BLUEWATER ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION



**Baseball Playing Regulations**

(DRAFT for September 2018 UPDATE)

**AELS forms:** Must be completed and email to the convener and the BAA executive member in charge of checking AELS prior to the BAA championships.

**Game Ball: Official Ball of OBA (and/or OFSAA)**

**UNIFORMS/EQUIPMENT ( Section P2.5 as per Ontario Baseball Association)**

 a) In all games, all team personnel, including the manager and coaches, must be in complete baseball uniform. Note: Complete baseball uniform shall consist of: - corresponding tops or jerseys (with proper numbers), - corresponding (similar) baseball caps – (similar) baseball pants (no shorts) – corresponding (similar) 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 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. This may not be changed except after the inning has been completed, or the player has been retired or has crossed home plate.

d) All catchers are required to wear a mask with throat protector, helmet, chest protector, shin guards, cup and a cup-type supporter.

e) A team member shall be deemed as "warming up a pitcher" the moment either: ii. the pitcher stands on the rubber (on the field or bullpen) iii. the team member assumes a squatting position to receive a thrown ball from the pitcher, regardless of position on the field or bullpen; or iv. the team member assumes a position behind home plate.

f) 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.

g) The legal diameter for bats shall be 2 3/4".

h) Only wood bats, bamboo bats and wood composite bats will be allowed. Wood composite bats include wood bats with fibreglass sheathing and wood barrelled bats with composite handles. Wood composite bats do not include any bat that has any metallic component. iii. Female players playing on NON-FEMALE teams must use the approved bats for the series.

i) 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.

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 grey. Pitchers may not wear compression sleeves which are distracting in nature including designs and reflective material.

k) With the exception of piping (strings), no part of the pitcher’s glove may be white or gray. 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.

**Section P2.7 GAME LENGTH ( Section P2.5 as per Ontario Baseball Association)**

a) All games in a Play-off or Elimination Tournament shall be 7 complete innings (6 1/2 complete innings if the home team is ahead), or until a winner is declared.

 b) 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.

c) In the case of bad weather or other emergency situations, the schedule may be revised at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.

d) In home and home style 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 played. If the game is called prior to becoming an official game, then it is resumed from the point of delay.

e) Time limits are not permitted in any Play-off or Elimination games.

f) In 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.

g) In all BAA games an 18 run mercy rule will apply after 3 innings or 15 runs after 4 innings. A 10 run mercy rule will also apply after 5 innings or any subsequent inning thereafter. 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. Note: in the event of a mercy and for the purposes of the tie-breaker formula as outlined in P2.7(t), the team who wins via mercy shall be credited with 7 defensive innings played while; the losing team shall only be credited with the actual number of defensive innings played.

h) Where the home team scores to take the lead in the 7th 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.

**LINE-UP RULES ( Section P2.8 as per Ontario Baseball Association)**

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, his/her 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) 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.

c) A team may use either an EP as in P2-8 d) or a designated hitter as in P2-8 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.

d) A designated hitter may be used for a pitcher as per the Official Rules of Baseball.

e) For tournament play the Tournament Convenor shall appoint an official scorer for each game (who may be the scorer of 1 of the teams playing). For all home and home style OBA Play-off games the home team score keeper shall be the official scorekeeper.

**SUBSTITUTIONS ( Section P2.9 as per Ontario Baseball Association)**

a) Any starting player may be substituted for and returned to the game, one time only. He/she must return to his/her 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 if he/she has not previously assumed that position. A pinch runner 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) 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) 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 him.

**PITCHING RULES ( Section P2.10 as per Ontario Baseball Association)**

**Pitches must be thrown for an intentional walk and will count towards the pitch count.**

a) 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 2nd trip in an inning may continue in the game at another position but shall not be permitted to return to pitch in that game.

b) A pitcher may not pitch more than the following limits in a calendar day. If the limit is reached while facing a batter, the pitcher may pitch to the earlier of: (i) the completion of that batter or (ii) the end of the inning.

BAA:100 pitches

c) If a pitcher throws more than the following limits in a calendar day he/she cannot pitch the next day – the player must have 2 nights rest.

BAA: 75 pitches

 d) Where a team has multiple games on the same day, if a pitcher throws more than the following limits during a game or in combination of one or more games, the pitcher may not pitch again in a subsequent game that day: BAA: 75 pitches. The pitching rules were modified in 2012 to change the circumstances in which a pitcher may be eligible to pitch in more than one game on the same day. Prior to 2012, if a player reaches the number of pitches that would make them ineligible for the next day, the player could still pitch later that day up to the maximum number pitches in their particular division. This is no longer the case.

e) If a balk is called but the pitcher throws the ball it will count as a pitch thrown, even if it is not counted as a pitch for ball/strike purposes.

 f) The official scorekeeper shall designate the official pitch count recorder.

g) The official pitch count recorder must provide the current pitch count for any pitcher when requested by either manager or the umpire.

h) The official pitch count recorder shall inform the home plate umpire when a pitcher has delivered his/her limit of pitches for the game. The home plate umpire will then notify the pitcher’s manager that the pitcher must be removed. Note: Failure by the Official Pitch Counter to inform the plate umpire that i pitcher has reached their limit of pitches for the game shall not result in a forfeit. It is the still the responsibility of the manager to remove a pitcher when they are no longer eligible and failure to do so by the manager will result in the manager’s ejection and immediate removal of the pitcher from the mound.

i) If a team has no remaining players eligible to pitch in a game, the opposing coach may designate a player who has yet to pitch in the game. This pitcher may not throw more than 30 pitches. If the limit is reached while facing a batter, the pitcher may pitch to the earlier of (i) the completion of that batter, or (ii) the end of the inning.

j) pitchers may not pitch on 3 consecutive calendar days unless: 1. the pitcher threw 30 pitches or less on each of the first two days. 2. the maximum number of pitches which may be thrown on the third day is 50.

k) Illegal pitching penalty: where a player throws more pitches than is permitted under g); or pitches without the rest required by P2.10 h); or pitches on 3 consecutive days in violation of p); or pitches and catches in the same game in violation of r), or pitches in a subsequent game in a day in which the pitcher has thrown more than the allowed number of pitches described in i) in previous games that day, the penalty shall be forfeiture by the player’s team. A second violation by a team will result in the manager/head coach’s indefinite suspension.

l) Pitches shall count on the calendar day on which the pitch is thrown. An exception shall be made where a game commences on one day and is played continuously past midnight or resumed after midnight. In that case, the pitches shall count as being thrown on the day on which the game commenced. In the case where a game is suspended, for whatever reason, on one day and resumed on a second day, pitches shall count on the calendar day on which the pitch is thrown (i.e. both parts of the game shall be considered on separate days). Where weather or other reasons cause the delay or postponement of a game or games, the time of the delay can count towards the nights rest required under g) and can constitute a break in the 3 consecutive day rule under n).

m) The pitching limits apply to every pitcher. For an ambidextrous pitcher, the limits and restrictions of P2.10 apply to the pitcher and not to each individual arm. For clarity, the pitches thrown with the right arm and left arm on a calendar day are added together to determine whether a pitch limit has been reached.

n) Where a coach/manager goes to the mound a second time during an at-bat to remove a pitcher in order to not exceed the pitch count limits as per P2.10, the coach/manager will not be penalized as per the Substitutions & Pitching Changes rule in the Official Rules of Baseball. Note: For this to apply, the second trip must be after the last pitch which could be thrown without exceeding the particular pitch count limit of P2.10.

**BASE RUNNING RULES ( Section P2.11 as per Ontario Baseball Association)**

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 unavoidable. 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. Page 35 Constitution & By-Laws of Baseball Ontario Revised for the 2018 Playing Season

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.

 **FIELDING RULES ( Section P2.12 as per Ontario Baseball Association)**

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.