA - WESTERN ONTARIO BASEBALL ASSOCIATION:** Starting at and including Grand Bend on Lake Huron, South on #81 to #7, then East along #7 (and the St. Mary's by-pass to include St. Mary's) and excluding Stratford, New Hamburg, Kitchener and Waterloo to #6, then North on #6 (excluding Guelph but including all other centres) to and including Fergus, then Northeast along county road to #9, then East to but excluding Orangeville, then North on #10 to Georgian Bay including all centres except Shelburne.
18. **YSBA - YORK SIMCOE BASEBALL ASSOCIATION:** Starting at Steeles Avenue and Regional Road 50, North on Regional Road 50 including Bolton to Highway #9, West on Highway #9 to and including Orangeville (which is bounded by the area of Regional Road 109 on the south, Regional Road 25 on the west, Highway 89 on the North and Regional Road #10 on the east), then North on Regional Road 10 to Georgian Bay including Shelburne, but excluding all other centres, then Easterly along the shoreline to and including Parry Sound, then East along County Road 518 to Sand Lake, then due East to Algonquin Provincial Park boundary, then South along boundary to Regional Road 60, then Southerly along Regional Road 60 to Regional Road 35, then South along Highway Regional Road 35 to Regional Road 48, then along Regional Road 48 to and excluding Bolsover, continuing to Lakeridge Road excluding Bolsover and Beaverton, then South on Lakeridge Road then west to Regional Road 30, then south to Steeles Avenue to starting point.

## REP APPENDIX C NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYER DRAFTS

### C1 - NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYER DRAFTS - 13U, 15U, 18U, & 22U

Where Ontario has more than one entry in a Baseball Canada National Championship Tournament in any of the 13U, 15U, 18U, or 22U Series the following procedure shall be used to finalize the rosters of both the Ontario representative team National Qualifier Winner (1st), then 2nd, 3rd 4th (if applicable) and Host Team.

**Important Note:** At no point, prior to the completion of the draft outlined below, should a player be contacted regarding attending Nationals as a supplementary player with their team.

#### DRAFT PROCEDURES

The Series Chair will arrange a meeting (or conference call) of the National Qualifier Winner, second/third or more teams and Host Team (if applicable), following the National Qualifier tournament. The Head Coach and one Assistant Coach from each team participating in the National Championship may be represented on the call, to supplement their rosters.

A National championship team roster is not to exceed the amounts as set out by Baseball Canada.

NOTE: All coaches must have their required coaching credentials at the National Level to be eligible to be on a Nationals roster.

#### NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYER ELIGIBILITY:

##### *Baseball Ontario Player:*

- Players on an approved Baseball Ontario Rep roster or Select roster may be selected to represent Ontario at a National Championship.
- Players must be on a Baseball Ontario approved Roster.
- The home location of Baseball Ontario Rep or Select rostered players will be determined by the location of their team's home ball park.

##### *Baseball Ontario Recognized Program Player:*

- A player rostered on a Baseball Ontario recognized program, as posted annually on the Baseball Ontario website, may also be selected to represent Ontario at a National Championship.
- Players from a Recognized Program will not be protected and will only be eligible for selection during the Rest of Province selection process.



## PROCESS FOR PLAYER SELECTION

- Concentric circles with a 40 kilometre (25 mile) radius drawn using each team's home park as the centre will be created for the draft.
- The Series Chair, with the assistance of the Competition Chair or Overall Series Chair will help to identify Local Associations in the crossover area that are in the crossover zone and Local Associations that are in the protected areas of each of the teams.
- All teams will then alternate to select additional players to supplement their roster based on the team placement at applicable National Qualifier Tournament, Winner will be 1st and then 2nd/3rd/4th team and then the Host.

### CROSS OVER:

Where there is a cross over or overlap of concentric circles, the following procedure for player selection is used and all teams, including only those teams whose area is part of the overlap will follow this cross-over process where there is cross over:

1. The National Qualifier Winner will have first selection of the section of the circles that overlap. Selections will alternate based on the predetermined team order (based on placement at National Qualifier Tournament with host selecting last), until such time that the teams have completed choosing players from the overlapping section. **Note:** Should any team, at any time, choose to forego a selection, the other team may continue to make selections from the crossover section.
2. The National Qualifier Winner may then select as many players from its unique protected area and declare when the selections are completed from their protected area.
3. The subsequent team(s) based on the predetermined team order may complete their selection of players from their unique protected area and declare when the selections are completed from their protected area.
4. The Host of the National Championships may then select players from their unique protected area.
5. Players from the rest of the province including players rostered on a Baseball Ontario Recognized Program are selected next. The National Qualifier Winner selecting first and then in the predetermined team order until the team(s) roster are either full or the team(s) do not wish to make any further selections. **Note:** Should a team, at any time, choose to forego a selection, the other team(s) may continue to make selections.

### NO CROSSOVER:

When there is no crossover in the concentric circles, the following procedure for player selection is used:

1. The National Qualifier Winner may select as many players from its unique protected area and declare when the selections are completed from their protected area.

2. The subsequent team(s) based on the predetermined order may complete their selection of players from their unique protected area and declare when the selections are completed from their protected area.
3. The Host of the National Championships may then select players from their unique protected area.
4. Players from the rest of the province including players rostered on a Baseball Ontario Recognized Program are selected next. The National Qualifier Winner selecting first and then in the predetermined team order until the team(s) roster are either full or the team(s) do not wish to make any further selections. **Note:** Should a team, at any time, choose to forego a selection, the other team(s) may continue to make selections.

## COMPLETION OF DRAFT

- Upon completion of the main part of the draft, the teams in alternating fashion, starting with the National Qualifier Winner, will be allowed to select three additional players in the event, that any of their original selections choose not to participate.
- Following the draft, the coaches must contact the Head Coach of the teams from which the players have been selected and then contact the players directly to offer them a spot.
- In the event, a player declines a spot with one of the teams; that player is not eligible to play any other team representing Ontario at that National Championship. If a player declines a position, the teams may then contact their alternates.
- The Series Chairs will provide Baseball Ontario office the results of the draft.
- Baseball Ontario will provide the coach with the official National Championship team roster form.
- The final rosters must then be submitted to Baseball Ontario by the deadline determined by Baseball Canada.

## C2 - NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYER DRAFT - SENIOR SERIES:

Following the Senior National Qualifier Tournament, the following procedure shall take place when two or more Ontario teams are representing the province at the Senior Men's Nationals:

- a. The Senior Series Chair shall conduct a National Player Draft no later than 72 hours following the completion of the Senior National Qualifier Tournament.
- b. Players may not be contacted by any team prior to the National Player Draft.
- c. No later than 24 hours prior to the draft, each team shall present a list of 15 potential players that they are interested in selecting as additional players to complement their National Championship roster.
- d. The Senior Series Chair shall contact each player on the list to request the player's availability to attend Nationals if they are selected to attend. No team shall contact the player prior to being drafted.
- e. Prior to the National Player Draft, the Senior Series Chair shall present a list of the available players to the team.

- f. There are no restrictions on players that can be selected to attend Nationals as a pick-up, players may be selected to attend Nationals with any representative team regardless of geographical location.
- g. A player may only attend Nationals with the team they are drafted to. If the player elects to not attend Nationals with that team, that player is ineligible to attend Nationals with another team. The National Player Draft shall follow the procedure outlined below:

#### **ROUND 1**

- 1. Team Ontario 1 shall select the first two picks.
- 2. Team Ontario 2 shall select the next two picks.
- 3. Any subsequent team shall select their first two picks in order of how they finished at National Qualifiers.

#### **ROUND 2**

- 1. Each team will then select 1 player in order of National Qualifier Round until no further picks are necessary.