

9U House League Provincial Tournament (Pilot)

Rules and Regulations

1 Official Rules

- 1.1 The rules for all scheduled games within the Baseball Ontario (OBA) 9U House League Provincial Tournament (Pilot) shall be the "Official Rules of Baseball" except as detailed in this document or the accompanying 9U House League Provincial Tournament (Pilot) Playing Rules.
- 1.2 OBA 9U House League Provincial Tournament (Pilot) rules cannot be changed or amended without approval of the OBA Select Council.
- 1.3 All participants including coaches, players, officials, parents, and spectators must always adhere to the appropriate Code of Conduct and promote positive aspects of the sport. Coaches must consistently display high standards of behaviour and be a positive role model. Negative communication and interactions between participants will not be tolerated.

2 Eligibility

- 2.1 An OBA carded player, Dedicated Select Player or House League Select player who is rostered on an OBA Rep team or Select team is not eligible.
- 2.2 A player on an Elite EBLO team, CPBL team, PBLO team or non-recognized team is not eligible.
- 2.3 All rostered players and coaches must have Baseball Ontario insurance
- 2.4 House League Teams must be from Select member associations that have both paid their membership fees by the June 30th deadline and also submitted their house league team roster(s) by the same June 30th date. Roster changes, including late additions, may be requested by an association after the deadline but no later than July 10th. Only players listed on the roster are eligible for the 9U House League Provincial Tournament (Pilot).
- 2.5 A maximum of 6 call-across players (from a comparable team from the same association) will be eligible. Exception requests may be submitted to Select Council for consideration by June 21, and the decision of Select Council will be final.

3 Team Roster & Line-up

- 3.1 Coaches are not required to obtain Baseball NCCP training. Coaches are encouraged to begin their certification/education by completing the online modules. It is mandatory that all coaches have completed the Safe Sport module (via Baseball NCCP profile) and have reviewed the concussion awareness materials as required to comply with Rowan's Law.
- 3.2 Coaches that do not meet the mandatory coaching requirements (Safe Sport module and Rowan's Law compliance) by the June 30th roster cut-off will be removed from the roster and will be ineligible to coach. Coaches will have until July 10th to comply and be re-added to roster. Otherwise, they are ineligible to coach in the 9U House League Provincial Tournament (Pilot).
- 3.3 All teams should register with the OBA Select Division On-Site Convenor at least ONE HOUR prior to their first game. A copy of the team roster listing all players, coaches and including jersey numbers must be presented at the time of registration.
- 3.4 There is a limit of 18 rostered players and up to 4 rostered coaches on the bench. However, there will be a limit of 18 awards per team.

3.5 Age Limitations - The 2023 level is as follows:

LEVEL	AGE OF PLAYER AS OF DECEMBER 31 OF THE CURRENT PLAYING SEASON
9U	9 years old or younger

Where the association/club permits it, female players will be allowed to play one-year overage.

See section 4 – **Female Players.**

If a player requires special consideration, a request may be sent to Select Council before June 21st for consideration before the roster deadline.

- 3.6 The home team will supply the official scorekeeper if one is not supplied by the tournament officials. Prior to the start of each game, a line-up card listing all players and coaches first and last names with uniform numbers must be provided to the home plate umpire, scorekeeper, and a copy exchanged with the opposing team.
- 3.7 All eligible players present at the game shall be listed on the team's line-up card and equal play is expected. For example, no player shall play the same position more than twice in a game. No player should play outfield a second time until each player has played in the outfield once. No player shall sit twice until all players have sat once. (PENALTY – manager/coach suspended for the remainder of the game (plus next game)).
- 3.8 Any player arriving late may be added to the bottom of the batting order at any time, without penalty. Any player may leave before the completion of the game with no penalty. Batting order will be continuous and will not result in an out. If a batter needs to leave the game before their at bat is complete, the next batter shall come up to bat and assume the existing count. If the team no longer has a minimum of 9 players, the game is a forfeit.
- 3.9 The official scorekeeper supplied by the home team must turn in the game score sheet (white copy) to the Host Convenor at the end of the game.
- 3.10 All players will bat in the order as presented to the umpire and the official scorekeeper prior to the start of each game.
- 3.11 Clarification of "injured during that game": Any player leaving the field due to an injury must remain out of the game for at least a complete defensive inning before re-entering the game in a defensive position. A player unable to take their turn at bat, after having been removed from the field due to an injury, will be removed from the line-up and further play in the game (this is not an out nor is it considered batting out of a turn). If the team no longer has a minimum of 9 players, the game is a forfeit.
- 3.12 A batter or runner may not have a pinch runner unless injured during their turn as a batter or runner. The designated pinch runner will be the last recorded out. If this occurs before any outs, then the designated pinch runner will be the last player in the line-up.

4 **Female Players**

- 4.1 Female athletes have the option of playing one-year overage in this division.

5 Uniforms & Equipment

- 5.1 All players and coaches will be dressed in a baseball team uniform as issued by their home association; minimum uniform being long pants, and association-issued shirt with a number and a cap (Association logo or name must be identifiable). No sandals or open-toed shoes are permitted on the diamond.
- 5.2 All catchers are required to wear a mask with throat protector, helmet, chest protector, shin guards, a cup and cup-type protector during the game and warm-ups. In 9U the use of a catcher's mitt is optional.
- 5.3 It is mandatory that all players wear a protective athletic support.
- 5.4 The batter shall wear a prescribed protective helmet with ear flaps covering both ears while on deck, at bat, or running the bases. The helmet may not be removed until the batter is retired, has crossed home plate and left the field of play or the half inning has been completed. Should the batter/runner remove the helmet before leaving the field while the ball is in play, they will be declared out. Helmet straps are mandatory unless there is a manufacturer's installed face guard (C-Flap) worn as designed by the manufacturer.
- 5.5 Pitchers must wear an approved batting helmet with a facemask and chinstrap attached.
- 5.6 The coach operating the pitching machine must wear a baseball helmet, which can be a skull cap.

6 Curfew

- 6.1 The number of innings in a complete game will be six (6). An inning shall be deemed to have started immediately after the last out in the bottom of the previous inning that has occurred. No New Inning will start after 90 minutes (1 ½ hours) from the first pitch. However, if a new inning starts prior to the time curfew, the inning must be completed. Exception: If the visiting team is unable to tie or go ahead of the home team after having played the top half of an inning that extended beyond the curfew, then the game is considered complete, and the home team does not go up to bat as they have already won the game.
- 6.2 The official start time is to be determined by the umpire and reported to the official game scorekeeper. The umpire's time piece or designated time piece will be considered final.
- 6.3 The Championship game(s) will be subject to the time curfew limits, but extra inning(s) shall be played as needed to determine a winner.
- 6.4 In the event of a delay during tournament play due to rain or darkness and prior to that game becoming official (see Mercy Rule below), the game will be suspended, and the curfew clock stops. The clock will resume at the recommencement of play.
- 6.5 The game will be resumed from the point of suspension for the balance of the time available. The defensive team must resume their exact position on the field.
- 6.6 The scheduled starting time may be amended at the discretion of the OBA Select Division On-Site Convenor.
- 6.7 An official game will be four (4) innings, or time expired, or mercy rules applied.

7 Mercy Rule

- 7.1 An 18-run mercy will apply after three (3) innings, 15-run mercy will apply after four (4) innings and a 10-run mercy will apply after five (5) innings. If the home team reaches or exceeds the mercy threshold at any time during the inning, the game is complete, and the home team is declared the winner once the mercy is achieved.
- 7.2 An inning will end when the three outs are made or a maximum of 7 runs have been scored. On any play where the last run is scored, all awarded runs will be counted beyond the 7 run threshold. This only applies to dead ball awards such as overthrows out of play, or home runs over the fence.

8 General

- 8.1 At the beginning of each game, the Host Convenor will flip a coin to determine home and visiting teams. The team travelling the greater distance will make the call.
- 8.2 No smoking or use of tobacco or cannabis products, alcohol, or non-prescription drug is permitted on the playing field, in the dug outs, or in the immediate vicinity of the dugouts (this applies to coaches, players & umpires). City smoking bylaws must be obeyed.

- (i) Players, coaches & umpires in uniform must refrain from using any tobacco products during all games.
 - (ii) Players, coaches & umpires in uniform must not be under the influence of alcohol or drugs other than over the counter or doctor prescribed medications.
 - (iii) PENALTY for (i) and (ii) will be immediate ejection for players or coaches and may result in loss of accreditation for umpires.
- 8.3 Protests: Any protest once a game has started that requires the Host Convenor's intervention, will be settled on the field at the time the problem occurs. Protest must be declared to the umpire immediately following the occurrence of the problem. No protests will be permitted once a game resumes. *There will be a protest fee of \$75.00*, paid in cash, to be lodged with the OBA Select Division On-Site Convenor before the protest may be heard. At this time, the Convenor will present the protest to the Tournament Protest Committee for consideration. This fee will be returned if the protest is upheld. *Judgement calls by the umpires cannot be protested.* Game delays due to protests will do not stop the curfew clock.
- 8.4 The OBA Select Division On-Site Convenor has the ultimate authority relating to any matter that requires a ruling or clarification.
- 8.5 A game forfeit will be declared and a score of 6-0 will be recorded if a team is unable to field a team of 9 players at the scheduled starting time, or at any point during the game.
- 8.6 Barring extenuating circumstances, if a 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 a score of 6-0 will be recorded. Under extenuating circumstances, the offending team may appeal to the OBA Select Division On-Site Convenor. The OBA Select Division On-Site Convenors decision will be final.
- 8.7 Ejections: Each manager and head coach is responsible for the behaviour of all players, coaches, and spectators with their team. Should all present, roster-listed coaches be ejected, the game will be forfeited (if this occurs, refer to rule 7.6)
- 8.8 In the event a player or coach is ejected from a game, the individual must leave the diamond and dugout and no longer be involved in that game. The ejected individual may sit in the spectator area but may not communicate to any participant from their team on the field or in the dugout. The player, coach, or manager ejected from the game is suspended for the next scheduled game.
- 8.9 The OBA Select Division On-Site Convenor will review all ejections to determine possible additional suspensions. Any additional suspensions will be reported to the offending team's contact(s) prior to the completion of the team's next scheduled game. It is always the responsibility of the head coach to find out if any additional suspensions were imposed on suspended coaches or players.
- 8.10 The umpire of the game where an ejection occurs, shall report verbally to the Host Convenor immediately after the game ends (or is suspended) and file an ejection report with the OBA Select Division On-Site Convenor of the tournament immediately following the umpire's scheduled games for the day (or the umpire is suspended).

- 8.11 The OBA Select Division On-Site Convenor reserves the right to alter and/or revise any start times necessary to ensure completion of the games.
- 8.12 No infield warm-up will be allowed. All pre-game warm-ups may take place on the outfield grass (if available) or at other safe and appropriate locations.
- 8.13 Bat boys / girls are not permitted.
- 8.14 Teams should 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 required game interval. *Teams must be given 60 minutes between their 2nd and 3rd games in one day.* Teams have the option to waive or reduce rest time.
- 8.15 No team may play more than 3 games in a calendar day. A suspended game shall count as a game played on both the day it commences 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.
- 8.16 OBA Select Division, hosting Baseball Associations and the host cities will not accept responsibility for accidents, injuries, or loss during this tournament.
- 8.17 All games must have a minimum of one (1) umpire, however two (2) is recommended, which are OBA-certified and in good standing. If any umpire used in a tournament is found not to be registered with the OBA and games are played using the umpire, results will stand but the host will be fined \$250.00 per incident and may be refused to host any tournaments the following year.

9 Tournament Format

9.1 Round Robin

- 1) Standings will be determined by number of points obtained: Win = 2 pts, Tie = 1 pt. Loss = 0 pts.
- 2) The Following tie breaking rules will be used for each placement independently:
 - a) winner of head-to-head game;
 - b) team with the lowest runs against ratio (runs allowed/number of defensive innings played);
 - c) team with the highest runs for ratio (runs scored/number of offensive innings played);
 - d) coin toss, team further away calls it.