



BASEBALL
C A N A D A
CHAMPIONSHIPS

Participant Guide

(TEAM STAFF)

2019 Edition

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

On behalf of the membership of Baseball Canada, I am pleased to welcome all participating teams to the Baseball Canada Championship.

The tournament committee has put a great deal of time and effort into preparation for this event to ensure that your stay will be a very enjoyable one.

I feel confident that all players, coaches and officials will return to their provinces with many good memories and a successful championship.

Your talent, determination and good sportsmanship has brought you this far and I am sure will continue to drive you along whatever path you chose.

The Baseball Canada Championship Committee has made every effort to ensure that this guide is a useful tool. It is our hope that it will answer any questions that may arise and that it will assist you in familiarizing yourselves with the format and procedures of this Championship.

I wish all of you every success in this tournament and know that you are all champions in your own right.

Finally, I take this opportunity to wish everyone safe travel and a rewarding baseball experience.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jason Dickson".

Jason Dickson
President
Baseball Canada

Contents

Part One: Background Material

Introduction

Baseball Canada

Provincial Baseball Partners

The Championships

Part Two: Qualification & Eligibility

Team Qualification

Eligibility:

Player

Coach

Trainer

Chef de Mission or Business Manager

Part Three: People

Team Members

Staff

Business Manager/Chef de Mission

Coaching Staff

Head Coach or Manager

Assistant Coaches

Optional Fourth Coach

Other Staff

Trainer

Players

The Host

Host Committee

Event Staff

Security Staff

Baseball Canada Officials

Baseball Canada Rep

Umpiring Staff

Supervisor of Umpires

Umpires

Baseball Canada Office Staff

CONTENTS (continued)

Part Four: Before the Championship

Travel Arrangements

Arrival Deadline

Roster Submission

The Schedule

Part Five: At the Championship

Discipline

Arrival

Local Transportation

Meals

Accommodations

Hotel/Motel/Dorm

Banquet

Rules

Pre-Championship Meeting

Schedule

Game Procedures

Scheduled Starting Time

Designated Starting Time

Rain Day

Protest Procedures

Ceremonies

Dealing with the Media

Reporting Problems

Part Six: After the Championship

Post-Event Evaluation

Travel Home

Departure Deadline

Appendices

A: Contact Information

Baseball Canada and Provincial Baseball Associations

Baseball Canada Championship Hosts

B: Sample Host Committee Structure

C: Baseball Canada Code of Conduct

D: Baseball Canada Discipline Policy

E: Rules

Championships

Canadian Content

Rule interpretation

F: Baseball Canada Policy on Volunteer Screening

G: Baseball Canada Severe Weather Policy

PART ONE:

BACKGROUND MATERIAL

INTRODUCTION

BASEBALL CANADA

PROVINCIAL BASEBALL PARTNERS

THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Introduction

Baseball Canada contact: Andrew Caudwell, Program Coordinator (acaudwell@baseball.ca)

For more than 40 years the Baseball Canada Championships have attracted some of the best baseball talent from across the country. Canadian ball players have enjoyed experiences that will last a lifetime and Canadian cities have displayed their world class hosting talents year after year. To help continue the tradition of great events, Baseball Canada has developed this handbook; answering common questions of participating teams and providing details on the various aspects of the Baseball Canada Championships.

The purpose of this handbook is to make participant information more accessible by putting it all together in one place. For anything that is not contained here, appropriate contact information has been provided so that you can find what you need quickly and easily.

Throughout the handbook, excerpts from ***Rules & Regulations for Baseball Canada Championships*** have been included to introduce you to some of the more formal procedures and guidelines involved in the Baseball Canada Championships. These excerpts will be displayed in the following format:



PART I, 1.4.6
Tobacco

The use of all tobacco products, including smokeless tobacco, by on-field participants (players, coaches, managers, umpires, etc.) shall be prohibited at all competitions sanctioned by Baseball Canada. Any offenders caught using tobacco products will be ejected from the game

Section and Title	Rule Description
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In some cases, excerpts from other documents are included. When a document other than the ***Rules & Regulations for Baseball Canada Championships*** is referenced, it is identified (i.e. ***Official Rules of Baseball***).

In addition, at the beginning of each new section, a contact name and e-mail address is provided for the Baseball Canada staff member responsible for that area. The Baseball Canada phone and fax numbers are the same for all staff members and are included in the ***Important Contacts*** listing in ***Appendix A***.

Baseball Canada

Baseball Canada contact: Andrew Caudwell, Program Coordinator (acaudwell@baseball.ca)

OUR MANDATE

Baseball Canada was created by and is the embodiment of the 10 provincial baseball associations working together to further baseball in Canada.

Baseball Canada is empowered by the International Baseball Association to develop baseball in Canada and to represent Canada in international baseball competition.

The Government of Canada recognizes Baseball Canada as the sole governing body for amateur baseball in Canada.

- Canadian Heritage and its Sport Canada directorate recognize Baseball Canada as the representative organization for baseball and eligible for federal funding,
- Revenue Canada recognizes Baseball Canada as the single Registered Canada Amateur Athletic Association (RCAAA) for baseball in Canada, and accords Baseball Canada with charitable organization status. Further, Baseball Canada is a full voting member of the Canadian Olympic Association; responsible for the baseball component of Canada's Pan American team.

VISION STATEMENT

OUR FUTURE

Leading Canadians in the pursuit of excellence and promoting lifelong quality experiences in baseball.

MISSION STATEMENT

OUR MISSION

Baseball Canada is dedicated through collaborative leadership, to develop, promote and deliver ethical athlete centered programs which allow individuals to maximize their potential.

Provincial Baseball Partners

Baseball Canada contact: Andrew Caudwell, Program Coordinator (acaudwell@baseball.ca)

As stated earlier,

Baseball Canada was created by and is the embodiment of the 10 Provincial baseball associations working together to further baseball in Canada.

The ten¹ provincial baseball associations, namely

- Baseball Alberta
- Baseball BC
- Baseball New Brunswick
- Baseball Nova Scotia
- Baseball PEI
- Baseball Quebec
- Baseball Manitoba
- Baseball Newfoundland
- Baseball Ontario
- Saskatchewan Baseball

are key players in the Baseball Canada Championships. The provincial baseball associations send their teams to the Championships and approve all Championship hosting bids. In brief, there would be no Baseball Canada Championships without the provinces.

For most of the Baseball Canada Championships, each of the provinces sends a team, but for some, each Region is recognized by Baseball Canada as follows:

Atlantic Region: New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and PEI

British Columbia Region: British Colombia

Ontario Region: Ontario

Quebec Region: Quebec

Prairie Region: Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan

For more information on the provincial baseball associations consult the contact list in ***Appendix A.***

¹ Baseball Yukon is an associate member of Baseball Canada but does not participate in the Baseball Canada Championships.

The Championships

Baseball Canada contact: Andrew Caudwell, Program Coordinator (acaudwell@baseball.ca)

Baseball Canada has a total of ten championships each summer. They are:

- BIGS Seeds Baseball Canada Cup
- 13U National Championship
- 13U National Atlantic Championship
- 13U National Western Championship
- 16U Girls National Invitational
- Ray Carter Cup - 15U National Championship
- 18U National Championship
- 21U Men National Championship
- 21U Women National Invitational
- BIGS Seeds Men's National Championship
- Women's National Invitational

The dates for the upcoming year have been set as:

	Canada Cup	13U National	13U Atlantic	13U West	15U	16U Girls	18U	21U Men	21U Women	Men	Women
2019	Aug 7-11	Aug 22-25	Sept 12-15	Aug 15-18	Aug 22-25	Aug 22-25	Aug 15-18	Aug 15-18	Aug 1-4	Aug 22-25	July 4-7

The Championships (continued)

THE BASEBALL CANADA CUP

The Baseball Canada Cup is Baseball Canada's premiere event. It sees competition of the vast majority of the best players from coast to coast at the under-18 age level. Ten provincial teams of twenty players and three coaches (plus a team staff member) compete for the title and, more importantly, to be scouted by amateur and professional scouts alike.

This championship was formed in 1989 to help Baseball Canada select a Youth Team to represent Canada at the World Youth AAA Championship that was held every year (but is now every other year). The Cup serves a number of purposes: selection of Junior Team players for training camp and the National Team; scouting for potential National Team players; evaluation of provincial coaches and identification of potential Junior and Senior team coaches; and an evaluation of the umpires.

Over the years, both the Montreal Expos (with Petro Canada) and the Toronto Blue Jays sponsored this championship. These sponsorships assisted the provinces with travel costs. Since 1999 the event has been without a title sponsor, which has increased the cost to the competing provincial teams.

In 1992 in Kamloops, BC, the gold medal game of what was then known as the Selects Championship was televised by TSN but that was the only time the tournament has had national TV coverage. Ottawa (1993) had local TV coverage through the cable company.

One of the important aspects of this event is its national scope, with players from all ten provinces participating. It has also been hosted in all regions of the country, ranging from Moncton, NB in the east to Kamloops, BC in the west.

Each province has its own method for choosing a team for the Cup. Some procedures include open tryout camps and mini-Selects tournaments with regional representation.

For complete playing rules please refer to the Baseball Canada Rule Book, including the Canadian Content section

THE BASEBALL CANADA CUP (continued)

The Baseball Canada Cup at a glance:

	Baseball Canada Cup
Age	17 and under
Team Size ² (players+coaches+staff)	24 (20+3+1)
Field size: - basepaths - pitching distance	90' 60'6"

² A fourth, optional coach is permitted at the team's expense.

The Championships (continued)

THE OTHER BASEBALL CANADA CHAMPIONSHIPS

As mentioned earlier in this section, in addition to the Baseball Canada Cup, Baseball Canada conducts 10 other annual championships.

	BASEBALL CANADA		
	16U Girls	13U	15U Boys
	CHAMPIONSHIPS		
	16 and under (*1-see below)	13 and under	15 and under (*2-see below)
Age			
Team Size ³ (players+coaches+staff)	Teams in all 3 classifications consist of 22 members (18 players, 3 coaches and a staff member)		
Field size:			
- Basepaths	80'	70'	80'
- pitching distance	54'	48'	54'

(*1) - NF, NS, NB, PEI, AB, SK, MB, ON2, QC2, and BC2 may bring three players who do not reach their 18th birthday during the current calendar year.

	BASEBALL CANADA			
	18U	21U	Men	Women
	CHAMPIONSHIPS			
	18 and under (*2-see below)	21 and under	(open)	(open)
Age				
Team Size ⁴ (players+coaches+staff)	22 (18+3+1)	24 (20+3+1)	25 (21+3+1)	22 (18+3+1)
Field size:				
- Basepaths	90'	90'	90'	90'
- pitching distance	60'6"	60'6"	60'6"	60'6"

(*2) - Bottom 3 seeded teams in Pool B have the opportunity to use 2 overage players. If Host Province is in the bottom 3 teams, Host team also allowed 2 overaged players. An overage player is maximum 1 year older.

³ A fourth, optional coach is permitted at the team's expense.

⁴ A fourth, optional coach is permitted at the team's expense.

For complete playing rules please refer to the Baseball Canada Rule Book, Canadian Content section.

Note: During Canada Summer Games years up to and including 2001, the baseball Canada 21U Championship was replaced by the Canada Games baseball competition. In 2005, the age group for the Canada Games was be 19 years old and younger (players who do not reach their 20th birthday during the current calendar year). Starting in 2013, the Canada Games replaced the Canada Cup competition where age group to go down to 17 years old and under.

PART TWO:

QUALIFICATION & ELIGIBILITY

TEAM QUALIFICATION

***TEAM DETERMINATION
PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE
ROSTERS***

ELIGIBILITY

***PLAYER
COACH
TRAINER
CHEF DE MISSION OR BUSINESS MANAGER***

Team Qualification

Baseball Canada contact: Andrew Caudwell, Program Coordinator (acaudwell@baseball.ca)

TEAM DETERMINATION

Each of the Baseball Canada Championships are operated as:

- a province-orientated event (10 or 11 teams)
- a region⁵-orientated event (6 teams)
- some combination of the two.

In each case, the method(s) used to determine the province's (or the region's) representative at each of the Baseball Canada Championships is entirely at the discretion of the province or region⁶.

Some of the more common methods to determine teams are:

- provincial (or regional) championship tournaments held:
 - earlier in the same playing season
 - at or near the end of the previous playing season
- team selection of best players at a special tournament
- team selection of best players at try-out camps

As it is a provincial responsibility, more information will be available from your provincial baseball association (see contact list in Appendix A).

PERFORMANCE GUARANTEES



PART I, 1.1 PERFORMANCE GUARANTEES

1.1 Performance Guarantees:

1.1.1 Financial Responsibility:

Each Provincial Baseball Association (PBA) shall be required to have on file at the Baseball Canada office in Ottawa a letter of financial responsibility that will cover all its teams competing in the Baseball Canada Championships. This letter shall continue in force from year-to-year until rescinded in writing. The letter of financial responsibility shall make the PBA financially responsible for any damages or other costs caused by the PBA's team(s).

1.1.2 Attendance:

⁵ Baseball Canada recognized five regions: BC, Prairies, Ontario, Quebec and Atlantic.

⁶ This position was confirmed at the 1998 Convention in Sherbrooke, Quebec.

Each year, on or before November 30th, each PBA shall advise Baseball Canada in writing of its intention to appear or not appear at the various Baseball Canada Championships in the following year. Failure to do so shall result in the following default decisions being taken by Baseball Canada. Provinces now have the option to attend all events but are only obligated to the ones listed below.

- *In the case of British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec, that:*
- *they will attend all championships except 21U Men and Men's National, as they are required to do so, and*
- *In the case of New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and PEI, that:*
- *they will be attending the 13U Atlantic, 15U Boys and Baseball Canada Cup championships; and*
- *Baseball Atlantic shall be advised that it must send one team to the 18U and 21U championships.*
- *In the case of Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, that:*
- *they will be attending the 13U Western, 15U Boys and Baseball Canada Cup championships; and*
- *The Western Canada Baseball Association shall be advised that it must send one team to the 18U and 21U championships.*

Any Province/Region that qualifies/confirms for but does not show up at a Baseball Canada Championship will be fined

– After March 31st - \$1000 - After June 15th - \$2000

– Within 2 weeks of the event - \$4000 (Canada Cup \$5000)

The Baseball Canada Men's Championship will be held annually with provincial participation on an optional basis.

A team requesting to withdraw from Championship host accommodation must request this in writing to Baseball Canada on or before March 15th.



PART I, 1.1
PERFORMANCE
GUARANTEES

1.1.3 Team Eligibility:

The roster, issued in electronic form by either the PBA office or the PBA President shall be the only document required as proof of eligibility to represent the PBA at a Baseball Canada Championship.

It is very important to remain in close contact with your PBA office in the days leading up to the championship. It is suggested that you request a copy of all communications between your PBA office and either the Baseball Canada office or the host. You should also provide a copy of your communications with these groups to your PBA.

Eligibility

Baseball Canada contact: Andrew Caudwell, Program Coordinator (acaudwell@baseball.ca)

ROSTERS



PART I, 1.2 ELIGIBILITY RULES

1.2.3 Rosters:

- (a) The final team rosters shall be approved by the PBA and submitted to Baseball Canada nine (9) days before the first scheduled game of the Championship.
13U National Atlantic and 13U National Western event deadline three (3) days before the first schedule game of the Championship.
- (b) Failure to comply with paragraph (a), shall result in the PBA being subject to a \$500 fine, payable to Baseball Canada.
- (c) The rosters are to include each participating coach's Coaching Certification number (cc #).
- (d) Provincial offices shall provide a list of suspended players to Baseball Canada prior to April 1st. An updated list shall be sent by August 1st.
- (e) Team staff without proper certification will be removed from the roster. To add a team staff individual following the deadline in 1.2.3 (a) will result in a \$50 fine/individual to a maximum of \$100/team.
- (f) Changes to the roster jersey numbers following the pre-tournament meeting may, at the discretion of Baseball Canada rep, result in the PBA being subject to a \$50 fine, payable to Baseball Canada.
- (g) A coach can only appear on one (1) roster per event. This is for coaching staff only, does not apply to chef or trainer.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY



PART I, 1.2 ELIGIBILITY RULES

1.1 Eligibility Rules:

1.2.1 Athletes:

- a) Only amateurs are permitted to play in sanctioned Baseball Canada Championships.
 - (i) An amateur baseball player is one whose involvement in baseball is not his primary source of income.
 - (ii) A former professional reinstated* to amateur status may participate in a Baseball Canada Championship.
- *NOTE: It is the responsibility of the Baseball Canada to reinstate

a professional as an amateur. Any professional who wishes to be reinstated, as an amateur must complete a reinstatement form supplied by Baseball Canada. The forms must then be submitted in accordance with the Provincial registration deadline through the Provincial Association concerned, to Baseball Canada who shall rule on it. To be eligible for reinstatement, an individual must be released by, or retired from, any professional team and not subject to a professional contract for a period of at least thirty days. A copy of the release, or letter of resignation, must be provided in satisfactory form to Baseball Canada. The decision of Baseball Canada is final and may not be appealed.



PART I, 1.2
ELIGIBILITY RULES

- b) An athlete participating in a Baseball Canada Championship must be a Canadian citizen or a full time resident of Canada by September 15th of the previous year. A player cannot be registered in two provinces simultaneously. Any player moving to another province after June 1st of the current year, must obtain a release from their old province in order to play for the new province. Where a student declares an intention they play under 1.2.1 c) 2) by June 1st, a request for release shall not be refused.
- c) An athlete must be a registered player of the Provincial Baseball Association that his team represents.
 - Exceptions to section 1.2.1 c) are
 - 1) A Men/Women Division and 21U Men Player needs to be a member of the Provincial Association they represent, and a resident of said Province as of July 1st. The only exception to the requirement of residing in the Province is if: a Province does not send a team to Men's/Women's Nationals, or 21U Men respectively, those Provincial players from said Province must have played in an Inter-Provincial League in the Province that wishes to have them represent them at Men's/Women's Nationals, or 21U Men respectively.
 - 2) Students studying in a province other than their own may represent either their province of residence or the province in which they are going to school. The individual involved must state in writing which province they intend to play for by June 1 of the current year. This is subject to the approval of the Provincial Association for which they want to play and Baseball Canada.

Once such declaration has been made by the individual and accepted by the provincial association for which they declared and by Baseball Canada, that individual will not be eligible to play for any team in the provincial playdowns of the province for which they did not declare.
 - 3) A female athlete may participate in a female event with a Province other than their own, with permission to play from

both Provinces involved and Baseball Canada.

- 4) If NL, NS, NB, PEI, AB, SK or MB do not attend the 13U National event, an athlete from their Province may participate with another one of these Provinces. Permission to play is required from both Provinces involved and Baseball Canada.

d) Specific Criteria:

Men: Open classification

Women: Open classification

21U Men: 21 years old and younger who do not reach their 22nd birthday during the current calendar year.

21U Women: 21 years old and younger who do not reach their 22nd birthday during the current calendar year.

18U Boys: 18 years old and younger who do not reach their 19th birthday during the current calendar year. (For Nationals; Bottom 3 seeded teams in Pool B have the opportunity to use 2 overage players. If Host Province is in the bottom 3 teams, Host team also allowed 2 overaged players. An overage player is maximum 1 year older.)

Baseball Canada Cup and Canada Games: 17 years old and younger who do not reach their 18th birthday during the current calendar year. (For Nationals; NL, NS, NB, PEI, AB, SK & MB may bring two players who do not reach their 19th birthday during the current calendar year)

15U Boys: 15 years old and younger who do not reach their 16th birthday during the current calendar year. (For Nationals; Bottom 3 seeded teams in Pool B have the opportunity to use 2 overage players. If Host Province is in the bottom 3 teams, Host team also allowed 2 overaged players. An overage player is maximum 1 year older.)

16U Girls: 16 years old and younger who do not reach their 17th birthday during the current calendar year. (For Nationals; NF, NS, NB, PEI, AB, SK, MB, ON2, QC2, and BC2 may bring three players who do not reach their 18th birthday during the current calendar year)

13U Boys and Girls: 13 years old and younger who do not reach their 14th birthday during the current calendar year.

Female players can play in Male events one calendar year older than the male ages stated above.

COACH ELIGIBILITY



PART I, 1.2 ELIGIBILITY RULES

1.2.2 Coaches:

- (a) Only coaches meeting the following requirements will be eligible to coach at nationals.

<i>Division & Category</i>	<i>Requirements</i>
<i>13U Re-gionals</i>	1 Coach is Certified Regional Other Coaches are Trained Regional
<i>15U Boys & Girls</i>	1 Coach is Certified Provincial Other Coaches are Trained Provincial
<i>18U</i>	1 Coach is Certified Provincial Other Coaches are Trained Provincial
<i>21U</i>	1 Coach is Certified Provincial Other Coaches are Trained Provincial
<i>Men</i>	All Coaches have Initiation Coach Online Module
<i>Canada Cup</i>	When 4 coaches are on staff: 1 Coach at least Certified Comp-Dev 2 Coaches at least Trained Comp-Dev 1 Coach at least Certified Provincial Coach (*Development Coach) When 3 coaches are on staff: 1 Coach at least Certified Comp-Dev 1 Coach at least Trained Comp-Dev 1 Coach at least Certified Provincial Coach (*Development coach)
<i>Canada Games</i>	1 Coach is Competition – Development Certified 2 Coaches are Competition – Development Trained

*A Province can identify a coach as 'Development Coaches'. These coaches can only be a 'Development Coach' for one year. A 'Development Coach' must be a certified Provincial Coach. If the Coach was to return for a 2nd year to the Canada Cup, they would need to fully meet the requirements of Comp-Dev Certified.

- (b) Names of coaches, along with their respective NCCP passport numbers (cc #), must be included in the email roster. All

coaches must be able to prove certification during the championship.

- (c) A chef de mission is mandatory and should be assigned by the PBA. A chef should be appointed by the PBA and should not be a coach or/and a manager. Any chef should be assigned to any administrative task and will serve as liaison with the Baseball Canada Representative. Chef should be reminded to tour all rooms upon check-in and inform accommodation site/host of any damages. Upon check-out, chef should room tour along with accommodation/host reps to confirm rooms' status.
- (d) Coaches 14 years of age, but under the age of 16, may only coach at 13U level and below, at National Championships.

It should be noted that all coaches must meet coaching requirement to participate in any championships.

All matters concerning coach eligibility should first be referred to the provincial baseball association (PBA).

TRAINER ELIGIBILITY

Baseball Canada allows a trainer to be in the dugout area provided that some proof of training is provided. At present, the minimum qualification for a trainer is Red Cross First Aid certification or equivalent. Trainers are not permitted to perform any other function (such as coaching).

CHEF DE MISSION OR BUSINESS MANAGER

The provincial baseball association (PBA) appoints the Chef de Mission or Business Manager of the team. This individual is responsible for the team's affairs off the field but is not permitted in the dugout area during games.

A chef should be appointed by the PBA and should not be a coach or/and a manager. Any chef should be assigned to any administrative task and will serve as liaison with the Baseball Canada Representative.

Chef should be reminded to tour all rooms upon check-in and inform accommodation site/host of any damages. Upon check-out, chef should room tour along with accommodation/host reps to confirm rooms' status.

PART THREE:

PEOPLE

TEAM MEMBERS

STAFF

CHEF DE MISSION/BUSINESS MANAGER

COACHING STAFF

HEAD COACH OR MANAGER

ASSISTANT COACHES

OPTIONAL FOURTH COACH

OTHER STAFF

TRAINER

PLAYERS

THE HOST

HOST COMMITTEE

EVENT STAFF

SECURITY STAFF

BASEBALL CANADA OFFICIALS

BASEBALL CANADA REP

BASEBALL CANADA OFFICIAL SCORER

UMPIRING STAFF

BASEBALL CANADA OFFICE STAFF

Team Members

Baseball Canada contact: Andrew Caudwell, Program Coordinator (acaudwell@baseball.ca)

TEAM STAFF

CHEF DE MISSION / BUSINESS MANAGER

The *chef de mission* or business manager is appointed by the provincial baseball association to be its representative to travel with the team and be responsible for the team's conduct (in conjunction with the manager or head coach) off the field.

The *chef de mission* or business manager should be the primary point of contact for the team in its dealings with both Baseball Canada and the host committee.

COACHING STAFF

The coaching staff of the team consists of the:

- Manager or head coach
- Assistant coaches (2)
- Optional third assistant coach (at team's expense)



**OFFICIAL
RULES OF
BASEBALL –
Rule 3.15**

No person shall be allowed on the playing field during a game except players and coaches in uniform, managers, news photographers authorized by the home club, officers of the law in uniform and watchmen and other employees of the home club.



**PART I, 1.4
Team Discipline**

1.4.2 Team Dress:

Teams shall be dressed in matching uniforms of an acceptable standard. All uniforms, including those of managers and coaches shall be matching and numbered. **When coaching the bases, the uniform game jersey must be worn. If a team jacket or windshirt is worn, it must include the team's official logo and be consistent with the team's uniform color and apparel. If both coaches opt to wear a jacket, the jackets must be uniform. At all other times, coaches are allowed to wear a team-issued jacket or windshirt.**

No duplicate numbers shall be permitted unless extenuating cir-

cumstances prevent this (i.e. lost baggage, torn uniforms, etc). Teams must declare their team uniform colors, home and visitors, at the Pre-Championship meeting. If they have only one set of uniforms, this must be stated at this time.



PART I, 1.4 Team Discipline

1.4.3 Personnel in the Playing Areas:

Only authorized personnel will be permitted to occupy the player's benches or dugout areas. Eighteen (18) players or twenty (20) for Canada Cup **and 21U Men** or twenty-one (21) players in the case of Men/Women, three (or four) coaches, one trainer and one batboy in uniform are authorized personnel. A chef de mission will be considered a coach if standing in the dugout and will have to fulfill the coaches requirements.

It is important to note that the Chef de Mission or Business Manager is not considered one of the coaches and cannot be in the dugout during the game. See Appendix D for Baseball Canada's Coach's Discipline Policy.

Manager or Head Coach

Throughout the *Official Rules of Baseball* the head coach is referred to as manager. Baseball Canada uses these two terms interchangeably.

From the *Official Rules of Baseball*, Rule 2.00 (Manager):



OFFICIAL RULES OF BASEBALL – Rule 2.00 – Man- ager

The MANAGER is a person appointed by the club to be responsible for the team's actions on the field, and to represent the team in communications with the umpire and the opposing team. A player may be appointed manager.

- (a) The club shall designate the manager to the league president or the umpire-in-chief not less than thirty minutes before the scheduled starting time of the game.⁷*
- (b) The manager may advise the umpire that he has delegated specific duties prescribed by the rules to a player or coach, and any action of such designated representative shall be official. The manager shall always be responsible for his teams conduct, observance of the official rules and deference to the umpires.*
- (c) If a manager leaves the field, he shall designate a player or coach as his substitute, and such substitute manager shall have the duties, rights and responsibilities of the manager. If the manager fails or refuses to designate his substitute before leaving, the umpire-in-chief shall designate a team*

⁷ Under Baseball Canada's rules, the manager or head coach is the person so designated on the roster.

member as substitute manager.

Team Members / Team Staff (continued)

Coaching Staff / Manager or Head Coach (continued)

Baseball Canada rules preclude players from assuming coaching-related duties unless they are also listed as coaches. (See Coach Eligibility.)

The manager (head coach) must meet the same eligibility requirements as all coaches. (See Coach Eligibility.)

Baseball Canada considers the manager (head coach) to be responsible for the conduct on his/her team while on the field. Responsibility for the team's conduct off the field is shared between the manager (head coach) and the *chef de mission*/business manager.

Assistant Coaches

Three assistant coaches are permitted to be part of the coaching staff. All must meet the eligibility requirements for coaches. Only two of the assistant coaches are covered under the hosting agreement (see below).

Optional Fourth Coach

It is very important to note that only two assistant coaches are covered under the hosting agreements, so if a third assistant coach is included in the team staff all costs associated with that third coach are the responsibility of the team.

Teams must make arrangements for a fourth coach with the host committee well in advance.

OTHER STAFF

Trainer

Baseball Canada permits teams to have a trainer in the dugout. This individual must have some training for the duties of this position (see Trainer Eligibility). The trainer should work with the on-site medical personnel to provide emergency first aid as required.

Trainers must not become involved in the coaching duties of the team. Umpires will normally not permit such personnel from directing comments to themselves nor to opposing team members.

Team Members (continued)

PLAYERS

The Baseball Canada Championships are, first and foremost, for the players. Whether they are 13-year olds or 40-year olds, players are the major concern of Baseball Canada. Baseball Canada wants the experience of attending a national championship to be a positive one for all concerned. While not every player can return home with a gold medal, all can have a fun, safe and enriching experience that will provide happy memories for a lifetime.

Baseball Canada attempts to do everything within its power to provide for the safety of the players, ranging from safety on the field to protection from harassment and abuse off the field. While accidents and injuries do sometimes occur as a part of the sport of baseball, we try to minimize their likelihood and, if that fails, to minimize the effect by having the host provides on-site medical services.

It is Baseball Canada's position that all players are to be treated fairly and with respect. It does, however, also fall upon the team staff and the provincial baseball association to work with Baseball Canada in attaining this goal.

However, respect is a two-way street and Baseball Canada requires all players, regardless of age, to be model ambassadors for their teams, their provinces and Baseball Canada itself. Players are expected to display restraint, both in their joy of success and also in their disappointment of failure. The host committee and its facilities are to be respected, as are opponents, officials and spectators.

Let's make the championship experience a positive one for everyone involved, especially the players.

An Important Note on Team Discipline

The team staff must ensure that all members of the team exhibit good behavior and good sportsmanship at all times, both on and off the field. The members of you team are ambassadors for your community, your province, your provincial baseball association and Baseball Canada.



PART I, 1.4

Team Discipline:

Team discipline is the responsibility of the individual teams and their coaches and managers, who shall be held responsible for the maintenance of discipline and proper team or individual conduct. Any breach of discipline, whether on the playing field or off, shall be dealt with by the Host Committee and the Baseball Canada Representative.

Team Discipline

Host

Baseball Canada contact: Andrew Caudwell, Program Coordinator (acaudwell@baseball.ca)

HOST COMMITTEE

The host committee is responsible to host the Baseball Canada Championship in accordance with:

- the *Rules and Regulations For Baseball Canada Championships*,
- the *Official Rules of Baseball* as published annually by Baseball Canada,
- the hosting agreement signed by the host, the host PBA and Baseball Canada, and
- the *Baseball Canada Championship Hosting Guide*.

The host committee can be a fairly complex organization, with subcommittees to perform many functions. As each host committee defines its own structure, more details on the host committee at your event will come from the committee itself. A sample host committee organization can be seen in Appendix C.

Two areas of concern to most teams are transportation and accommodations. Be sure you have telephone numbers to the individuals responsible for these areas in case of a problem.

Dealing with members of the host committee on minor issues is normally welcomed in an attempt to reduce the "red tape" involved. However, any disputes should be immediately addressed to the Baseball Canada Rep.

Remember that in virtually all cases, the members of the host committee are volunteers, just like you. Treat them with a little respect and appreciation and they will take good care of you and your team.

EVENT STAFF

The host committee's event staff should be easily identified while on-site (ID badge or uniform) and must be available in sufficient numbers to ensure the smooth operation of the event.

Remember that the event staff work for the host committee and not for you or your team. Requests made to the event staff (except for trivial matters) should be channeled through the host committee chair or the Baseball Canada rep.

MEDICAL STAFF

The host shall coordinate the overall medical coverage and emergency services for the entire event. Following are the specific responsibilities of the host related to medical staff:

- Coordinate first aid treatment at all facilities
- Arrange for ambulance and emergency personnel on call for all games
- Contact local hospitals in case of emergency treatments
- Provide a doctor and dentist on call for all games
- Massage/physio not mandatory but recommended

SECURITY STAFF

The host shall provide a security centre from which all security related activities shall be coordinated. It shall be the responsibility of the host to provide for the safety of all participants, volunteers, staff, umpires, VIP's and the general public.

Security shall also be provided in order to:

- Control media and public access to player / team areas
- Movement within specific area is restricted according to specific authorization
- Ensure the security of team equipment at all times during games, practices and storage

All team players and staff are required to follow directions or orders of security staff.

Baseball Canada Officials

Baseball Canada contact: Andrew Caudwell, Program Coordinator (acaudwell@baseball.ca)

BASEBALL CANADA REP

Selection Process

Baseball Canada Representatives are nominated by the Chairperson of the Baseball Canada Championships Committee and approved by the executive no later than their spring meeting.

Job Description

The Baseball Canada Representative is assigned to oversee the championship on behalf of Baseball Canada. His or her duties include:

- chairing the pre-championship meeting
- representing Baseball Canada at the banquet and during ceremonies
- supervising all on-field protests
- handling discipline/suspensions
- addressing the host's concerns with the teams
- communicating team concerns to the Supervisor of Umpires/host
- finalizing any schedule change and communicating this change to the teams and umpires
- being the host liaison with Baseball Canada while the championship is taking place
- The Baseball Canada Representative has the ultimate say on any aspects of the championship

Communication

During the championship the Rep is to be the only person from the championship who contacts the Baseball Canada office. Any request or concerns should be made through him or her.

BASEBALL CANADA OFFICIAL SCORER

Baseball Canada Official Scorer is responsible to oversee the championship Pointstreak system and scorekeepers/record keeping.

UMPIRING STAFF

Although the umpires would prefer to remain unnoticed at a Baseball Canada Championship, there are a few things to consider regarding the men (and women) in blue. The following excerpt from *Rules & Regulations for Baseball Canada Championships* explains how the umpires are assigned.

Baseball Canada Officials (continued)

Umpiring Staff (continued)



PART III Umpires

The Supervisor of Umpires, and Assistant Supervisor of Umpires (7 or more teams), for the Baseball Canada Championship shall be assigned by Baseball Canada. In all events, 9 umpires and 2 Supervisor of Umpires are to be assigned during a 6 team Championship. For a 10 team Championship, 12 umpires plus 3 Supervisors are to be assigned. For an 11 team Championship, 15 umpires plus 3 Supervisors are to be assigned.

The Provincial Supervisors of Umpires shall nominate umpires for Baseball Canada Championships to the Umpires' Committee of Baseball Canada, in consultation with the Provincial Presidents. Baseball Canada's Umpires' Committee will then assign the nominated Umpires to each Championship

Umpire Supervisor(s)

The umpire supervisor(s) are responsible for all issues pertaining to the officiating of the games of the championship. This includes the work of the umpires on the field, scheduling, etc.

Concerns about the officiating should be addressed to the Baseball Canada Rep, who will discuss them with the umpire supervisor(s).

Umpires

During the round-robin portion of the championship the umpires usually work in regular crews of three. For the medal round games, the umpire supervisor often changes the crews and sometimes uses four or even six umpires for the final games.

Conduct in Dealing With Umpires



PART II, 1.4

Touching an Umpire:

Bumping, shoving, or pushing an umpire shall bring automatic ejection from that game. Further penalty may be imposed at the discretion of the Baseball Canada Representative and such action must be announced before the next scheduled game of the team involved.

ELIGIBILITY RULES

Touching an Umpire

Umpiring Staff (continued)

In paragraph (b) of the definition of manager (head coach), the *Official Rules of Baseball* states:

The manager shall always be responsible for his team's conduct, observance of the official rules and deference to the umpires.

Players are not to address comments to the umpires. Coaches must control their players and get between them and the umpires whenever an "incident" appears imminent. The manager should use restraint in his dealings with the umpires. Profanity will never be tolerated, nor will personal insults or any attempt to "show up" the umpires.

The umpires must not be confronted while off the field. Any team member who does so will be subject to disciplinary action by the Baseball Canada Rep.

BASEBALL CANADA OFFICE STAFF

Team staff and provincial baseball association staff will be in contact with the Baseball Canada staff at the office in Ottawa in the months and weeks leading up to the championships. This is to be expected.

However, during the championship, only the Baseball Canada Rep is to be in contact with staff in the office in Ottawa. All requests are to be channeled through the Baseball Canada Rep.

PART FOUR:

BEFORE THE CHAMPIONSHIP

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

ARRIVAL DEADLINE

DEPARTURE TIME

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

ROSTER SUBMISSION

THE SCHEDULE

Travel Arrangements

Baseball Canada contact: Andrew Caudwell, Program Coordinator (acaudwell@baseball.ca)

Team Travel is arranged by the team's provincial baseball association or by the team itself. In addition, these arrangements can be made anywhere from several months in advance to just prior to the championship.

As you may expect, this can make it difficult to track down each team's travel itinerary and method of travel. Please have this information sent to the hosting committee as soon as your plans are finalized.

Once this travel information has been received, it is the host's responsibility to arrange airport pick-ups and hotel/accommodation directions. Once these arrangements have been made they must be communicated to each team well in advance of their travel.

ARRIVAL DEADLINE:

Your team will be required to arrive on the Wednesday prior to the start of play (or Tuesday for Canada Cup or possibility of Thursday for the 13U National Atlantic) in time for the Pre-Championship Meeting and any other scheduled events such as a banquet or a barbeque.

DEPARTURE TIME:

Departure is anytime on the Tuesday after the end of play, as Monday is set aside for a rain day. **For the 13U National Atlantic event, departure is Monday as there is no rain day.**

2.1.10 Teams must get permission from Baseball Canada to depart an event early. Failure to receive permissions will result in a \$5000 fine to Team/Province not able to finish the scheduled games of an event. This does not remove the forfeit rule already in place (currently 2.1.9).

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION:

The host will be responsible for providing no cost local transportation from the airport to the accommodation site for teams traveling by plane and provide directions for those teams traveling by bus. During the championship the host must provide no-cost daily transportation to and from the ballpark.

Roster Submission

Baseball Canada contact: Andrew Caudwell, Program Coordinator (acaudwell@baseball.ca)

Rosters are submitted to Baseball Canada by the provincial baseball association (PBA) offices and **NOT** by the teams. There can be no exceptions to this rule!

The roster form submitted to Baseball Canada by your PBA on your behalf serves three purposes. It identifies:

- your team as your province's official representative
- the members of your team to Baseball Canada and the host committee
- the coaching certification status of your coaching staff

The roster form is the only form required from the teams/PBAs.



PART I, 1.2 ELIGIBILITY RULES

1.2.3 Rosters:

- The final team rosters shall be approved by the PBA and submitted to Baseball Canada nine (9) days before the first scheduled game of the Championship.
13U National Atlantic and 13U National Western event deadline three (3) days before the first schedule game of the Championship.*
- Failure to comply with paragraph (a), shall result in the PBA being subject to a \$500 fine, payable to Baseball Canada.*
- The rosters are to include each participating coach's Coaching Certification number (cc #).*
- Provincial offices shall provide a list of suspended players to Baseball Canada prior to April 1st. An updated list shall be sent by August 1st.*
- Team staff without proper certification will be removed from the roster. To add a team staff individual following the deadline in 1.2.3 (a) will result in a \$50 fine/individual to a maximum of \$100/team.*
- Changes to the roster jersey numbers following the pre-tournament meeting may, at the discretion of Baseball Canada rep, result in the PBA being subject to a \$50 fine, payable to Baseball Canada.*
- A coach can only appear on one (1) roster per event. This is for coaching staff only, does not apply to chef or trainer.*

You should contact your PBA for information on submitting your roster data to the provincial office in time for the PBA office to meet the deadline of nine days prior to the start of the championship.

Remember to bring a copy of your roster to the championship.

Schedule

Baseball Canada contact: Andrew Caudwell, Program Coordinator (acaudwell@baseball.ca)

POOLS AND DRAW (SCHEDULE)

Baseball Canada will provide the pools and draw to the host committee no later than March 31 (May 31 for Men/Women). Upon receipt of the draw the host has 30 days to review it and make any recommended changes. Baseball Canada will make every effort to accommodate the host's needs but will not permit them to negatively impact all teams being treated fairly.

1.8 Determination of Home and Visitor:

1.8.1 Round-Robin:

- (a) In pools of four, home and visitor will be determined by Baseball Canada when the schedule is drawn up. Each team will get 1 or 2 home games. Host team will only get 1 home game.
- (b) In pools of five, each team shall be given two home and two away games when the schedule is drawn up by Baseball Canada.
- (c) In pools of six, home and visitor will be determined by Baseball Canada when the schedule is drawn up. Each team will get 2 or 3 home games. Host team will only get 2 home games.
- (d) In the case of a seven-team championship, each team shall have three home and three away games when the schedule is drawn up by Baseball Canada.

1.8.2 Medal Round Games:

- (a) This section does not include the Baseball Canada Cup, 15U Boys, 18U.
- (b) When a team plays a team with a lower finish in the round robin (either in the same pool or the other pool), the team with the higher finish shall have the choice of home or away.
- (c) When two teams meet that finished in the same numerical position in different pools, the choice of home or away shall be given to the winner of a coin toss by the Baseball Canada Representative made at a time to be determined by the Representative.

1.8.3 Baseball Canada Cup, 15U Boys, 18U:

- (a) This section applies only to the Baseball Canada Cup, 15U Boys, 18U.
- (b) **For all medal-round games, 1st in Pool A shall have choice of home or away. For all other teams in** medal-round, qualification, and placement games, when a team plays a team from the same pool with a lower finish in the round robin, the team with the higher finish shall have the choice of home or away. When a team plays a team from the other pool, the choice of home or away shall be given to the winner of a coin toss by the Baseball Canada Representative made at a time to be determined by the Representative.
- (c) The coin tosses will be done by the Baseball Canada Representative at a time or times to be determined by the Representative.

1.7.2 Playoff game

Any playoff game among tied teams to determine which team will advance to medal play will be played on Saturday or Sunday. This does not apply to the Canada Cup, 15U Boys, 18U.

1.7.3 Start time

A game will not start after 10:00 pm during any 15U Boys/16U Girls and 13U Baseball Canada Championship unless required to complete the event.

1.7.4 Less than Seven Teams:

- (a) The teams shall compete in one (1) pool, playing a round-robin schedule that sees each team play each other team once.
- (b) Following round-robin play, the following medal round games shall be played:
 - gold medal: second place vs first place
 - bronze medal: third place vs fourth place
- (c) A game for fifth place (fifth vs sixth) shall be played in the case of a six team championship.

1.7.5 Seven Teams:

The teams shall compete in two (2) pools, with the pools determined by Baseball Canada using the following criteria:

- Teams will be placed in the Pool A and Pool B divisions based on a point system calculated from the last 3 years results. Three (3) teams in pool A and four (4) teams in pool B.
- If tournament is hosted in Province of Pool A team, then Pool A is comprised of both teams from the Host Province and the top team. Pool B is comprised of the remaining teams.
- If tournament is hosted in Province of Pool B team, then Pool A is comprised of the top 3 teams. Pool B is comprised of both teams from the Host Province and all remaining teams.
- If Host Province is ranked 3rd based on the last 3 years results, the Provincial Team shall remain in Pool A while the Host Team shall go to Pool B.
- (a) The teams shall play a round-robin schedule within their own pools, with each team playing each other team in the pool once in pool B and twice in Pool A.
- (b) Following round robin play, if every team in pool A has a win the following playoff round games shall be played:
 - Quarter-final: 3A vs 2B
 - Semi-finals: 1B vs 1A and Winner of 3A/2B vs 2A
 - Bronze medal game: Semi-final losers
 - Gold medal game: Semi-final winners
 - Following round-robin play, the following placement games shall be played:
 - 6th place: 3B vs 4B
- (c) Following round robin play, if one team in pool A does not have a win the following playoff round games shall be played:
 - Semi-finals: 1A vs 2B and 2A vs 1B
 - Bronze medal game: Semi-final losers

- Gold medal game: Semi-final winners
- Following round-robin play, the following placement games shall be played:
 - 7th place: 3B vs 4B
 - 5th place: winner of 3B/4B vs 3A

1.7.6 Eight or Nine Teams:

- (a) **This section does not apply to the 13U National Atlantic, 13U National Western**
- (b) The teams shall compete in two (2) pools, with the pools determined by Baseball Canada using the following criteria:
- The "serpentine" structure shall be followed (1,4,5,8 in one pool and 2,3,6,7) in the other pool) based on the previous year's results.
 - The host team and the team from the host province shall not be in the same pool.
 - If the pools are of uneven size, the host team shall be in the larger pool.
- (c) The teams shall play a round-robin schedule within their own pools, with each team playing each other team in the pool once.
- (d) Following round-robin play, the following "quarter-final" games shall be played:
- QF-1: 3rd pool A vs 2nd Pool B
 - QF-2: 3rd Pool B vs 2nd Pool A
- with the winners moving on to the medal round and the losers to the consolation round.
- (e) The following medal round games shall be played:
- Championship semi-finals:
QF-1 winner vs 1st pool A
QF-2 winner vs 1st pool B
 - Bronze medal game:
Semi-final losers
 - Gold medal game:
Semi-final winners
- (f) The following consolation-round games shall be played.
- Consolation semi-finals:
QF-1 loser vs 1st pool B
QF-2 loser vs 1st pool A
 - Seven place game:
Semi-final losers
 - Fifth-place game:
Semi-final winners
- (g) There are no placement games played at the Men's Division.
- (h) This section does not apply to the Baseball Canada Cup, 15U Boys, 18U.

1.7.7 Ten Teams:

- (a) This section does not apply to the Baseball Canada Cup, 15U Boys, 18U.
- (b) The teams shall compete in two (2) pools, with the pools determined by Baseball Canada using the following criteria:
- The "serpentine" structure shall be followed (1,4,5,8,9 in one pool and 2,3,6,7,10) in the other pool) based on the previous year's results.
 - The host team and the team from the host province shall not be in the same pool.
- (c) The teams shall play a round-robin schedule within their own pools, with each team playing each other team in the pool once.

- (d) The following medal round games shall be played:
 - Championship semi-finals:
2nd Pool B vs 1st Pool A
2nd Pool A vs 1st pool B
 - Bronze medal game:
Semi-final losers
 - Gold medal game:
Semi-final winners
- (e) The following placement games shall be played:
 - Fifth place game: 3A vs 3B
 - Seventh place game: 4A vs 4B
 - Ninth place game: 5A vs 5B
- (f) There are no placement games played at the 21U or Men's Division.

1.7.8 Eleven Teams:

- (a) This section does not apply to the Baseball Canada Cup, 15U Boys, 18U.
- (b) The teams shall compete in two (2) pools, with the pools determined by Baseball Canada using the following criteria:
 - The "serpentine" structure shall be followed (1,4,5,8,9 and 11 in one pool and 2,3,6,7,10 and 11) in the other pool) based on the previous year's results.
 - The host team and the team from the host province shall not be in the same pool.
 - The host team shall be in the larger pool.
- (c) The teams shall play a round-robin schedule within their own pools, with each team playing each other team in the pool once.
- (d) The following medal round games shall be played:
 - Championships quarter-finals
3rd Pool B vs 2nd Pool A
3rd Pool A vs 2nd Pool B
 - Championship semi-finals:
Winner 3B/2A vs 1st Pool B
Winner 3A/2B vs 1st pool A
 - Bronze medal game:
Semi-final losers
 - Gold medal game:
Semi-final winners
- (e) The following placement games shall be played:
 - Fifth place game: Loser 3B/2A vs Loser 3A/2B
 - Seventh place game: 4A vs 4B
 - Ninth place game: 5A vs 5B
- (f) There are no placement games played at the 21U or Men's Division.

1.7.9 Baseball Canada Cup:

- (a) This section applies only to the Baseball Canada Cup.
- (b) The teams shall compete in two (2) pools, with the pools determined by Baseball Canada using the following criteria:
 - Last 3 years Baseball Canada Cup results shall be used to determine the pool composition.

- First three (3) teams from pool A, and the first two (2) teams from pool B shall qualify for final round.
 - First two (2) teams from Pool A and 1st place team of Pool B shall automatically advance to semi-finals.
- (c) The teams shall play a round-robin schedule within their own pools, with each team playing each other team in the pool once in pool B and twice in Pool A.
- (d) Following round robin play, the following medal-round games shall be played:
- Quarter-final: 3A vs 2B
 - Semi-finals: 1B vs 1A and Winner of 3A/2B vs 2A
 - Bronze medal game: Semi-final losers
 - Gold medal game: Semi-final winners
- (e) Following round-robin play, the following placement games shall be played:
- 5th place: Loser 3A/2B vs 4A
 - 7th place: 3B vs 4B
 - 9th place: 6B vs 5B

To help with the understanding of the rules for the Baseball Canada Cup, below is an example of how the two pools would be set up (based on 2007's results):

Pool A: BC – Ontario – Quebec – Saskatchewan

Pool B: Alberta - New Brunswick - Nova Scotia – Newfoundland – PEI - Manitoba

If the teams finished in this order after the round robin, then the medal round would occur as follows:

- Quarter-Final A: New Brunswick vs Québec
- Semi-Final A: Winner of QF vs. Ontario
- Semi-Final B: Alberta vs. British Columbia
- Gold Game: Winner SFA vs Winner SFB
- Bronze Game: Loser SFA vs Loser SFB
- 5th Place Game: Loser QF vs. Saskatchewan
- 7th Place Game Newfoundland vs. Nova Scotia
- 9th Place Game Manitoba vs. PEI
- In order to determine the placement of teams in Pools for the following year, the final finish will be considered. Finishing 1st will give the province 10 points, finishing 2nd 9 points and so on. Average from the last 3 years will always be used to rank teams for following year.

1.7.10 15U Boys/ 16U girls and 18U Divisions

- (a) The teams shall compete in two (2) pools, with the pools determined by Baseball Canada using the following criteria:
- Teams will be placed in the Pool A and Pool B divisions based on a point system calculated from the last 3 years results.
 - If tournament is hosted in Province of Pool A team, then Pool A is comprised of both teams from the Host Province and the top 3 teams. Pool B is comprised of the remaining teams.
 - If tournament is hosted in Province of Pool B team, then Pool A is comprised of the top 5 teams. Pool B is comprised of both teams from the Host Province and all remaining teams.

- If Host Province is ranked 5th based on the last 3 years results, the Provincial Team shall remain in Pool A while the Host Team shall go to Pool B. **Does not apply for 16U Girls. For the 16U Girls, a 2nd team from a Province is in Pool B.**
- (g) Bottom 3 seeded teams in Pool B have the opportunity to use 2 overage players. If Host Province is in the bottom 3 teams, Host team also allowed 2 overaged players. An overage player is maximum 1 year older.
- (h) First three (3) teams from Pool A, and the first two (2) teams from Pool B shall qualify for playoff round.
- (i) First two (2) teams from Pool A and 1st place team of Pool B shall automatically advance to semi-finals.
- (j) The teams shall play a round-robin schedule within their own pools, with each team playing each other team in the pool. Following round robin play, the following playoff round games shall be played:
 - Quarter-final: 3A vs 2B
 - Semi-finals: 1B vs 1A and Winner of 3A/2B vs 2A
 - Bronze medal game: Semi-final losers
 - Gold medal game: Semi-final winners
 Following round-robin play, the following placement games shall be played:
 - 5th place: Loser 3A/2B vs 4A
 - 7th place: 5A vs 3B
 - 9th place: 4B vs 5B

1.7.11 **21U Men and Men's Divisions**

- (a) Quarter final games in this division. No tie-break games in this division.
- (b) For the Men's and 21U Men divisions, a second team from the same Province would receive equal ranking as the first team.
- (c) For the Men's and 21U Men divisions, ranking would be based on the last 3 years of the event.

SCHEDULE FINALIZATION

Baseball Canada has traditionally consulted the provinces on the schedules before they are finalized. This gives the PBA offices the opportunity to voice concerns over the schedule before it is finalized. Failure of a PBA to present its objections in a timely manner will preclude any changes.

Baseball Canada, through the Baseball Canada Championship Committee and the Manager of Baseball Operations, has the final say on scheduling matters.

SCHEDULE REVISION

In the event of inclement weather, the schedule may have to be changed. While the Baseball Canada Rep has the final say on the revised schedule, he/she will consult with the host committee, the teams and the umpires before making any decisions.

Baseball Canada reserves the right to adjust the Championship schedule at any time to accommodate Host requests pertaining to field location and time. During an event, the Baseball Canada Rep considering a change to the schedule following a Host request is to consult with Baseball Canada office staff prior to final decision.

PART FIVE:

AT THE CHAMPIONSHIP

CHAMPIONSHIP ITINERARY

DISCIPLINE

ARRIVAL

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

MEALS

ACCOMMODATIONS

RULES

PRE-CHAMPIONSHIP MEETING

BANQUET

CEREMONIES

GAME PROCEDURES

PROTEST PROCEDURES

MEDICAL SERVICES

REGISTRATION/ACCREDITATION

TEAM SERVICES

SECURITY

TICKETING

AWARDS

DEALING WITH THE MEDIA

REPORTING PROBLEMS

At the Championship

Baseball Canada contact: Andrew Caudwell, Program Coordinator (acaudwell@baseball.ca)

CHAMPIONSHIP ITINERARY

- **Wednesday** (Or Tuesday for Canada Cup or possibility Thursday for 13U National Atlantic)
 - Arrival of teams, umpires, Baseball Canada Rep
 - Registration/Accreditation
 - Umpires meeting
 - Banquet (unless after event) (not required)
 - Pre-Championship meeting
- **Thursday**
 - Competition begins
 - Opening ceremonies
 - Optional special events
- **Friday**
 - Competition continues
 - Optional special events
- **Saturday**
 - Competition continues
 - Optional special events
- **Sunday**
 - Competition concludes with medal games
 - Closing ceremonies
 - Banquet (unless before event)
- **Monday**
 - Rain day to complete schedule if needed (except 13U National Atlantic)
 - 13U National Atlantic only, departure of teams, umpires and Baseball Canada Rep
- **Tuesday**
 - Departure of teams, umpires and Baseball Canada Rep

DISCIPLINE

This is a very important topic. Your team is representing your province, your provincial baseball association and, indirectly, Baseball Canada. You and all members of your team are expected to be good ambassadors for your province.

Please refer to the Baseball Canada Discipline Policy in Appendix D.

The host committee, the Baseball Canada Rep and Baseball Canada, will handle breaches of acceptable conduct in a most serious manner.

ARRIVAL

Teams must arrive before 4pm. Upon arrival at the designated airport, representatives of the host committee will meet you. You will be transported to the appropriate venue by the host committee's staff.

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

The host committee is responsible to transport your team from the accommodations site to the playing venue(s) as required, plus other event-related activities such as practices, the banquet, ceremonies, etc.

Requests for other transportation will be determined at the discretion of the host committee.

MEALS

At most championships, the responsibility for meals rests with the team.

It is recommended that the host offers a meal plan to the teams whenever possible. This would be a prepaid plan that teams could purchase which would provide them with a specified number of meals for the duration of the championship. It can be arranged with any number of food services (hotel, restaurants, catering company and universities) and it must be flexible in the event of last minute schedule changes.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Baseball Canada will invoice provincial baseball associations no more than \$4000 to help cover the cost of the following accommodations (\$5000 for Canada Cup)

The host, unless otherwise specified in the hosting agreement, will be responsible for the following accommodations:

- Teams:
 - Players (up to 18 per team maximum except for up to 21 in Men/Women and up to 20 at Canada Cup)
 - Coaches (3 per team)
 - Business manager of *chef de mission* (1 per team)

- Umpiring Staff:
 - 9 umpires and 2 supervisors for 6-8 team events
 - 12 umpires and 2 supervisors for 10 team events
 - 15 umpires and 3 supervisors for 11 team events
- Baseball Canada Rep
- Baseball Canada Official Scorekeeper

For teams, unless otherwise specified in the hosting agreement, the host will be responsible for the following sleeping accommodations:

- Four players to a room maximum at a local hotel or university residence
- Two members to a room for team coaching staff

Note that the host is not responsible for providing the maximum number of rooms if a team is not carrying the maximum number of players. For example, a team carrying 16 players instead of the 18 player maximum will be provided with 4 rooms for players rather than 5 rooms for players.

Please note that teams are now allowed to bring a fourth coach at their expense.

Team staff should review the condition of all rooms to be occupied by the team with a member of the host committee. Upon departure, the same review should be done to determine any damage caused by the team. The host should provide a written document clearly indicating any damage caused by the team.

Teams will be asked to provide a credit card upon arrival at the hotel to cover any incidents.

Any problems or disputes associated with accommodations should be referred to the Baseball Canada Rep.

RULES

Official Rules of Baseball

The Official Rules of Baseball is published annually by Baseball Canada. This document is the official rules of Major League Baseball, with sections added by Baseball Canada for Canadian use. These sections are:

- Rules and Regulations for Baseball Canada Championships (“the blue section”)
- Canadian content rules (“the black side bar section”)
 - Age divisions, and
 - Baseball Canada rule interpretations
 - Minor division rules (11U, 13U and 15U)

The Canadian Content section and the *Rules and Regulations for Baseball Canada Championships* are reproduced in **Appendix E**. Copies of the *Official Rules of Baseball* book are available from Baseball Canada or from your PBA.

Rules and Regulations for Baseball Canada Championships

These are the rules that apply specifically to the Baseball Canada Championships. These rules are reproduced in this document in **Appendix E**. Topics covered in these rules include the following:

PART I – THE TEAMS

- Performance Guarantees
 - Financial Responsibility
 - Attendance
 - Team Eligibility
- Eligibility Rules
 - Athletes
 - Coaches
 - Rosters
- Publicity
- Team Discipline
- Power of Decision
- AGM Decisions
- Pre-Championship Meeting
- Championship Schedule
 - Schedule Approval

- Playoff Game
 - Start Time (Curfew)
 - Less than Eight teams
 - Eight or Nine Teams
 - Ten or Eleven teams
 - Baseball Canada Cup
 - Determination of Home and Visitor
 - Round-Robin
 - Medal-Round Games
 - Baseball Canada Cup
- PART II – GAMES AND PROTEST PROCEDURES**
- Playing Rules
 - Official Playing Rules
 - Protective Headgear
 - DH Rule
 - Courtesy/Designated Runners
 - Length of Games
 - Mercy Rule
 - Extra Inning Game Procedure

At the Championships (continued)

Rules (continued)

Rules & Regulations for Baseball Canada Championships (continued)

- Game Procedures
 - Pre-Game Procedures
 - Post-Game Procedures
- Protest Procedures
- PART III – UMPIRES
 - Assignments
 - Umpires Meeting
- PART IV – Baseball Canada Championship Format & Tie-Breaking Formula

A few of these rules need some discussion here:

Protective Headgear:



PART II, 2.1.2 PLAYING RULES Headgear

Re-entry Rule

- 1) *All players shall wear double earflap helmets while at bat, in the on-deck circle and on the base-paths in all age categories. Baseball Canada recognizes NOCSAE as their standard for Baseball Helmets. Baseball Canada recommends that no modifications to a helmet be made, other than what is done by the manufacturer or is completed at the explicit directions of the manufacturer. Batting helmets do not require Facemasks or Chin Straps, but this rule does not prohibit the use of them.*
- 2) *The C.F.A.B. rules require catchers in all age categories to wear protective helmet and mask while catching*
Note: This includes practice and warm-up situations such as the bullpen and between innings. Players and coaches must wear at least a mask in all practice and warm-up situations.
- 3) *All batboys/batgirls must wear protective double earflap helmets.*
- 4) *Any player acting as a base coach must wear a proper double ear flap helmet; exclude Men/Women and 21U Divisions.*



PART II, 2.1.7 PLAYING RULES Re-entry Rule

Re-entry Rule (adopted in 2002):

- (a) *In 13U and 15U Boys/16U Girls Championships, 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 pitcher, if removed from the game may return, but may not pitch. 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.*
- (b) *A substituted player may return to the game in the event of an injury or illness as determined by the game umpires. Such substitution will occur where all of the players have already*

entered in the game. The opposing coach shall make the selection of the replacement player whom will not be eligible to pitch in that game. The substitute shall assume the batting order of the injured player. NOTE: This does not apply in the event of an ejection from the game. More specifically, if a coach has entered all of his players in the game and a player is subsequently ejected, the game shall be considered a forfeit as the team has no more substitutes.

Coaches should also note the following rules that might differ from those used in their provinces:

- DH rule (for the pitcher only) in 18U, 21U, Men/Women and the Baseball Canada Cup
- Courtesy and designated runners are not permitted
- All games in all age categories are seven (7) innings
- The ten-run mercy rule after the team trailing has had at least five at-bats.

Canadian Content

The Canadian Content section of the Official Rules of Baseball contains the age divisions recognized by Baseball Canada (discussed earlier in this document), interpretations of the rules and special rules for minor divisions (11U, 13U, 15U). The age divisions are covered earlier in this document.

A few important notes on the rule interpretations offered in this section:



OFFICIAL RULES OF BASEBALL – Canadian Content Section -- Baseball Canada Rules Interpretations

3.02 (1.10) *For 13U, 16U Girls, 21U Women and Women's National Championships, a max barrel of 2 3/4" with (i) a 1.15 BPF (Bat Performance Factor) or (ii) USA Baseball Model is permitted. For the 13U National Championships using up to a minus 10-length/weight differential is permitted. For 16U Girls, 21U Women and Women's National Championships using up to a minus 5 length/weight differential is permitted. For Canada Cup and Canada Games, only wood or bamboo bats will be allowed. No composite bats will be allowed. For 15U Boys, 18U, 21U and Men's championships, 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."*
The bat must clearly show the manufacturer's original markings (including, if applicable, length-weight differential). If not, the bat will be considered illegal.
Rule 6.06(d) will apply to any bat not complying with the above.
A player is to follow the bat rule based on the division that they are playing in during the game.

For example; a 13U player playing in a 15U game is subject to the 15U bat rule.

a 16U Girl playing in a 15U game is subject to the 15U bat rule.

For example;

a 13U player playing in a 15U game is subject to the 15U bat rule

a 16U Girl playing in a 15U game is subject to the 15U bat rule.

3.08 (1.16) All players shall wear double earflap helmets while at bat, in the on-deck circle and on the base-paths in all age categories. Baseball Canada recognizes NOCSAE as their standard for Baseball Helmets. Baseball Canada recommends that no modifications to a helmet be made, other than what is done by the manufacturer or is completed at the explicit directions of the manufacturer. Batting helmets do not require Facemasks or Chin Straps, but this rule does not prohibit the use of them.

6.05 Contact Rule:

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 already scored prior to committing the infraction) and is to be automatically ejected (whether or not declared safe).

B. Contact shall be considered malicious if: the contact is the result of intentional excessive force, and/or there is intent to injure.

C. Malicious contact is to be penalized whether committed by an offensive or defensive player. The Umpire shall determine whether contact was avoidable or unavoidable whether the runner was trying to reach the base or attempting to dislodge the ball from the fielder. IF the runner a) could have avoided the fielder and reached the base, or b) attempted to dislodge the ball, the runner is out even if the fielder loses the possession of the ball. The ball is dead and all other runners shall return to the last base legally occupied by them at the time of intent to contact. If the fielder blocks the base path, the runner may slide into or collide with the fielder as long as the runner is making a legitimate attempt to reach the base. IF the collision is flagrant, the runner is called out and ejected. The ball is declared dead. If the defensive player blocks the base path clearly without possession of the ball, obstruction is called. The runner is safe and a delayed dead ball is signaled. If the runner collides flagrantly, he/she shall be declared safe due to obstruction but shall be ejected. The ball is dead.

Minor Division Rules



PART II,
OFFICIAL PLAYING
RULES – Canadian Con-
tent section --
Minor Division Rules

	13U	15U Boys and 16U Girls
<i>Length of game</i>	<i>7 innings</i>	<i>7 innings</i>
<i>Baselines</i>	<i>70 feet</i>	<i>80 feet</i>
<i>Pitching distance</i>	<i>48 feet</i>	<i>54 feet</i>
<i>Metal cleats allowed</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>YES</i>
<i>DH allowed</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>NO</i>
<i>Re-entry permitted</i>	<i>YES</i>	<i>YES</i>
<i>Pitch Count applica- tion</i>	<i>YES</i>	<i>YES</i>

Important information for coaches -- the pitching limitation rules for:
13U, 15U, and 18U



PART II,
OFFICIAL PLAYING
RULES – Canadian
Content section --
Minor Division Rules
– 13U, 15U, 18U
8.01 and 8.06

(8.01)

(1) Any player on the team is eligible to pitch, and there are no restrictions to the number of pitchers a manager may use in a game.

(2) Pitchers shall be permitted to have 2 appearances in the same calendar day. If a pitcher requires a rest following 1st appearance, they cannot return in the same calendar day.

(3) If a pitcher is permitted to pitch on consecutive days, and the pitcher does not go over the individual day first threshold in game 1, they are permitted to have a 2nd appearance in the same calendar day.

Pitchers cannot pitch in 3 games during a day.

Example; A 13U pitcher throws 25 pitches on Day 1, on Day 2 game one pitcher throws 10 pitches. The

pitcher is eligible to pitch if their team plays another game on Day 2. For purposes of maximum number of pitches in a day, since the 13U pitcher has already thrown 10 pitches in game 1, their first pitch in game 2 should count as number 11 towards the day maximum of 85.

(4) Pitcher cannot pitch 3 consecutive days unless a pitcher's first 2 days combined does not exceed:

11U: 25

15U Boys / 16U Girls: 35

13U: 30

18U/Canada Cup/Canada Games : 40

If pitcher's day 1 + day 2 exceeds figure above for their division, they require at least 1 day rest.

Pitcher cannot pitch 4 consecutive days. One (1) day rest is needed.

(5) Pitchers and managers shall follow the following guidelines:

11U	13U	15U Boys 16U Girls	18U Canada Cup Canada Games	21U Men	Rest required
1-25	1-30	1-35	1-40	1-45	None
26-40	31-45	36-50	41-55	46-60	1 day
41-55	46-60	51-65	56-70	61-75	2 days
56-65	61-75	66-80	71-85	76-90	3 days
66-75	76-85	81-95	86-105	91-115	4 days
75	85	95	105	115	Maximum

(6) The official scorekeeper will calculate the total pitches thrown for that calendar day and determine the required rest starting the next calendar day. Athletes must not exceed the maximum pitch count total for that day.

(7) Once a player assumes the position of pitcher, they cannot catch for the remainder of the day.

(8) Pitchers will be permitted to finish the batter if his or her maximum pitch limit has been reached for that calendar day.

(9) Only pitches actually thrown will be included in Pitch Count totals. Automatic balls during an intentional walk do not count towards Pitch Count totals.

Example; if during a count of 2 balls - 0 strike, a team signals to the umpire that a batter will receive an in-

tentional walk, only 2 pitches will be counted for pitch count.

(10) Required Rest shall be defined in "Days" starting at 12:01am and ending at 11:59 pm of the next calendar day.

(11) If a game continues past 12:01am, those pitches are counted as if pitched prior to midnight. If a game is suspended, when it resumes it is defined as a different day.

(12) A pitcher who is removed from the mound during a game shall not be permitted to return to pitch in the same game, even if the pitcher is retained in the game at another position.

(13) Any violation of any part of the pitch count rule, the result is the Head Coach is ejected from the current game and receives an additional game suspension.

(14) The total number of pitches thrown by an ambidextrous pitcher are counted for the purpose of calculating pitch count, regardless of which arm or combination there-of is throwing.

(15) When a game is stopped by inclement weather or for any other reason than a mercy rule, that specific game has to be resumed at the point of stoppage. If Pitcher "A" is the starting pitcher of a game and has a pitch count below the first threshold, Pitcher "A" can then be used as a pitcher again for that particular game but considering he will be carrying the number of pitches thrown when the game stopped. This applies for a game that is resumed on the same day or on the next day.

For example, if Pitcher "A" threw 30 pitches at 15U Nationals, he will then be allowed to throw a maximum of 65 pitches when the game resumes. If Pitcher "A" had thrown 36 pitches when the rain started, he would not be eligible to pitch if that game is re-scheduled for the next day as he needs his full day of rest. If the game is resumed during the same day, he can then come back as pitcher while carrying his pitches.

(16) A player playing in a division other than their own age group shall pitch based on the pitch count of the lower aged division.

For example; a 13U playing at 15U is subject to the 13U rules;

a 18U playing at 15U is subject to the 15U rules.

5.10 (8.06) (c) The manager or coach may make a 2nd visit to the mound while the same batter is at bat in order to remove the pitcher.

PRE-CHAMPIONSHIP MEETING

Prior to the start of the championship, normally on Wednesday evening, a meeting is held with members of the teams, the host committee and Baseball Canada officials. This meeting is very important to the smooth operation of the championship and must be attended by all teams. The rules concerning the meeting state:



PART I, 1.6 PRE- CHAMPIONSHIP MEETING

- 1.6.1 *At a convenient time, prior to the opening game of the Championship, the Pre-Championship meeting shall be held. The Chairman of the Host Committee, the Baseball Canada Representative, and the Baseball Canada Supervisor of Umpires, must be in attendance at this meeting.*
- 1.6.2 *The Baseball Canada Representative shall chair the meeting.*
- 1.6.3 *Each team shall send at least one representative who shall have the authority to speak on behalf of the team and make decisions concerning his team, which shall be binding. At the meeting, announcements and directions will be made affecting aspects of the Championship. Non-attendance at the meeting shall not be an excuse for non-compliance.*
- 1.6.4 *The Host Committee may, for reasonable cause, limit the number of representatives from each team provided that at least two (2) are permitted to attend.*
- 1.6.5 *Team rosters, completed fully, shall be distributed to each team prior to the start of the Championship and as far in advance of the Pre-Championship meeting as possible. Any challenge concerning eligibility of any player must be raised at that time. The final team rosters shall be approved by the Provincial body and submitted in accordance with rule 1.2.3 above.*
- 1.6.6 *No challenge on the questions of eligibility shall be considered after the conclusion of the meeting. However, should subsequent information indicate that ineligible players have been used, the Baseball Canada Executive will have the authority to investigate, and if necessary, take appropriate action to penalize the Provincial Governing Body, of the team concerned.*
- 1.6.7 *The “travesty of the game” rule will be enforced by the Baseball Canada representative and the umpires at the event which will result in ejections – first to manager then to players.*
- 1.6.8 *Pre-Championship Meeting agenda*

- (a) Review of Championship Rules & Regulations.*
- (b) All Championship rules and procedures, special local field conditions, etc.*
- (c) Eligibility of rosters, athletes, coaches (NCCP status), etc.*
- (d) Championship schedule, and home/visitor determination.*
- (e) Run limitations.*
- (f) Protest procedures.*
- (g) Team and player discipline.*
- (h) Travesty of the game*
- (i) Extra Inning Game Procedure*
- (j) Request all teams to report all offensive & defensive changes during the tournament.*
- (k) Special ceremonies and events.*
- (l) Closing ceremonies and awards.*
- (m) Question period.*

It is important to note that any challenges to the eligibility of any participant must be made at the pre-championship meeting.

At the Championship (continued)

CEREMONIES

The Host shall be responsible for planning and delivering the following ceremonies:

- Opening Ceremonies
- Banquet (not required)
- Pre-Game Ceremonies (Round Robin and Medal Games)
- Post-Game Ceremonies (Round Robin and Medal Games)
- Closing Ceremonies

All teams are expected to cooperate with the host committee in the implementation of these ceremonies.

MEDICAL SERVICES

The host shall coordinate the overall medical coverage and emergency services for the entire event. Following are the specific responsibilities of the host related to medical services:

- Coordinate first aid treatment at all facilities
- Determine which teams have medical personnel in attendance at the event
- Serve as liaison with individual teams training staffs
- Coordinate medical support system for specialty treatment needs
- Coordinate first aid system for volunteers and general public
- Arrange for ambulance and emergency personnel on call for all games
- Set up an emergency action plan at all facilities and events
- Prepare a risk management plan
- Contract local hospitals in case of emergency treatments
- Provide a doctor and dentist on call for all games
- Massage/physio not mandatory but recommended

GAME PROCEDURES

To ensure that games get started and end in an orderly fashion Baseball Canada has a standard set of procedures for the pre-game period. They are:



PART II, 2.2 **GAME AND PROTEST** **PROCEDURES,** **Game Procedures**

2.2.3 Pre-Game Procedures:

- (a) *Teams shall arrive at the designated playing field at least forty-five minutes prior to the designated starting time of the game.*
- (b) *Starting twenty-five minutes before the designated time of the game, the home team shall have the field for ten minutes for infield/outfield practice.*
- (c) *The visiting team shall then have the field for ten minutes for infield/outfield practice.*

At the Championships



PART II, 2.2 **GAME AND PROTEST** **PROCEDURES,** **Game Procedures**

- (d) *Following the visiting team's practice time, there shall be the meeting at home plate among the Head Coaches and the umpires.*

NOTE: *Scheduled starting time means the time indicated on the Championship schedule drawn up prior to the start of play. Designated starting time means the time determined by the Baseball Canada Representative in the event of delays because of inclement weather, lengthy preceding game(s), or other factors.*

- (e) *The starting line-up including all available substitutes listed and pitching form (13U + 15U only) shall be given to the official scorer at least thirty minutes prior to the start of the game. The list shall include the surname of each player, coach and manager with his usual first name and his uniform number. The uniform number is to be listed to the left of each name and the playing position of the starting players listed to the right of each name.*
- (f) *Forty-five minutes prior to turning over the line-up cards to the umpire, team managers will indicate to each other if they plan "left" or "right" handed pitchers to start the game.*

2.2.4 Post-Game Procedures:

- (a) *At the conclusion of play, the teams shall line up in the home plate area for the traditional handshakes.*
- (b) *Following the handshakes, upon the request of the Host Committee (which shall be given prior to the game) the teams shall line up on their respective baselines for the presentation of awards.*

- (c) *Following any post-game ceremonies, teams shall vacate the dugouts in a timely manner so as to not delay any following games.*

PROTEST PROCEDURES

There are times when teams may feel that the umpires may have made a mistake in the application of the rules. In league play, there is time to process an appeal or protest but in a championship tournament, there is no such time nor is there the opportunity to play the game over or replay part of it. Therefore, the game is stopped to allow the protest to be handled immediately.

The process for handling a protest is outlined quite clearly in the rules:

At the Championship (continued)

Protest Procedures (continued)



PART II, 2.3
GAMES AND PROTEST
PROCEDURES,
Protest Procedures

- (a) *The host will submit the names of the entire Protest Committee to Baseball Canada, at least two (2) weeks prior to the Championship.*
- (b) *The Baseball Canada Representative will approve the Protest Committee for the Championship.*
- (c) *The Protest Committee shall be composed of sufficient members to ensure that three members are present at each game of the Championship.*
- (d) *The names of the members of the Protest Committee shall be made known to the teams at the Pre-Championship meeting. The Baseball Canada Representative will sit on the Protest Committee.*
- (e) *To be heard, protest must be accompanied with a cash deposit of \$100. In the event that the protesting team wins the protest, the cash deposit will be reimbursed.*
- (f) *When a protestable incident occurs, the protesting Head Coach must, before the next play, inform the game Crew Chief that he is lodging a protest.*
- (g) *If the Crew Chief agrees that the Head Coach has a legitimate case, he shall suspend play and inform the manager of the opposing team and the Protest Committee.*
- NOTE: No protest may be made on a judgment call.*
- (h) *The Protest Committee, the Head Coach making protest, and the game Crew Chief shall retire to a private area away from the teams, spectators and other persons.*
- (i) *The Protest Committee shall hear and question in the following order:*
- *the game Crew Chief,*
 - *the protesting Head Coach, and*
 - *the opposing Head Coach (if necessary).*

The Protest Committee shall have the power to exclude any of those persons while talking to any of the others.

- (j) The Head Coach's and game Crew Chief shall then leave while the Protest Committee shall discuss the protest.*
- (k) Before ruling on the protest, the Protest Committee may confer with any person whom they believe may be helpful in assisting them reach a decision.*
- (l) The Protest Committee shall rule on the protest and inform the game Crew Chief and he in turn will advise the Team Head Coaches and resume play.*
- (m) The game Crew Chief shall put the decision into effect and order resumption of play from the point of suspension.*
- (n) No further argument or comment on the protest shall be entertained.*
- (o) The decision of the Protest Committee shall be final. There shall be no appeal to any other body.*

REGISTRATION/ACCREDITATION

The host committee might require all participants to be accredited upon arrival. Teams must comply with the needs of the host committee.

TEAM SERVICES

Teams are required to participate in all event activities including the following:

- Opening ceremonies
- Sponsor activities
- Event promotions
- Skills competitions or special events

The host must have plans to have the teams participate in these and any other event-related activities. This includes local transportation as required.

The Host shall provide for the following:

- Access to equipment repairs
- Itineraries for special events
- Having a representative of the Host committee to meet the team/delegation upon arrival and escort them to the accreditation area
- Information packages
- Gift packages (optional)

Team Information Packages

Baseball Canada requires that hosts provide the following information to the teams:

- Copy of tournament rules and regulations, and the schedule
- Transportation schedule to venues and airport

- Area map including restaurants, emergency centres, playing facilities, accommodations and local points of interest
- First aid and medical information
- Laundry and equipment repair services
- Press releases
- Phone list of important numbers
- Opening and closing ceremony information
- Hospitality
- Dressing room assignments and policies
- Special Events

SECURITY

As mentioned earlier, teams must follow the instructions of event security staff at all times.

TICKETING

Requests for tickets should be addressed to the host committee.

Teams should note that banquet tickets often sell out early. Family or friends that wish to attend the banquet should attempt to reserve their tickets prior to departure for the event.

AWARDS

Baseball Canada provides gold, silver and bronze medals for the top three teams.

In addition, Baseball Canada through its sponsors and suppliers shall provide additional awards:

- offensive player (Rawlings)
- defensive player (Mizuno)
- catcher (Mizuno)

The Host committee is responsible to select a committee to determine award winners from local knowledgeable baseball people.

Decisions on awards are final.

DEALING WITH THE MEDIA

Baseball Canada expects and requires all participants to channel criticism in proper channels. Outbursts to the media are not considered proper channels. Criticism of the umpires or of the host committee is unacceptable conduct and will be dealt with by the Baseball Canada Rep.

REPORTING PROBLEMS

Minor problems can be reported to the host committee directly.

Major problems or minor problems not addressed by the host committee should be referred to the Baseball Canada Rep. The Rep may request that the problem be submitted in writing.

PART SIX:

AFTER THE CHAMPIONSHIP

POST-EVENT EVALUATION

TRAVEL HOME

DEPARTURE DEADLINE

After the Championship

Baseball Canada contact: Andrew Caudwell, Program Coordinator (acaudwell@baseball.ca)

POST-EVENT EVALUATION

To help both Baseball Canada and the host committee improve the championship, should you be asked to complete an evaluation or survey, please do so. Only by getting feedback from the participants can the events be improved in a way to please those who compete.

You may be provided with a single evaluation form for your entire team or a form for individual members of your team. Attempt to get as close to 100% involvement of your entire team in either case, to maximize the feedback.

TRAVEL HOME

As with travel to the event, your team will be taken to the airport (if applicable) by the host, at which time your team is “on its own” to return home.

If your team traveled by bus, you may depart the host city once all your commitments to the host have been met. Please note that this includes any closing ceremonies or banquet unless the host advises you otherwise.

DEPARTURE DEADLINE

If your team is traveling on a scheduled flight, train or bus, you cannot schedule your return trip to depart the host airport until the Tuesday after the event, as Monday is the rain day. If you wish to stay past the Tuesday you will have to make special arrangements with the host.

13U National Atlantic departure day is Monday.

Appendices

Appendix A: Important Contacts

Baseball Canada and Provincial Baseball Associations

Baseball Canada Championship Hosts

Appendix B: Sample Host Committee

Appendix C: National Code of conduct

Appendix D: Baseball Canada Discipline Policy

Appendix E: Rules

Championship

Canadian Content

Rules interpretation

Appendix F: Staff & Volunteer Screening

Appendix G: Baseball Canada Sever Weather Policy

APPENDIX A:

Important Contacts

Baseball Canada contact: Andrew Caudwell, Program Coordinator (acaudwell@baseball.ca)

BASEBALL CANADA

2212 Gladwin Cres, Suite A7 Ottawa, ON K1B 5N1

Phone: 613-748-5606

Fax: 613-748-5767

E-mail: info@baseball.ca

Home Page: www.baseball.ca

PROVINCIAL BASEBALL ASSOCIATIONS

BASEBALL B.C.

#310 – 15225 104th Ave Phone: 604-586-3310 E-mail: info@baseball.bc.ca
Surrey, BC, V3R-6Y8 Fax: 604-586-3311 Home Page:
www.baseball.bc.ca

BASEBALL ALBERTA

Percy Page Centre
11759 Groat Road Phone: 780-427-8943 E-mail: dancurtis@baseballalberta.com
Edmonton, AB T5M 3K6 Fax: 780-427-9032 Home Page:
www.baseballalberta.com

SASKATCHEWAN BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

1870 Lorne Street Phone: 306-780-9237 E-mail:
mramage@sasktel.net
Regina, SK S4P 2L7 Fax: 306-352-3669 Home Page:
www.saskbaseball.ca

BASEBALL MANITOBA

145 Pacific Avenue Phone: 204-925-5763 E-mail: baseball.info@sportmanitoba.ca
Winnipeg, MB R3C 4M2 Fax: 204-925-5792 Home Page:
www.baseballmanitoba.ca

BASEBALL ONTARIO

3-131 Sheldon Drive Phone: 519-740-3900 E-mail: baseball@baseballontario.com
Cambridge, ON N1R 6S2 Fax: 519-740-6311 Home Page:
www.baseballontario.com

BASEBALL QUEBEC

4545 Pierre de Coubertin Phone: 514-252-3075 E-mail: info@baseballquebec.qc.ca

Montreal, QC H1V 3R2
www.baseballquebec.com

Fax: 514-252-3134

Home Page:

BASEBALL NEW BRUNSWICK

900 Hanwell Road Unit 13 Phone: 506-451-1329
Fredericton, NB E3B 6A3 Fax: 506-451-1325

E-mail: director@baseballnb.ca
Home Page: www.baseballnb.ca

BASEBALL NOVA SCOTIA

5516 Spring Garden Rd
bguenette@sportnovascotia.ca
Halifax, NS B3J 1G6
www.baseballnovascotia.com

Phone: 902-425-5450 Ext.355 E-mail:

Fax: 902-425-5606

Home Page:

BASEBALL P.E.I.

40 Enman Crescent Phone: 902- 368-4203
Charlottetown, PEI C1E 1E6 Fax: 902-368-4548
www.baseballpei.ca

E-mail: baseball@sportpei.pe.ca
Home Page:

BASEBALL NEWFOUNDLAND

1296A Kenmount Road Phone: 709- 576-3401 Ext. 315
E-mail: nlbaseball@nl.rogers.com
Paradise, NL A1L 1N3 Fax: 709- 699-5733
www.sport.ca/nlbaseball

Home Page:

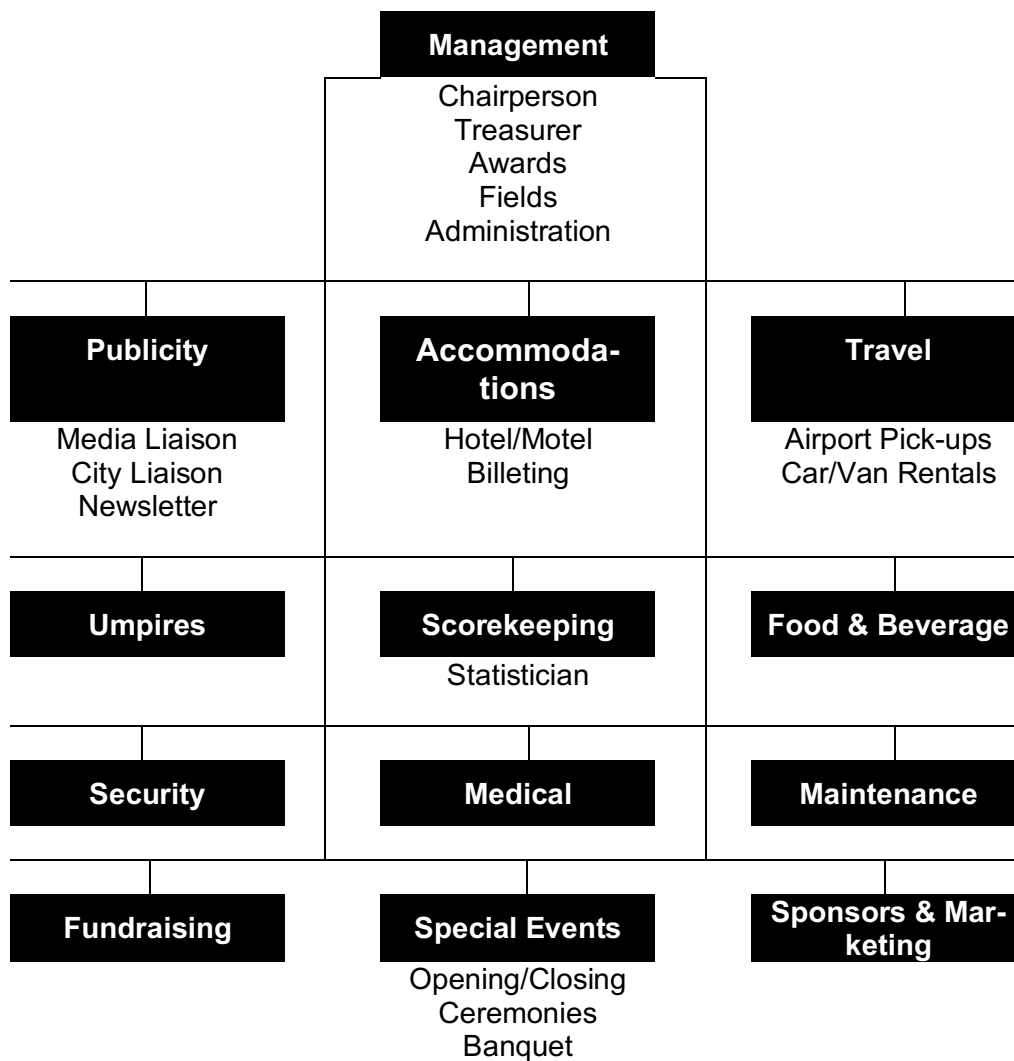
Appendix A: Important Contacts (continued)

	2019
Baseball Canada Cup	Cas/Warren Pielak Email: cpielak@sasktel.net, wpielak@sasktel.net
Baseball Canada 13U Championship	National : Francine Cinq-Mars Email: president@angelsbcl.ca National Western: Cam Gair/Rae Andrews Email: solocam@shawcable.com , rae.andrews@gmail.com National Atlantic: Darren Doucette Email: doucettebaseballacademy@gmail.com
Baseball Canada Ray Carter Cup 15U Championship	Ken Babcock Email: k.babcock@rogers.com
Baseball Canada 18U Championship	Mike Lumley Email: mikelumley@rogers.com
Baseball Canada 21U Championship	Men: Stephane Petronzio Email: stephane.petronzio@gmail.com Women: Hannah Martensen and Claire Foreman Email: hannah@martensen.com , claireforeman@gmail.com
Baseball Canada Men/Women Championship	Men: Greg Morris, Jody MacDonald Email: 7gregmorris@gmail.com , jody.macdonald@eddygroup.com Women: Tyler Hollick Email: tyler.hollick@dawgsbaseball.ca
Baseball Canada 16U Girls Championship	Holly LaPierre Email: Holly.Lapierre@bellaliant.ca

Appendix B:

Sample Host Committee Organization

Baseball Canada contact: Andrew Caudwell, Program Coordinator (acaudwell@baseball.ca)



Appendix C:

Baseball Canada Code of Conduct

Baseball Canada contact: Andrew Caudwell, Program Coordinator (acaudwell@baseball.ca)

Introduction

Baseball Canada is committed to delivering its mission professionally and ethically and is guided by the values of integrity, trust, fair play, respect for others and sportsmanship. Baseball Canada is committed to providing an environment in which all individuals are treated with respect. Furthermore, Baseball Canada supports equal opportunity and prohibits discriminatory practices. Participants are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner consistent with the values of Baseball Canada.

The Baseball Canada Code of Conduct provides all participants – players, parents, coaches, umpires/officials, spectators and administrative officials – with some simple rules that assist in delivering a safe and positive environment to everyone involved with the sport.

General Principles

Baseball Canada participants are defined to include: all registered players, coaches, umpires and officials, coach developers, umpire instructors, Association staff, volunteers and members of the Board of Directors, parents, sponsor representatives and club supporters, members of the general public attending as spectators.

Participants are encouraged and expected to:

- **show positive acts of sportsmanship**, discouraging all instances of foul or illegal play, or acts of violence, both during and after competitions and training.
- **demonstrate the greatest levels of respect**, protecting the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability/disability, sexual orientation, age, race, national or ethnic origin, colour, or religion;
 - participants are to refrain from any behaviour that constitutes harassment, where harassment is defined as improper conduct by an individual during a Baseball Canada sponsored event or business activity and that the individual knew or ought reasonably to have known would cause offence or harm. It comprises objectionable act(s), comment(s), or display(s) that demean, belittle or cause personal humiliation or embarrassment, and any act of intimidation or threat.
 - Participants are to refrain from behaviour that constitutes sexual harassment, where sexual harassment is defined to include such activities as, unwelcome sexual comments and advances, requests for sexual favours, or conduct of a sexual nature.

- Participants shall not have sexual relations, or sexual intimacy of any description, with any other participant he/she has access to in the sport environment if the participant is under the age of 18 years of age. If the participant is 18 years of age or older and if there exists a significant imbalance of power with respect to the relationship between the participants which could reasonably jeopardize effective decision making given the existence or nature of the sexual relations or sexual intimacy, a written disclosure is required to enable assessment and appropriate action.
- **use social media responsibly**, and understand that cyber-bullying, which includes negative or demeaning comments, status posts, personal messages or emails, is deemed as a serious form of harassment.
- **lead by positive example**, and condemn the use of recreational and performance enhancing drugs and doping practices; their use endangers the health of players and is contrary to the concept of fair competition.
- **demonstrate integrity in all matters involving the sport** by behaving with honesty and transparency.
- **resolve any potential conflict of interest situation:**
 - a conflict of interest situation is a situation where a personal or financial interest of a participant could conflict with or be reasonably seen to conflict with the best interests of Baseball Canada.
 - To avoid conflict of interests, participants:
 - May not have direct or indirect interests of any nature that is in conflict with the discharge of their duties;
 - Shall not accept or solicit any personal gift, favour, or service that might influence the participant in discharging his/her duties;
 - Shall not disclose confidential information acquired conducting business for Baseball Canada for personal gain or benefit;
 - Shall not transact any business in his/her official capacity with any business of which the participant is an officer, agent or member in which he/she owns a substantial interest;
 - Must disclose potential conflicts of interest as soon as possible after they realize conflict may have arisen. Should the Board of Directors accept a conflict and, as required, appropriate mitigation, records will be held on file for the appropriate timeframe.
 - **respect and protect confidential information acquired** in the conduct of his/her role by safeguarding it when it is in use, storing it properly, and discussing it only with those who have legitimate business with Baseball Canada and have a need to know.

The Baseball Canada Code of Conduct shall govern all disciplinary matters to the extent that it conflicts with or augments the code of conduct of any Provincial/Territorial Baseball Association.

CODE OF CONDUCT – PLAYER

- Always respect the umpire's decision.
- Never become involved in acts of foul play.
- Honour both the spirit and the letter of the competition rules and live up to the highest ideals of ethics and sportsmanship.
- Never engage in disrespectful conduct of any sort including profanity, obscene gestures, offensive remarks, trash-talking, taunting or other actions that are demeaning to other players, officials or supporters.
- Care for and respect the facilities and equipment made available to you during training and competition.
- Safeguard your health; don't use any illegal or unhealthy substances. More specifically, Baseball Canada adopts and adheres to the Canadian Anti-Doping Program.
- Recognize that many officials, coaches and umpires are volunteers who give up their time to provide their services. Treat them with the utmost respect.

CODE OF CONDUCT - COACH

- Actively discourage foul play and/or unsportsmanlike behaviour by players.
- Seek to maximize the participation and enjoyment of all players regardless of ability.
- Show concern and caution toward all sick and injured players. Follow the advice of a physician and/or sports trainer to the letter when determining when an injured player is ready to recommence training or competing.
- Maintain appropriate, professional relationships with players at all times.
- Maintain a thorough knowledge of the sport and keep abreast of current coaching methods.
- Always consider the health, safety and welfare of players.
- As coach, conduct yourself at all times in a manner, and in all situations, that shows leadership, respect for the sport of Baseball and those that are involved with the sport – the players, officials, the fans, the parents, the umpires and the media.

CODE OF CONDUCT – UMPIRE/OFFICIAL

- Be impartial. Also, be consistent, objective and courteous.
- Place the safety and welfare of the players above all else; be alert to minimise dangerous competition, fair or foul.
- Accept responsibility for all actions taken.

- Avoid any form of inappropriate verbal contact with coaches, team officials, parents and spectators during competition.
- Condemn all and every instance of unsportsmanlike, foul or unfair competition.

CODE OF CONDUCT – ASSOCIATION EMPLOYEES/ ADMINISTRATORS/MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Conduct oneself openly, professionally, collaboratively, in good faith and in the collective, best interests of Baseball Canada.
- Behave with decorum appropriate to the circumstance and position.
- Exercise due diligence in upholding one's fiduciary responsibility to the Membership of Baseball Canada.
- Promote the open exchange of ideas and perspectives. Respect the governance, policies and lawfully taken decisions of Baseball Canada.
- Strive to model the general principles outlined in this Code of Conduct thereby setting a positive leadership example for the sport.

Note:

This code of conduct incorporates concepts, format and wording from a broad cross section of sporting association and organization codes of conduct with appreciation.

Appendix D:

Baseball Canada Discipline Policy

Baseball Canada contact: Andrew Caudwell, Program Coordinator (acaudwell@baseball.ca)

Definitions

The following terms have these meanings in this Policy:

- a) “Complainant” – The Party alleging an infraction
- b) “Respondent” – The alleged infracting Party
- c) “Parties” – The Complainant, Respondent, and any other Individuals affected by the complaint
- d) “Days” – Days irrespective of weekends and holidays
- e) “Individuals” – All categories of membership defined in the Baseball Canada By-laws, as well as all individuals employed by, or engaged in activities with, Baseball Canada including, but not limited to, players, coaches, conveners, umpires, officials, volunteers, managers, administrators, committee members, directors and officers of Baseball Canada.
- f) “Complaints” - Complaints are considered to be incidents of failing to be compliant with the Code of Conduct that have the potential to result in harm to others, Baseball Canada, or to the sport of baseball.
- g) “Panel” – Will be appointed by the Executive Director

Purpose

Baseball Canada is committed to providing an environment in which all Individuals involved with Baseball Canada are treated with respect. Conduct that violates the Baseball Canada Code of Conduct may be subject to discipline and sanctions pursuant to this Policy. Baseball Canada provides Individuals with this Discipline Policy to enable a fair and expedient process that addresses breaches of the Code of Conduct.

Scope and Application of this Policy

This Policy applies to all Individuals.

This Policy will apply to discipline matters that may arise during the course of Baseball Canada business, activities, and events including, but not limited to, games, practices, National Team tryouts, tournaments, training camps, travel associated with Baseball Canada activities, and meetings.

This Policy does not prevent discipline from being applied, during a competition or event, according to specific procedures in place for the particular event. Further sanctions may be applied according to this Policy.

This Policy does not prevent an appropriate person having authority from taking immediate, informal or corrective action in response to behavior that constitutes an infraction. The person in authority can be, but is not restricted to being, staff, officials, coaches, organizers or Baseball Canada decision-makers. Further sanctions may be applied in accordance with the procedures set out in this Policy.

Any breach of the Code of Conduct or complaints occurring during a specific event will be dealt with by the procedures specific to that event, if applicable. In such situations, sanctions will be for the duration of the event only. Further sanctions may be applied, but only after a review of the matter in accordance with the procedures set out in this Policy.

Breaches of the Code of Conduct and complaints arising within the business, activities, or events organized by entities other than Baseball Canada will be dealt with pursuant to the policies of these other entities unless requested and accepted by Baseball Canada at its sole discretion.

Composition of the Panel

The Panel shall be composed of not less than one member and not more than three members as determined by the Executive Director.

Notice of Complaint

Any Individual who wish to file a notice of complaint will have fourteen (14) days from the date of the alleged incident to submit, in writing to the attention of the Executive Director at the Baseball Canada office, the following:

- a) notice of complaint/incident
- b) contact information of the complainant
- c) where possible, name of the respondent and any affected parties
- d) date and location of the incident
- e) detailed summary of the incident
- f) all evidence that supports the complaint

An Individual who wishes to initiate a notice of complaint beyond the fourteen (14) day period must provide a written request stating the reasons for the late delivery. A complaint beyond the fourteen (14) day period is accepted at the sole discretion of the Panel.

Anonymous complaints or complaints received may be accepted at the sole discretion of the Panel.

The Panel will inform, within seven (7) days of receiving the notice of infraction, the Individual(s) cited, that a review of the alleged incident may be conducted.

The Respondent(s) cited, will have seven (7) days of receiving the Complaint to provide the Panel, in writing, with any additional information to be considered.

Screening of Notice of Complaint

The Panel will have the right to determine if a complaint will be accepted.

Procedure for Discipline Hearing

Once a complaint has been accepted by the Panel, the Panel will decide the format under which the review will be heard and the date the appeal will be heard. This decision is at the sole discretion of the Panel and may not be appealed.

The Panel may choose to invite any Parties to participate in the hearing.

In fulfilling its duties, the Panel may obtain independent advice.

The Panel shall issue its decision and sanctions, if applicable, in writing and with reasons, after the hearing's conclusion.

The Panel's written decision, with reasons, will be distributed as determined by the Panel. In extraordinary circumstances, the Panel may first issue a verbal or summary decision soon after the hearing's conclusion, with the full written decision to be issued thereafter.

Timing

If the circumstances of the complaint are such that adhering to the timelines outlined by this Policy will not allow a timely resolution to the complaint, the Panel may direct that these timelines be revised.

Sanctions

Sanctions for breaches of the Code of Conduct which may be applied singularly or in combination, may include the following, but are not limited to:

- a) verbal or written reprimand from Baseball Canada
- b) verbal or written apology from one party to another party
- c) service or other voluntary contribution to Baseball Canada
- d) removal of certain privileges for a designated period of time
- e) suspension from the current competition, activity, or event
- f) suspension from all Baseball Canada activities for a period of time
- g) fines
- h) withholding of awards
- i) payment of costs (eg. event related costs such as flight, room/board; property damage)
- j) suspension of funding from Baseball Canada or from other sources
- k) discipline specific to the activity, if applicable
- l) any other sanction considered appropriate for the infraction

Unless the Panel determines otherwise, any disciplinary sanctions will begin immediately. Failure to comply with a sanction will result in automatic suspension until such time as compliance occurs.

Suspension Pending a Hearing

The Executive Director may determine that an alleged incident is of such seriousness as to warrant suspension of an Individual pending a hearing and decision.

Criminal Convictions

An Individual's conviction for any of the following "Criminal Code" offences will result in immediate suspension from Baseball Canada and/or removal from Baseball Canada competitions, programs, activities and events upon the sole discretion of Baseball Canada:

- a) any child pornography offences
- b) any sexual offences
- c) any offence of physical or psychological violence
- d) any offence of assault
- e) any offence involving trafficking of illegal drugs

Confidentiality

The discipline procedure is confidential. Once initiated and until a decision is released, none of those involved will disclose confidential information relating to the ongoing process to any person not involved in the proceedings.

Disclosure

Results of discipline shall be published on the Baseball Canada website unless the Panel orders otherwise.

Appeals

Any disciplinary decision rendered by Baseball Canada would be subject to Baseball Canada's Appeal Policy.

Appendix E:

Rules

Baseball Canada contact: Andrew Caudwell, Program Coordinator (acaudwell@baseball.ca)

RULES & REGULATIONS FOR BASEBALL CANADA CHAMPIONSHIPS

Note: Reference to the male gender shall also mean female where appropriate and the singular shall mean plural and plural shall mean singular where appropriate.

THE RULES & REGULATIONS THAT FOLLOW SUMMARIZE THE OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES, WHICH MUST BE CONFORMED WITHIN THE HOSTING OF ANY BASEBALL CANADA CHAMPIONSHIP.

Any Member can submit proposals to amend the game rules and/or a Baseball Canada Championship rule prior to 45 days before the October/November Board of Directors meeting. Those proposals may be submitted to the Director General of Baseball Canada.

The Director General shall, at the latest 15 days before the planned date of the October/November Board of Directors meeting, publish and communicate all the proposed amendments to the Board of Directors.

Any new rules will be in force the year following the adoption of the proposed change. At any time, the Board of Directors can waive the need for this notice with a unanimous vote.

Where there is a change to the official rules of baseball, the change will not take effect until it is approved by the Board of Directors.

PART I - THE TEAMS

1.2 Performance Guarantees:

1.2.1 Financial Responsibility:

Each Provincial Baseball Association (PBA) shall be required to have on file at the Baseball Canada office in Ottawa a letter of financial responsibility that will cover all its teams competing in the Baseball Canada Championships. This letter shall continue in force from year-to-year until rescinded in writing. The letter of

financial responsibility shall make the PBA financially responsible for any damages or other costs caused by the PBA's team(s).

1.2.2 Attendance:

Each year, on or before November 30th, each PBA shall advise Baseball Canada in writing of its intention to appear or not appear at the various Baseball Canada Championships in the following year. Failure to do so shall result in the following default decisions being taken by Baseball Canada. Provinces now have the option to attend all events but are only obligated to the ones listed below.

- In the case of British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec, that:
 - they will attend all championships except 21U Men and Men/Women, as they are required to do so, and
- In the case of New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and PEI, that:
 - they will be attending the 13U Atlantic, 15U Boys and Baseball Canada Cup championships; and
 - Baseball Atlantic shall be advised that it must send one team to the 18U and 21U championships.
- In the case of Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, that:
 - they will be attending the 13U Western, 15U Boys and Baseball Canada Cup championships; and
 - The Western Canada Baseball Association shall be advised that it must send one team to the 18U and 21U championships.

Any Province/Region that qualifies/confirms for but does not show up at a Baseball Canada Championship will be fined

- After March 31st - \$1000
- After June 15th - \$2000
- Within 2 weeks of the event - \$4000 (Canada Cup \$5000)

The Baseball Canada Men's Championship will be held annually with provincial participation on an optional basis.

A team requesting to withdraw from Championship host accommodation must request this in writing to Baseball Canada on or before March 15th.

1.2.3 Team Eligibility:

The roster, issued in electronic form by either the PBA office or the PBA President shall be the only document required as proof of eligibility to represent the PBA at a Baseball Canada Championship.

1.3 Eligibility Rules:

1.3.1 Athletes:

- (a) Only amateurs are permitted to play in sanctioned Baseball Canada Championships.
- (i) An amateur baseball player is one whose involvement in baseball is not his primary source of income.

(ii) A former professional reinstated* to amateur status may participate in a Baseball Canada Championship.

*NOTE: It is the responsibility of the Baseball Canada to reinstate a professional as an amateur. Any professional who wishes to be reinstated, as an amateur must complete a reinstatement form supplied by Baseball Canada. The forms must then be submitted in accordance with the Provincial registration deadline through the Provincial Association concerned, to Baseball Canada who shall rule on it. To be eligible for reinstatement, an individual must be released by, or retired from, any professional team and not subject to a professional contract for a period of at least thirty days. A copy of the release, or letter of resignation, must be provided in satisfactory form to Baseball Canada. The decision of Baseball Canada is final and may not be appealed.

(b) An athlete participating in a Baseball Canada Championship must be a Canadian citizen or a full time resident of Canada by September 15th of the previous year. A player cannot be registered in two provinces simultaneously. Any player moving to another province after June 1st of the current year, must obtain a release from their old province in order to play for the new province. Where a student declares an intention they play under 1.2.1 c) 2) by June 1st, a request for release shall not be refused.

(c) An athlete must be a registered player of the Provincial Baseball Association that his team represents.

Exceptions to section 1.2.1 c) are

1) A Men's/Women's Division and 21U Men Player needs to be a member of the Provincial Association they represent, and a resident of said Province as of July 1st. The only exception to the requirement of residing in the Province is if: a Province does not send a team to Men's/Women's Nationals, or 21U Men respectively, those Provincial players from said Province must have played in an Inter-Provincial League in the Province that wishes to have them represent them at Men's/Women's Nationals, or 21U Men respectively.

2) Students studying in a province other than their own may represent either their province of residence or the province in which they are going to school. The individual involved must state in writing which province they intend to play for by June 1 of the current year. This is subject to the approval of the Provincial Association for which they want to play and Baseball Canada.

Once such declaration has been made by the individual and accepted by the provincial association for which they declared and by Baseball Canada, that individual will not be eligible to play for any team in the provincial playdowns of the province for which they did not declare.

3) A female athlete may participate in a female event with a Province other than their own, with permission to play from both Provinces involved and Baseball Canada.

4) If NL, NS, NB, PEI, AB, SK or MB do not attend the 13U National event, an athlete from their Province may participate with another one of these Provinces. Permission to play is required from both Provinces involved and Baseball Canada.

(d) Specific Criteria:

Men: Open classification

Women: Open classification

21U Men: 21 years old and younger who do not reach their 22nd birthday during the current calendar year.

21U Women: 21 years old and younger who do not reach their 22nd birthday during the current calendar year.

18U Boys: 18 years old and younger who do not reach their 19th birthday during the current calendar year. (For Nationals; Bottom 3 seeded teams in Pool B have the opportunity to use 2 overage players. If Host Province is in the bottom 3 teams, Host team also allowed 2 overaged players. An overage player is maximum 1 year older.)

Baseball Canada Cup and Canada Games: 17 years old and younger who do not reach their 18th birthday during the current calendar year. (For Nationals; NL, NS, NB, PEI, AB, SK & MB may bring two players who do not reach their 19th birthday during the current calendar year)

15U Boys: 15 years old and younger who do not reach their 16th birthday during the current calendar year. (For Nationals; Bottom 3 seeded teams in Pool B have the opportunity to use 2 overage players. If Host Province is in the bottom 3 teams, Host team also allowed 2 overaged players. An overage player is maximum 1 year older.)

16U Girls: 16 years old and younger who do not reach their 17th birthday during the current calendar year. (For Nationals; NF, NS, NB, PEI, AB, SK, MB, ON2, QC2, and BC2 may bring three players who do not reach their 18th birthday during the current calendar year)

13U Boys and Girls: 13 years old and younger who do not reach their 14th birthday during the current calendar year.

Female players can play in Male events one calendar year older than the male ages stated above.

1.2.2 Coaches:

(a) Only coaches meeting the following requirements will also be eligible to coach.

<i>Division & Category</i>	Requirements
<i>13U National/Regional</i>	1 Coach is Certified Regional Other Coaches are Trained Regional
<i>15U Boys & 16U</i>	1 Coach is Certified Provincial

<i>Girls</i>	Other Coaches are Trained Provincial
<i>18U</i>	1 Coach is Certified Provincial Other Coaches are Trained Provincial
<i>21U</i>	1 Coach is Certified Provincial Other Coaches are Trained Provincial
<i>Men</i>	All Coaches have Initiation Coach Online Module
<i>Canada Cup</i>	When 4 coaches are on staff: 1 Coach at least Certified Comp-Dev 2 Coaches at least Trained Comp-Dev 1 Coach at least Certified Provincial Coach (*Development Coach) When 3 are on staff: 1 Coach at least Certified Comp-Dev 1 Coach at least Trained Comp-Dev 1 Coach at least Certified Provincial Coach (*Development Coach)
<i>Canada Games</i>	1 Coach is Competition – Development Certified 2 Coaches are Competition – Development Trained

* A Province can identify a coach as a 'Development Coach'. These coaches can only be a 'Development Coach' for one year. A 'Development Coach' must be a certified Provincial Coach. If the Coach was to return for a 2nd year to the Canada Cup, they would need to meet the Comp-Dev coaching requirements.

- (a) Names of coaches, along with their respective NCCP passport numbers (cc #), must be included in the email roster. All coaches must be able to prove certification during the championship.
- (b) A chef de mission is mandatory and should be assigned by the PBA. A chef should be appointed by the PBA and should not be a coach or/and a manager. Any chef should be assigned to any administrative task and will serve as liaison with the Baseball Canada Representative. Chef should be reminded to tour all rooms upon check-in and inform accommodation site/host of any damages. Upon check-out, chef should room tour along with accommodation/host reps to confirm rooms' status.
- (c) Coaches 14 years of age, but under the age of 16, may only coach at 13U level and below, at National Championships.

1.2.4 Rosters:

- (a) The final team rosters shall be approved by the PBA and submitted to Baseball Canada nine (9) days before the first scheduled game of the Championship.
13U National Atlantic and 13U National Western event deadline three (3) days before the first schedule game of the Championship.

- (b) Failure to comply with paragraph (a), shall result in the PBA being subject to a \$500 fine, payable to Baseball Canada.
- (c) The rosters are to include each participating coach's Coaching Certification number (cc #).
- (d) Provincial offices shall provide a list of suspended players to Baseball Canada prior to April 1st . An updated list shall be sent by August 1st.
- (e) Team staff without proper certification will be removed from the roster. To add a team staff individual following the deadline in 1.2.3 (a) will result in a \$50 fine/individual to a maximum of \$100/team.
- (f) Changes to the roster jersey numbers following the pre-tournament meeting may, at the discretion of Baseball Canada rep, result in the PBA being subject to a \$50 fine, payable to Baseball Canada.
- (g) A coach can only appear on one (1) roster per event. This is for coaching staff only, does not apply to chef or trainer.

1.2.5 Last minute modifications to the roster

No modifications to the rosters submitted by the PBA as per 1.2.3 will be allowed at the pre-championship meeting, except for the following situations:

- (a) A player is injured and cannot participate in the championship as attested by medical proof.
- (b) A player is changed following submission by PBA office or President to Baseball Canada Rep prior to their first game.
- (c) After verification of certification by Baseball Canada, a coach is allowed to coach if PBA includes written confirmation.

1.2.6 Ineligible player on roster

- (a) Ineligible player on roster identified during the event results in a \$500 fine, all games played become forfeit/s, and ineligible player be removed from roster immediately.
- (b) Ineligible player on roster identified within 30 days after the event results in a \$1000 fine, and is subject to further sanctions.

1.3 **Publicity:**

Publicity Data: Together with rosters, teams shall supply as much publicity data to the Host Committee as possible ASAP (Pre championship promo, programs, etc). This may, for example, include uniform numbers, pictures, and statistics.

1.5 **Team Discipline:**

1.5.2 Team Discipline:

Team discipline is the responsibility of the individual teams and their coaches and managers, who shall be held responsible for the maintenance of discipline and proper team or individual conduct. Any breach of discipline, whether on the playing field or off, shall be dealt with by the Host Committee and the Baseball Canada Representative.

1.5.3 Team Dress:

Teams shall be dressed in matching uniforms of an acceptable standard. All uniforms, including those of managers and coaches shall be matching and numbered. **When coaching the bases, the uniform game jersey must be worn. If a team jacket or windshirt is worn, it must include the team's official logo and be consistent with the team's uniform color and apparel. If both coaches opt to wear a jacket, the jackets must be uniform. At all other times, coaches are allowed to wear a team-issued jacket or windshirt.**

No duplicate numbers shall be permitted unless extenuating circumstances prevent this (i.e. lost baggage, torn uniforms, etc). Teams must declare their team uniform colors, home and visitors, at the Pre-Championship meeting. If they have only one set of uniforms, this must be stated at this time.

- 1.5.4 Personnel in the Playing Areas: Only authorized personnel will be permitted to occupy the player's benches or dugout areas. Eighteen (18) players or twenty (20) for Canada Cup **and 21U Men** or twenty-one (21) players in the case of Men/Women, three (or four) coaches, one trainer and one batboy in uniform are authorized personnel. A chef de mission will be considered a coach if standing in the dugout and will have to fulfill the coaches requirements.

- 1.4.4 **This discipline process will be used by the Baseball Canada Representative to investigate ejections and/or off field issues and to determine whether supplemental discipline is required.**

The Baseball Canada Representative may review:

- a) **All ejections to coaches and athletes.**
- b) **Any on-field incidents that did not result in ejections, based on personal observation or witness reports.**
- c) **Any off-field incident.**
- d) **Any spectator conduct issues.**

In consultation with the Host Committee, the Baseball Canada Representative may remove a spectator from the Championship site and determine whether the spectator is able to return for future games.

The review of all ejections or incidents shall include a hearing for the ejected individual is chaired by the Baseball Canada Representative. If the ejected individual is a youth athlete, a coach and/or parent must be included in the hearing. The Baseball Canada Representative will inform the team's Head Coach of the time and location of the hearing, which will be scheduled before the team's next game.

The hearing will begin with the ejected individual being given an opportunity to read the umpire's ejection report or in the case of an incident not involving an ejection, be told of their alleged violation. All parties will then have the opportunity to comment on the ejection report or accusation and provide the Baseball Canada Representative with their perspective on the

incident. The Baseball Canada Representative may seek witness reports, if required. The Baseball Canada Representative will then inform the ejected individual of the decision which is final and cannot be appealed.

Any incident that may require further disciplinary action beyond the conclusion of the Championship will be forwarded to the appropriate province for their review.

In the case of a routine ejection, the Baseball Canada Representative has the discretion to waive the hearing process. An athlete or coach who refuses to attend a hearing scheduled may be placed in a state of indefinite suspension until the hearing is complete.

The following offences will result in an automatic suspension to be determined by the Baseball Canada Representative:

- Bumping, shoving or pushing an umpire**
- Intent to injure; three (3) games**
- Throwing at a batter; one (1) game**
- An ejection that occurs after a game; one (1) game**
- A second ejection during the Championship; one (1) game**
- A third ejection during the Championship; three (3) games**

1.4.5 Tobacco Rule:

The use of all tobacco products, including smokeless tobacco, by on-field participants (players, coaches, managers, umpires, etc.) shall be prohibited at all competitions sanctioned by Baseball Canada. Any offenders caught using tobacco products will be ejected from the game.

1.4.6 Team infractions:

(Provincial Baseball Associations will be invoiced \$100 for this)

include the following:

- Failure to submit starting line-up on time.
- Failure to attend the pre-championship meeting.
- Failure to participate at opening/closing ceremonies.
- Failure to respect rules regarding dugout access and personnel.
- Failure to inform host committee or any change in travel itinerary.

(Provincial Baseball Associations will be invoiced \$200 for this)

include the following: - Any individual misconduct.

(Provincial Baseball Associations will be invoiced \$500 for this)

include the following: - Any team misconduct.

For these infractions, before any fine is imposed on the provinces or (host), the Baseball Canada Representative may issue one warning in order to allow the team a chance to solve the problem.

Delivery of notices

The Baseball Canada Representative will deliver the fines or ruling communication personally to the interested parties. The recipient will be required to execute an acknowledgement of receipt indicating the name of the recipient and the date and time of delivery. A copy of the fine will also be sent to the PSO following the championship.

Appeals

Appeals may be presented no later than seven (7) days after the conclusion of the championship. All appeals must be delivered to the Baseball Canada office. It is the responsibility of the Appellant to provide all materials which it deems necessary to the appeal.

Once the appeal has been presented, Baseball Canada will then have fourteen (14) days after receiving the appeal and without postponement will pronounce its ruling.

NOTES: The Provincial Baseball Association will be totally responsible for any damages caused by any member of a delegation to the installation where they are housed, the baseball stadium or transport units or to any other area.

1.5 Power of Decision:

- (a) The Executive Committee of Baseball Canada shall have the power to make decisions on any point not specifically covered in the Rules & Regulations.
- (b) During the course of the Championship the Host Committee and the Baseball Canada representative shall have the power to make decisions on any point not specifically covered in the Rules & Regulations. The Baseball Canada Representative has the ultimate say on any aspects of the championship.

1.6 Pre-Championship Meeting:

- 1.6.1 At a convenient time, prior to the opening game of the Championship, the Pre-Championship meeting shall be held. The Chairman of the Host Committee, the Baseball Canada Representative, and the Baseball Canada Supervisor of Umpires, must be in attendance at this meeting.
- 1.6.2 The Baseball Canada Representative shall chair the meeting.
- 1.6.3 Each team shall send at least one representative who shall have the authority to speak on behalf of the team and make decisions concerning his team, which shall be binding. At the meeting, announcements and directions will be made affecting aspects of the Championship. Non-attendance at the meeting shall not be an excuse for non-compliance.

- 1.6.4 The Host Committee may, for reasonable cause, limit the number of representatives from each team provided that at least two (2) are permitted to attend.
- 1.6.5 Team rosters, fully completed, shall be distributed to each team prior to the start of the Championship and as far in advance of the Pre-Championship meeting as possible. Any challenge concerning eligibility of any player must be raised at that time. The final team rosters shall be approved by the Provincial body and submitted in accordance with rule 1.2.3.
- 1.6.6 No challenge on the questions of eligibility shall be considered after the conclusion of the meeting. However, should subsequent information indicate that ineligible players have been used, the Baseball Canada Executive will have the authority to investigate, and if necessary, take appropriate action to penalize the Provincial Governing Body, of the team concerned.
- 1.6.7 The “travesty of the game” rule will be enforced by the Baseball Canada representative and the umpires at the event which will result in ejections – first to manager then to players. Travesty of the game is defined as an attempt to intentionally lengthen or shorten a game or manipulate the score of the game by any means that has players not “playing to win”. This would include batters or runners obviously attempting to make outs, pitchers obviously trying to miss the strike zone when pitching and fielders obviously trying to make errors.
- 1.6.8 Pre-Championship Meeting Agenda:
- (a) Review of Championship Rules & Regulations.
 - (b) All Championship rules and procedures, special local field conditions, etc.
 - (c) Eligibility of rosters, athletes, coaches (NCCP status), etc.
 - (d) Championship schedule, and home/visitor determination.
 - (e) Run limitations.
 - (f) Protest procedures.
 - (g) Team and player discipline.
 - (h) Travesty of the game
 - (i) Extra Inning Game Procedure
 - (j) Request all teams to report all offensive & defensive changes during the tournament.
 - (k) Special ceremonies and events.
 - (l) Closing ceremonies and awards.
 - (m) Question period.

1.7 Championship Schedule

1.7.1 Schedule Approval:

- (a) Baseball Canada shall determine the schedule for each championship in consultation with the Host Committee. Baseball Canada shall have final approval on all schedules.

- (b) **Baseball Canada reserves the right to adjust the Championship schedule at any time to accommodate Host requests pertaining to field location and time. During an event, the Baseball Canada Rep considering a change to the schedule following a Host request is to consult with Baseball Canada office staff prior to final decision.**
- (c) All Baseball Canada Championships will be from Thursday (Wednesday for Canada Cup) to Sunday inclusive and Monday will be the rain day. It is required that all teams remain available to play on the rain day. The 13U National Atlantic event will end on Sunday, no Monday rain day. For teams busing to the event and wishing to leave after completion of games, they must wait until receiving approval from the Baseball Canada Rep.

1.7.2 Playoff game

Any playoff game among tied teams to determine which team will advance to medal play will be played on Saturday or Sunday. This does not apply to the Canada Cup, 15U Boys, 18U.

1.7.3 Start time

A game will not start after 10:00 pm during any 15U Boys/16U Girls and 13U Baseball Canada Championship unless required to complete the event.

1.7.4 Less than Seven Teams:

- (a) The teams shall compete in one (1) pool, playing a round-robin schedule that sees each team play each other team once.
- (b) Following round-robin play, the following medal round games shall be played:
 - gold medal: second place vs first place
 - bronze medal: third place vs fourth place
- (c) A game for fifth place (fifth vs sixth) shall be played in the case of a six team championship.

1.7.5 Seven Teams:

- (a) The teams shall compete in two (2) pools, with the pools determined by Baseball Canada using the following criteria:
 - Teams will be placed in the Pool A and Pool B divisions based on a point system calculated from the last 3 years results. Three (3) teams in pool A and four (4) teams in pool B.
 - If tournament is hosted in Province of Pool A team, then Pool A is comprised of both teams from the Host Province and the top team. Pool B is comprised of the remaining teams.
 - If tournament is hosted in Province of Pool B team, then Pool A is comprised of the top 3 teams. Pool B is comprised of both teams from the Host Province and all remaining teams.

- If Host Province is ranked 3rd based on the last 3 years results, the Provincial Team shall remain in Pool A while the Host Team shall go to Pool B.
- (b) The teams shall play a round-robin schedule within their own pools, with each team playing each other team in the pool once in pool B and twice in Pool A.
- (c) Following round robin play, if every team in pool A has a win the following playoff round games shall be played:
 - Quarter-final: 3A vs 2B
 - Semi-finals: 1B vs 1A and Winner of 3A/2B vs 2A
 - Bronze medal game: Semi-final losers
 - Gold medal game: Semi-final winners
 - Following round-robin play, the following placement games shall be played:
 - 6th place: 3B vs 4B
- (d) Following round robin play, if one team in pool A does not have a win the following playoff round games shall be played:
 - Semi-finals: 1A vs 2B and 2A vs 1B
 - Bronze medal game: Semi-final losers
 - Gold medal game: Semi-final winners
 - Following round-robin play, the following placement games shall be played:

- 7th place: 3B vs 4B

1.7.6 Eight or Nine Teams:

- (a) This section does not apply to the 13U National Atlantic, 13U National Western.

- (b) The teams shall compete in two (2) pools, with the pools determined by Baseball Canada using the following criteria:

- The "serpentine" structure shall be followed (1,4,5,8 in one pool and 2,3,6,7) in the other pool) based on the previous year's results.
- The host team and the team from the host province shall not be in the same pool.
- If the pools are of uneven size, the host team shall be in the larger pool.

- (c) The teams shall play a round-robin schedule within their own pools, with each team playing each other team in the pool once.

- (d) Following round-robin play, the following "quarter-final" games shall be played:

- QF-1: 3rd pool A vs 2nd Pool B
- QF-2: 3rd Pool B vs 2nd Pool A

with the winners moving on to the medal round and the losers to the consolation round.

- (e) The following medal round games shall be played:

- Championship semi-finals:
QF-1 winner vs 1st pool A QF-2 winner vs 1st pool B
- Bronze medal game: Semi-final losers
- Gold medal game: Semi-final winners

- (f) The following consolation-round games shall be played.

- Consolation semi-finals:
QF-1 loser vs 4th pool B
- Fifth-place game: Semi-final winners
- Seven place game: Semi-final losers

- (g) There are no placement games played at the Men's Division.

- (h) This section does not apply to the Baseball Canada Cup, 15U Boys, 18U.

1.7.7 Ten Teams:

- (a) This section does not apply to the Baseball Canada Cup, 15U Boys, 18U.

- (b) The teams shall compete in two (2) pools, with the pools determined by Baseball Canada using the following criteria:

- The "serpentine" structure shall be followed (1,4,5,8,9 in one pool and 2,3,6,7,10) in the other pool) based on the previous year's results.
- The host team and the team from the host province shall not be in the same pool.

- (c) The teams shall play a round-robin schedule within their own pools, with each team playing each other team in the pool once.

- (d) The following medal round games shall be played:

- Championship semi-finals:
2nd Pool B vs 1st Pool A 2nd Pool A vs 1st pool B
- Bronze medal game: Semi-final losers
- Gold medal game: Semi-final winners

- (e) The following placement games shall be played:

- Fifth place game: 3A vs 3B
- Seventh place game: 4A vs 4B

- (b) The teams shall compete in two (2) pools, with the pools determined by Baseball Canada using the following criteria:
- The "serpentine" structure shall be followed (1,4,5,8,9 and 11 in one pool and 2,3,6,7,10 and 11) in the other pool) based on the previous year's results.
 - The host team and the team from the host province shall not be in the same pool.
 - The host team shall be in the larger pool.
- (c) The teams shall play a round-robin schedule within their own pools, with each team playing each other team in the pool once.
- (d) The following medal round games shall be played:
- Championships quarter-finals
 3rd Pool B vs 2nd Pool A 3rd Pool A vs 2nd Pool B
 - Championship semi-finals:
 Winner 3B/2A vs 1st Pool Winner 3A/2B vs 1st pool
 B A
 - Bronze medal game: Semi-final losers
 - Gold medal game: Semi-final winners
- (e) The following placement games shall be played:
- Fifth place game: Loser 3B/2A vs Loser 3A/2B
 - Seventh place game: 4A • Ninth place game: 5A vs
vs 4B 5B
- (f) There are no placement games played at the 21U Men or Men's Division.

1.7.9 Baseball Canada Cup:

- (f) This section applies only to the Baseball Canada Cup.
- (g) The teams shall compete in two (2) pools, with the pools determined by Baseball Canada using the following criteria:
 - Last 3 years Baseball Canada Cup results shall be used to determine the pool composition.
 - First three (3) teams from pool A, and the first two (2) teams from pool B shall qualify for final round.
 - First two (2) teams from Pool A and 1st place team of Pool B shall automatically advance to semi-finals.
- (h) The teams shall play a round-robin schedule within their own pools, with each team playing each other team in the pool once in pool B and twice in Pool A.
- (i) Following round robin play, the following medal-round games shall be played:
 - Quarter-final: 3A vs 2B
 - Semi-finals: 1B vs 1A and Winner of 3A/2B vs 2A
 - Bronze medal game: Semi-final losers
 - Gold medal game: Semi-final winners
- (j) Following round-robin play, the following placement games shall be played:
 - Fifth place: Loser 3A/2B vs 4A
 - Seventh place: 3B vs 4B
 - Ninth place: 6B vs 5B

To help with the understanding of the rules for the Baseball Canada Cup, below is an example of how the two pools would be set up (based on 2007's results):

Pool A: BC – Ontario – Quebec – Saskatchewan

Pool B: Alberta - New Brunswick - Nova Scotia – Newfoundland – PEI - Manitoba

If the teams finished in this order after the round robin, then the medal round would oc-

- In order to determine the placement of teams in Pools for the following year, the final finish will be considered. Finishing 1st will give the province 10 points, finishing 2nd 9 points and so on. Average from the last 3 years will always be used to rank teams for following year.

1.7.10 15U Boys / 16U Girls and 18U Divisions

- (a) The teams shall compete in two (2) pools, with the pools determined by Baseball Canada using the following criteria:
 - Teams will be placed in the Pool A and Pool B divisions based on a point system calculated from the last 3 years results.
 - If tournament is hosted in Province of Pool A team, then Pool A is comprised of both teams from the Host Province and the top 3 teams. Pool B is comprised of the remaining teams.
 - If tournament is hosted in Province of Pool B team, then Pool A is comprised of the top 5 teams. Pool B is comprised of both teams from the Host Province and all remaining teams.
 - If Host Province is ranked 5th based on the last 3 years results, the Provincial Team shall remain in Pool A while the Host Team shall go to Pool B. **Does not apply for 16U Girls. For the 16U Girls, a 2nd team from a Province is in Pool B.**
- (b) Bottom 3 seeded teams in Pool B have the opportunity to use 2 overage players. If Host Province is in the bottom 3 teams, Host team also allowed 2 overaged players. An overage player is maximum 1 year older.
- (c) First three (3) teams from Pool A, and the first two (2) teams from Pool B shall qualify for playoff round.
- (d) First two (2) teams from Pool A and 1st place team of Pool B shall automatically advance to semi-finals.
- (e) The teams shall play a round-robin schedule within their own pools, with each team playing each other team in the pool. Following round robin play, the following playoff round games shall be played:
 - Quarter-final: 3A vs 2B
 - Semi-finals: 1B vs 1A and Winner of 3A/2B vs 2A
 - Bronze medal game: Semi-final losers
 - Gold medal game: Semi-final winners
 Following round-robin play, the following placement games shall be played:
 - 5th place: Loser 3A/2B vs 4A
 - 7th place: 5A vs 3B
 - 9th place: 4B vs 5B

21U Men and Men Divisions

- (a) Quarter final games in this division. No tie-break games in this division.
- (b) For the Men's and 21U Men divisions, a second team from the same Province would receive equal ranking as the first team.
- (c) For the Men's and 21U Men divisions, ranking would be based on the last 3 years of the event.

1.8 Determination of Home and Visitor:

1.8.1 Round-Robin:

- (a) In pools of four, home and visitor will be determined by Baseball Canada when the schedule is drawn up. Each team will get 1 or 2 home games. Host team will only get 1 home game.
- (b) In pools of five, each team shall be given two home and two away games when the schedule is drawn up by Baseball Canada.
- (c) In pools of six, home and visitor will be determined by Baseball Canada when the schedule is drawn up. Each team will get 2 or 3 home games. Host team will only get 2 home games.
- (d) In the case of a seven-team championship, each team shall have three home and three away games when the schedule is drawn up by Baseball Canada.

1.8.3 Medal Round Games:

- (a) This section does not include the Baseball Canada Cup, 15U Boys, 18U.
- (b) When a team plays a team with a lower finish in the round robin (either in the same pool or the other pool), the team with the higher finish shall have the choice of home or away.
- (c) When two teams meet that finished in the same numerical position in different pools, the choice of home or away shall be given to the winner of a coin toss by the Baseball Canada Representative made at a time to be determined by the Representative.

1.8.3 Baseball Canada Cup, 15U Boys, 18U:

- (a) This section applies only to the Baseball Canada Cup, 15U Boys, 18U.
- (b) **For all medal-round games, 1st in Pool A shall have choice of home or away. For all other teams in** medal-round, qualification, and placement games, when a team plays a team from the same pool with a lower finish in the round robin, the team with the higher finish shall have the choice of home or away. When a team plays a team from the other pool, the choice of home or away shall be given to the winner of a coin toss by the Baseball Canada Representative made at a time to be determined by the Representative.
- (c) The coin tosses will be done by the Baseball Canada Representative at a time or times to be determined by the Representative.

PART II - GAMES AND PROTEST PROCEDURES

2.1 Playing Rules:

2.1.1 Official Playing Rules:

All games of the Baseball Canada Championships shall be governed by the Baseball Canada's Official Rules of Baseball.

2.1.2 Protective Headgear:

- (1) All players shall wear double ear-flap helmets while in the on deck circle, at bat and on the base-paths in all age categories.
- (2) The C.F.A.B. rules require catchers in all age categories to wear protective helmet and mask while catching. NOTE: This includes practice and warm-up situations such as the bullpen or between innings. Players & Coaches must wear at least a mask in all practices and warm up situations.
- (3) All batboys/batgirls must wear protective double earflap helmets.
- (4) Any player acting as a base coach must wear a proper double ear flap helmet; exclude Men/Women and 21U Divisions.

2.1.3 DH Rule:

The designated hitter may be used in Men/Women, 21U, 18U, Baseball Canada Cup.

2.1.4 Extra Hitter:

The Extra Hitter may be used in 13U, 15U, 16U Girls.

An Extra-Hitter (EH) may be placed on the lineup card (a 10th hitter which can be placed anywhere in the batting order) as a way to get more athletes at-bats throughout the game. This rule is optional for both teams prior to each game and does not have to be used by both teams during a game. The EH must be marked on the lineup card at the start of the game and must be used for the entire game.

The EH may be interchanged with any other position during the game and can be changed multiple times. For example, the SS could become the EH and the EH become the SS.

In the event that a player is injured and the team has no eligible substitutes available, Re-entry Rule (currently 2.1.8 b) would apply and the team would continue to bat ten players. If the team had no other players available for selection OR in the event of an ejection, the game would proceed with 9 players, without forfeit. A player removed due to injury or ejection in this

circumstance is not permitted to return to the game. Any further loss of players would result in a forfeit.

2.1.5 Courtesy/Designated Runners:

No courtesy runner will be allowed for the catcher(s).

2.1.6 Length of Games:

All games in Baseball Canada Championships (13U, 15U Boys/16U Girls, 18U, Baseball Canada Cup, 21U, and Men's/Women's will be seven (7) complete innings (6 ½ complete innings if the home team is ahead) or until a winner is declared. If a game is delayed due to curfew, darkness, power failure or any other weather related conditions at any point prior to completion, the game shall be resumed from the point of the delay.

2.1.7 Mercy Rule:

- a) The ten run mercy rule shall apply after the fifth (5th) inning or four and a half inning (4 1/2) if the home team is ahead. In a mercy rule ball game, the winning team will get credit for 7 defensive innings while the losing team will only get credit for innings played.
- b) The fifteen run mercy rule shall apply after the forth (4th) inning or three and a half inning (3 1/2) if the home team is ahead. In a mercy rule ball game, the winning team will get credit for 7 defensive innings while the losing team will only get credit for innings played.

2.1.8 Extra inning game procedure

If the game is tied at the completion of regulation (7 innings), the following procedures will be implemented during extra innings:

Each team will begin the extra inning (and any subsequent necessary extra innings) with a player on first and second, no outs. (see example below to confirm who is on first and second)

The batting order of the extra inning or any subsequent innings will be determined by how the previous inning ended. (see example below to confirm who is at bat)

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.

Example:

If the last regulation inning ends with the #6 hitter having the last plate appearance (PA), then the extra inning begins the #7 hitter at bat, and the #5 hitter at second base and the #6 hitter at first base.

With the exception of beginning the inning with runners on first and second base with no one out, all other "Official Baseball Rules" and "Canadian Rules" will remain in effect during extra innings required to determine a winner.

Extra inning game procedure for each division as outlined below:

11U:	extra inning procedure for only round robin games.
13U:	extra inning procedure for only round robin games.
15U Boys:	extra inning procedure for only round robin games.
16U Girls:	extra inning procedure for only round robin games.
18U:	extra inning procedure for only round robin games.
Women:	extra inning procedure for only round robin games.
Canada Cup:	extra inning procedure for only round robin games.
21U:	extra inning procedure for only round robin games.
Men:	extra inning procedure based on regular baseball rules.

2.1.9 Re-entry Rule:

- (a) In 13U and 15U Boys/16U Girls Championships, 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 pitcher, if removed from the game may return, but may not pitch. 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.
- (b) A substituted player may return to the game in the event of an injury or illness as determined by the game umpires. Such substitution will occur where all of the players have already entered in the game. The opposing coach shall make the selection of the replacement player whom will not be eligible to pitch in that game. The substitute shall assume the batting order of the injured player. NOTE: This does not apply in the event of an ejection from the game. More specifically, if a coach has entered all of his players in the game and a player is subsequently ejected, the game shall be considered a forfeit as the team has no more substitutes.

- 2.1.10 Unless there are extenuating circumstances which are accepted by the Baseball Canada Representative, a team not showing up for any game during any Baseball Canada championship will receive a \$1,000 fine and will have the manager of the team suspended for the following 2 games. If the incident occurs within the last 2 games played by the team, the manager shall serve his/her suspension in his/her province.

- 2.1.11 Teams must get permission from Baseball Canada to depart an event early. Failure to receive permissions will result in a \$5000 fine to Team/Province not able to finish the scheduled games of an event. This does not remove the forfeit rule already in place (currently 2.1.9).

2.2 Game Procedures:

2.2.7 Dugout

The home team will use the third base side dugout while the visiting team will use the first base side.

2.2.8 Time between two games

If a team is scheduled to play two games back to back, it will be entitled to a rest period of one hour following the completion of the first game. However, upon agreement with the head coach, the Baseball Canada Representative may reduce this rest period.

2.2.3 Pre-Game Procedures:

- (a) Teams shall arrive at the designated playing field at least forty-five minutes prior to the designated starting time of the game.
- (b) Starting twenty-five minutes before the designated time of the game, the home team shall have the field for ten minutes for infield/outfield practice.
- (c) The visiting team shall then have the field for ten minutes for infield/outfield practice.
- (d) Following the visiting team's practice time, there shall be the meeting at home plate among the Head Coaches and the umpires.

NOTE: Scheduled starting time means the time indicated on the Championship schedule drawn up prior to the start of play. Designated starting time means the time determined by the Baseball Canada Representative in the event of delays because of inclement weather, lengthy preceding game(s), or other factors.

- (e) The starting line-up including all available substitutes listed shall be given to the official scorer at least thirty minutes prior to the start of the game. The list shall include the surname of each player, coach and manager with his usual first name and his uniform number. The uniform number is to be listed to the left of each name and the playing position of the starting players listed to the right of each name.
- (f) Forty-five minutes prior to turning over the line-up cards to the umpire, team managers will indicate to each other if they plan "left" or "right" handed pitchers to start the game.

2.2.4 Post-Game Procedures:

- (a) At the conclusion of play, the teams shall line up in the home plate area for the traditional handshakes.
- (b) Following the handshakes, upon the request of the Host Committee (which shall be given prior to the game) the teams shall line up on their respective baselines for the presentation of awards.
- (c) Following any post-game ceremonies, teams shall vacate the dugouts in a timely manner so as to not delay any following games.

2.3 Protest Procedures:

- (a) The host will submit the names of the entire Protest Committee to Baseball Canada, at least two (2) weeks prior to the Championship.
- (b) The Baseball Canada Representative will approve the Protest Committee for the Championship.
- (c) The Protest Committee shall be composed of sufficient members to ensure that three members are present at each game of the Championship.
- (d) The names of the members of the Protest Committee shall be made known to the teams at the Pre-Championship meeting. The Baseball Canada Representative will sit on the Protest Committee.
- (e) To be heard, protest must be accompanied with a cash deposit of \$100. In the event that the protesting team wins the protest, the cash deposit will be reimbursed.
- (f) When a protestable incident occurs, the protesting Head Coach must, before the next pitch is made or an attempted play is made, inform the game Crew Chief that he is lodging a protest.
- (g) The Crew Chief shall suspend play and inform the manager of the opposing team and the Protest Committee.

NOTE: No protest may be made on a judgment call.

- (h) The Protest Committee, the Head Coach making protest and the game Crew Chief shall retire to a private area away from the teams, spectators and other persons.
- (i) The Protest Committee shall hear and question in the following order:
 - the game Crew Chief,
 - the protesting Head Coach, and
 - the opposing Head Coach (if necessary).The Protest Committee shall have the power to exclude any of those persons while talking to any of the others.
- (j) The Head Coach's & game Crew Chief shall then leave while the Protest Committee shall discuss the protest.

- (k) Before ruling on the protest, the Protest Committee may confer with any person whom they believe may be helpful in assisting them reach a decision.
- (l) The Protest Committee shall rule on the protest and inform the game Crew Chief and he in turn will advise the Team Head Coaches and resume play.
- (m) The game Crew Chief shall put the decision into effect & order resumption of play from the point of suspension.
- (n) No further argument or comment on the protest shall be entertained.
- (o) The decision of the Protest Committee shall be final. There shall be no appeal to any other body.

2.4 Medal Games not being played:

- (a) If an event ends without completion of semi-final games, no medals will be awarded.
- (b) If gold medal game cannot be completed, both teams receive a set of gold medals.
- (c) If bronze medal game cannot be completed, both teams receive a set of bronze medals

PART III - UMPIRES

3.1 Assignments:

The Supervisory Team, for the Baseball Canada Championship shall be assigned by Baseball Canada. In all, nine umpires and one Supervisor of Umpires are to be assigned during a 6 team Championship. For a 10 team Championship, 12 umpires plus one Supervisors and two Assistant Supervisors are to be assigned. For an 11 team Championship, 15 umpires plus one Supervisor and two Assistant Supervisors are to be assigned.

The Provincial Umpire Supervisors shall nominate umpires for Baseball Canada Championships to the Umpires' Committee of Baseball Canada, with approval from the Provincial Presidents. The Baseball Canada's Umpires' Committee will then assign the nominated Umpires to each Championship.

3.2 Umpires Meeting:

At a convenient time prior to the Pre-Championship meeting described earlier, the umpiring staff, the Supervisor of Umpires, the Chairman of the Host Committee, and the Baseball Canada Representative shall meet. The discussions will include ground rules, umpiring crews, and any other items the umpiring crews may wish to discuss for the purpose of clarifying rules or procedures.

3.3 Umpire infractions:

(Provincial Baseball Associations will be invoiced \$100 for this) include the following:

- Failure to follow the proper dress code.

For this infraction, before any fine is imposed on the provinces, the Baseball Canada Representative may issue one warning in order to allow the umpire a chance to solve the problem.

**PART IV - BASEBALL CANADA
CHAMPIONSHIPS - TIE BREAKING FORMAT, PRIORITIES, & FORMULA**

- 4.1.1 Please note the following before going through the tie-breaking priorities:
- 4.1.2 In any 11 team tournament, **at the 13U division**, the tie-break priorities will be used only to rank the team within each pool. No tie-break games shall be played.
- 4.1.3 Does not apply for Canada Cup, 15U Boys, 18U. In a three-way tie, for first place only, one team will be awarded first place using the priorities. The second and third teams involved in the tie will play a playoff game with the winner to advance to the championship round with the first place team.
- 4.1.4 In a mercy rule ball game, the winning team will get credit for 7 defensive innings while the losing team will only get credit for innings played.
- 4.1.5 If a team forfeits a game, the final score will be 1 run per regulation (7 innings) for the winning team and 0 runs for the team that did forfeit. In a forfeit game, the winning team will get credit for 1 defensive innings per regulation (7 innings) while the losing team will get credit for 0 innings played defensively. In a forfeit game, the winning team will get credit for 0 offensive innings per regulation (7 innings) while the losing team will get credit for innings per regulation (7 innings) played offensively.
- 4.2 Should ties occur between the provinces, division standings will be decided according to the following priorities:
1. When a multiple tie occurs and is only partially resolved, the remaining ties will be resolved by continuing on with the remaining tie breaking priorities until all priorities have been exhausted. Then, and only then, will the remaining tied teams return to priority number 1 and proceed through the order again.

2. **Does not apply for Men's Division.** For the Tie-breaking formula the extra inning rule, only the runs scored/allowed in the regulation innings be counted in the run ratio. Do not use the extra inning stats in the tie-breaking formula.
 3. The team with the best win-loss record in the game(s) between or among the tied teams will place higher in the standings.
 4. If the tie still persists, the placement of teams will be dictated by the ratio of number of runs against per defensive inning for games between or among the original tied teams.
 5. If the tie persists, the placement of teams will be dictated by the ratio of runs scored per offensive inning for games between or among the original tied teams.
Note: When calculating the number of defensive and offensive innings that are to be credited to each team under priorities (4) and (5), innings will be calculated on a fractional basis.
 6. If the tie still persists, the team having the best win-loss record in games played versus the highest placed team not in the tie, followed by comparison against the next highest placed team, etc. will place higher in the standings.
 7. If the tie still persists, the team with the best defensive ratio of defensive runs per defensive innings in all games will place higher in the standings.
 8. If the tie still persists, the team with the best offensive ratio of offensive runs per offensive innings in all games will place higher in the standings.
- 4.3 If rule 4.1.3 and 4.2 cannot resolve ranking between tied teams, use Rule 2.1.7 Extra inning game procedure, for 1 inning between tied teams, until a winner is determined.

Example:

B.C., Ontario and Newfoundland all tied after the completion of the Round Robin portion of the tournament.

- Priority 1: B.C. defeated Ontario 6 - 3
Newfoundland defeated B.C. 6 - 4
Ontario defeated Newfoundland 10 - 8
- No tie resolved, move to next priority
- Priority 2: B.C. 9 runs against in 14 innings $(9/14) = .643$
Ontario 14 runs against in 14 innings $(14/14) = 1.000$

Nfld 14 runs against in 14 innings ($14/14$) = 1.000

- B.C. emerges from the tie but Ontario and Newfoundland remain tied and must move to next priority
- Priority 3: Ontario 13 runs for in 14 innings ($13/14$) = .929
Nfld 14 runs for in 14 innings ($14/14$) = 1.000
- Newfoundland emerges from the tie

Example of fractional inning scenarios:

Scenario # 1 If the home team wins the game in the bottom of the seventh inning by scoring a run with nobody out, the inning count will be:
Visiting Team: 7 offensive innings and 6 defensive innings
Home Team: 6 offensive innings and 7 defensive innings

Scenario #2 If the home team wins the game in the bottom of the seventh inning by scoring a run with one out, the inning count will be:
Visiting Team: 7 offensive innings and 6 $1/3$ defensive innings
Home Team: 6 $1/3$ offensive innings and 7 defensive innings

Scenario #3 The same application of the rule is used in a mercy rule situation. If the home team is awarded the game by the mercy rule after two outs in the bottom of the fifth inning the inning count will be:
Visiting Team: 5 offensive innings, 4 $2/3$ defensive innings
Home Team: 4 $2/3$ offensive innings 7 defensive innings.

Canada Cup Only

In the Pool A, if teams end up with same record, the tie-break formula will be used. If in the Pool B three teams end up tied for 1st place with an 4-1 record, the tie-break formula will be used to determine the team who will finish 1st and advancing to semi-finals. A playoff game will be played between the two remaining teams to determine which team will move into the 1/4 finals (winner of this game) and which will play in the 3B vs 4B game (team that lost in this game). For any other tie scenarios in the "B" pool, the tie-break formula will be used.

15U Boys, 18U Divisions Only

In the Pool A, if teams end up with same record, the tie-break formula will be used. If in the Pool B three teams end up tied for 1st place with only 1 loss, the tie-break formula will be used to determine the team who will finish 1st and advancing to semi-finals. A playoff game will be played between the two remaining teams to determine which

team will move into the 1/4 finals (winner of this game) and which will play in the 5A vs 3B game (team that lost in this game). For any other tie scenarios in the “B” pool, the tie-break formula will be used.

Canadian Content

OFFICIAL RULES OF BASEBALL CANADIAN CONTENT

1. Age Categories - Baseball Canada

11U - 11 years old and younger who do not reach their 12th birthday during the current calendar year.

13U Boys - 13 years old and younger who do not reach their 14th birthday during the current calendar year.

13U Girls - 13 years old and younger who do not reach their 14th birthday during the current calendar year.

15U Boys - 15 years old and younger who do not reach their 16th birthday during the current calendar year. (For Nationals; Bottom 3 seeded teams in Pool B have the opportunity to use 2 overage players. If Host Province is in the bottom 3 teams, Host team also allowed 2 overaged players. An overage player is maximum 1 year older.)

16U Girls - 16 years old and younger who do not reach their 17th birthday during the current calendar year. (For Nationals; NL, NS, NB, PEI, AB, SK, MB, ON2, QC2, & BC2 may bring three players who do not reach their 18th birthday during the current calendar year.)

18U Boys - 18 years old and younger who do not reach their 19th birthday during the current calendar year. (For Nationals; Bottom 3 seeded teams in Pool B have the opportunity to use 2 overage players. If Host Province is in the bottom 3 teams, Host team also allowed 2 overaged players. An overage player is maximum 1 year older.)

21U Girls - 21 years old and younger who do not reach their 22nd birthday during the current calendar year.

21U Men/Women - 21 years old and younger who do not reach their 22nd birthday during the current calendar year.

Canada Cup and Canada Games - 17 years old and younger who do not reach their 18th birthday during the current calendar year. (For Nationals; NF, NS, NB, PEI, AB, SK, & MB may bring two players who do not reach their 19th birthday during the current calendar year.)

Men - Open classification.

Women – Open classification.

Female players can play in Male events one calendar year older than the male ages stated above.

2. Baseball Canada Rules Interpretation

3.02 (1.10) For 13U, 16U Girls, 21U Women and Women's National Championships, a max barrel of 2 3/4" with (i) a 1.15 BPF (Bat Performance Factor) or (ii) USA Baseball Model is permitted. For the 13U National Championships using up to a minus 10-length/weight differential is permitted. For 16U Girls, 21U Women and Women's National Championships using up to a minus 5 length/weight differential is permitted.

For Canada Cup and Canada Games, only wood or bamboo bats will be allowed. No composite bats will be allowed.

For 15U Boys, 18U, 21U and Men's championships, only wood bats, bamboo bats and wood composite bats will be allowed. Wood composite bats include wood bats with fiberglass sheathing and wood barrelled bats with composite handles. Wood composite bats do not include any bat that has any metallic component."

The bat must clearly show the manufacturer's original markings (including, if applicable, length-weight differential). If not, the bat will be considered illegal.

Rule 6.06(d) will apply to any bat not complying with the above.

A player is to follow the bat rule based on the division that they are playing in during the game.

For example; a 13U player playing in a 15U game is subject to the 15U bat rule.

a 16U Girl playing in a 15U game is subject to the 15U bat rule.

3.02 (1.11) All uniforms must have numbers on the back of the uniform shirt.

3.02 (1.11) Religious headgear that is consistent with Baseball Canada safety and recognized uniform code requirement is permitted.

3.03 (b) and (e) 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.

A sports elbow brace may be worn by a pitcher provided it is covered by a sleeve which is not distracting in nature including designs & reflective material.

3.08 (1.16) All players shall wear double earflap helmets while at bat, in the on-deck circle and on the base-paths in all age categories. Baseball Canada recognizes NOCSAE as their standard for Baseball Helmets. Baseball Canada recommends that no modifications to a helmet be made, other than what is done by the manufacturer or is

completed at the explicit directions of the manufacturer. Batting helmets do not require Facemasks or Chin Straps, but this rule does not prohibit the use of them.

3.09 (1.17) The C.F.A.B. rules require catchers in all age categories to wear a protective helmet and mask while catching. NOTE: This includes practice and warm-up situations such as the bullpen or between innings. Coaches must wear at least a mask in all practice and warm-up situations. Throat protectors are to be mandatory for all catchers and umpires. Extension masks are acceptable provided that the throat area is adequately covered in conjunction with the chest protector.

3.09 (1.18) It is recommended that all players wear a protector cup (or Jill straps for females).

3.01 (3.02) The umpire shall demand the ball and remove the offender from the game. In addition, the pitcher may be subject to further penalties following investigation by the Baseball Canada Rep. For rules in regard to a pitcher defacing the ball, see Rules 8.02 (a) (2) through (6).

6.04 (4.06.1) THAT the use of all tobacco products, including smokeless tobacco, by all on-field participants (players, coaches, managers, umpires etc.) be prohibited at all competitions sanctioned by Baseball Canada, PENALTY: Automatic ejection from the game.

6.01 (6.05) Contact Rule: 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 already scored prior to committing the infraction) and is to be automatically ejected (whether or not declared safe).

B. Contact shall be considered malicious if: the contact is the result of intentional excessive force, and/or there is intent to injure.

C. Malicious contact is to be penalized whether committed by an offensive or defensive player. The Umpire shall determine whether contact was avoidable or unavoidable whether the runner was trying to reach the base or attempting to dislodge the ball from the fielder. IF the runner a) could have avoided the fielder and reached the base, or b) attempted to dislodge the ball, the runner is out even if the fielder loses the possession of the ball. The ball is dead and all other runners shall return to the last base legally occupied by them at the time of intent to contact. If the fielder blocks the base path, the runner may slide into or collide with the fielder as long as the runner is making a legitimate attempt to reach the base. IF the collision is flagrant, the runner is called out and ejected. The ball is declared dead. If the defensive player blocks the base path clearly without possession of the ball, obstruction is called. The runner is safe and a delayed

dead ball is signaled. If the runner collides flagrantly, he/she shall be declared safe due to obstruction but shall be ejected. The ball is dead.

5.11 (6.10) The designated hitter may be used in any exhibition play, league play, play-offs, tournaments, and championships in the 18U, 21U, Men/Women and Baseball Canada Cup.

6.02 (8.02 (a)) 2 through 6: The pitcher shall be ejected immediately from the game and may be subject to further penalties following investigation by the Baseball Canada Rep.

5.10 (8.06 (b)) "A second trip to the same pitcher in the same inning will cause the pitcher's automatic removal from the pitching position.

The pitcher once removed from the mound as a result of 8.06 (b) as stated above, although retained in the game, may not be back as a pitcher in that same game.

9.17 (10.17 b) 1)) Starting pitcher is credited with the win if they complete four (4) full innings.

(11.00) MINOR DIVISIONAL PLAY

RULES GOVERNING 11U DIVISION (Guidelines Only)

2.01 (1.04) The playing field shall conform to the following measurements:

- (a) The distance between all bases shall be sixty (60) feet.
- (b) The distance between the point of home base and the front side of the pitcher's plate shall be forty-four (44) feet
- (c) The batter's box shall be rectangular in shape, the size being 6 ft. x 3 ft. & shall extend to the front from the centre of home plate, 3 ft. and an equal distance of 3 ft to the rear. The inside line shall be four (4) inches from the plate.
- (d) The pitcher's mound shall be raised to a gradual slope. At a height of 6 inches above the levels of the base paths. Optional for league play but it is mandatory for all Inter-Provincial play.
- (e) The coaches' box shall be 8x12 feet & not closer than ten(10) feet to the base path.
- (f) The backstop (behind home plate) shall NOT be less than 25 feet nor MORE than 40 feet from home plate.
- (g) The following outfield fence distances are recommended: Left and right field foul line (180 feet min., suggested 200 feet), (Centre field 200 feet min., suggested 225 feet).

3.02 (1.10) THE BAT: Contact Provincial office for more information.

3.03 (1.11) SHOES: Shoes with metal cleats or "spikes" are prohibited. Rubber molded cleats on running shoes are permitted.

3.03 (1.11) Religious headgear that is consistent with Baseball Canada safety and recognized uniform code requirement is permitted.

5.10 (3.03) All players are registered on the offensive line up and each one hits at his turn:

- (a) When a player arrives during the game, he is inserted in the last spot on the batting order. When a player leaves during the game, he is removed from the batting order. No automatic out is counted.
- (b) If a player cannot complete his turn at bat, the following batter will replace him with the same count. The replaced player can be reinserted in the game.
- (c) If a player cannot complete his presence on bases, he is replaced with the last recorded out. The replaced player can be reinserted in the game.

An offensive inning ends when three outs are recorded or when the offensive team scores five runs. If there is a homerun outside the playing field limits (above the fence), the team will be awarded all runs even if total runs go over the inning limit. However, there is no run limit during the last inning.

Game re-entry

Game re-entry is allowed, meaning that any player can be replaced in his defensive role and return at any time to any position, except for the pitcher's position, if the player has already pitched.

Playing equity

A player must be registered on the starting defensive lineup when he is present, at least one game out of two. An equitable usage of the players is recommended (i.e. If in 2 games a team plays 12 innings in defense, a player should play a minimum of 6 innings over these two games).

7.01 (4.10) All games are of six innings to be completed, if time and weather permits. However, three and a half (3½) innings constitute a regulation game if the home team has more runs than the visiting team.

5.05 (6.09) (b) The batter cannot become a runner on a catcher's miss of a third strike. The third Strike, either called or swinging does NOT have to be caught by the catcher. The batter is AUTOMATICALLY RETIRED... however, the ball is alive and in play.

5.11 (6.10) The designated hitter rule is not permitted in this age category.

5.06 (7.00) Special Regulations Governing Lead-offs in 11U Division

For 11U low tier division only:

- 5.06 (7.00)** (a) No runner can leave his base before the ball crosses home plate or is hit. If there is a violation, the runner is returned to his base and the ball is dead. When the pitcher receives the ball and takes position on the rubber & the catcher is in his position, all runners must return to the base they were occupying. For 11U low tier division only, the stealing of bases is not allowed.
- (b) The runner at 3rd base can reach home plate only if the ball is hit or because he is forced to advance. If there is a violation, the runner is returned to his base.
- (c) No bunts are allowed. If there is a violation, the ball is dead and a strike is called on the batter. On a bunt attempt on a third strike, the ball is dead and the batter is allowed to continue his at-bat.
- (d) For 11U low tier division only, a base on balls is not allowed. After four (4) balls, an offensive team coach takes position on the mound, on the 11U pitching rubber and pitch from above the shoulder for a maximum of three (3) additional pitches, independent of the count on the batter after which, the batter is called out. The strike count is carried on, the player is called out if he swings at a third strike. The player cannot be called out on a foul ball.
- If the coach is hit by a batted ball, the ball is declared dead and the batter is awarded first base. The runners advance if forced.
 - If the batter is hit by a pitch thrown by the coach, the ball is dead, the pitch is declared erratic and is not counted. The player must continue his at-bat.

5.06 (7.00)

- (a) When a pitcher is in contact with the pitcher's rubber with the ball in his possession PREPARATORY TO THE PITCHING ACT and the catcher is in the catcher's box ready to receive delivery of the pitching action, base runners SHALL NOT leave their bases UNTIL THE PITCHED BALL HAS REACHED THE BATTER.
- (b) When a base runner DOES leave his base BEFORE the pitch has reached the batter and the batter does not hit the ball, the runner is permitted to continue. If a play is made on him and he is tagged out... the OUT will stand. If, however, he reaches a base safely, "TIME" is called and he is returned to the base he occupied before the pitch was made... and NO OUT shall result.
- (c) When a base-runner leaves his base before the pitched ball has reached the batter and the batter hits the ball and the runner shall return to his original base (if the batter is retired on a fly ball or any other play) OR... he must return to an unoccupied base nearest the one he left depending on the advance of the batter... who in this case shall NOT advance beyond the first base on a single... second base on a double... or third on a triple.

(d) When any base-runner leaves his base before the pitched ball has reached the batter, and the batter hits or bunts the ball to an infielder, who in the judgment of the umpire, could have with reasonable effort effected an out on the runner had the violation not occurred... NO RUNNER shall be allowed to score or advance (unless forced) and all runners shall remain. If three (3) runners are on base and the batter reaches first base safely on a similar action to an infielder, and ANY runner violates the leadoff rule... SUCH RUNNER SHALL BE DECLARED OUT IN THIS INSTANCE.

(e) In the event that more than one runner is simultaneously adjudged to have violated the leadoff rule... The violating runner CLOSEST to scoring shall be declared out. Exception: If at the conclusion of play there is an open BASE... sub-paragraphs (b) and (c) will apply.

(f) THE VIOLATION OF ONE BASE RUNNER SHALL AFFECT ALL OTHER BASE RUNNERS.

(g) When a team has a lead of five or more runs, the runner (s) of this team can reach the following base only if the ball is hit or if he is forced to advance. If the runner reaches the next base, he is returned to his base and the ball is dead.

Case Example of Lead-Off Infractions:

- (1) Runner on first leaves too soon... batter reaches first on a single... RUNNER can go no further than second.
- (2) Runners on second and third, either leaves too soon... batter singles... RUNNERS MUST return to their bases.
- (3) Runners on first and third, either leave too soon... batter hits a double. Runner on third would score... runner from first cannot proceed beyond third base.
- (4) All runners on base (if either leaves too soon) will be permitted to score if the batter hits a clean triple or home run.
- (5) Bases full... runner on third leaves too soon, batter hits or bunts the ball to an infielder which, in the judgment of the umpire, should have resulted in an out if the violation had not occurred...

Runner violating is declared OUT... advance runners... placing batter-runner on first. In the event, on this same situation an out is made at either first, second or third... the runner scoring (not allowed) will return to third... other runners returned.

NOTE: Field umpires must assume the responsibility of indicating a leadoff infraction by dropping a signal-flag (or handkerchief) upon detection of the offence.

RULES GOVERNING ARM SMART (PITCH COUNT) in

11U DIVISION

Refer to page cc9.

RULES GOVERNING 13U DIVISION

2.01 (1.04) The playing field shall conform to the following measurements:

- (a) The distance between all bases shall be seventy (70) feet..
- (b) The distance between the point of home base and the front side of the pitcher's plate shall be forty-eight (48) feet.
- (c) The pitcher's mound shall be raised to a gradual slope. To a height of 6 inches above the levels of the base-paths. Optional for league play but is mandatory for all Inter-Provincial play.
- (d) The coaches' boxes shall be 8 x 12 feet and NOT closer than 10 feet from the base paths.
- (e) The backstop (behind) home plate shall NOT be less than 35 feet and no more than 45 feet from home plate.
NOTE: It is recommended that the fence-line to the base-path distance be twenty-five (25) feet.
- (f) The following outfield fence distances are recommended: Left and Right foul lines (200-ft min, suggested 225 ft). Centre field (225-ft min, suggested 260 ft).

3.02 (1.10) THE BAT: See rule book page cc3.

3.03 (1.11) SHOES: Shoes with metal cleats or "spikes" are prohibited. Rubber molded cleats on running shoes are permitted.

3.03 (1.11) Religious headgear that is consistent with Baseball Canada safety and recognized uniform code requirement is permitted.

5.10 (3.03) 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 pitcher, if removed from the game may return, but may not pitch. 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.

7.01 (4.10) The number of innings prescribed for 13U division is seven (7) innings.
NOTE: See general baseball rules re: ending a game.

5.11 (6.10) The Designated hitter rule is not permitted in this age category.

5.06 (7.00) ALL RUNNERS ARE PERMITTED TO LEAD - OFF. All base-runners are governed by standards of regulation baseball on all base-running actions.
RULES GOVERNING ARM SMART (PITCH COUNT) in

13U DIVISION

Refer to page cc9.

RULES GOVERNING 15U BOYS AND 16U GIRLS DIVISION

2.01 (1.04) The playing field shall conform to the following measurements:

- (a) The distance between all bases shall be eighty (80) feet.
- (b) The distance between the point of home base and the front side of the pitcher's plate shall be fifty-four (54) ft.
- (c) The pitcher's mound shall be raised to a gradual slope. To a height of 8 inches above the levels of the base-paths. Optional for league play but is mandatory for all Inter-Provincial play.
- (d) The coaches' boxes shall be 8x16 ft & NOT closer than 10 ft from the base paths.
- (e) The backstop (behind home plate) shall NOT BE LESS THAN 40 ft. and no more than 50 ft. from home plate.
- (f) The following outfield fence distances are recommended: Left and Right foul lines (245 ft min, suggested 270 ft)...Centre field (280 ft min, suggested 300 ft)

3.02 (1.10) THE BAT: See rule book page cc3.

3.03 (1.11) Religious headgear that is consistent with Baseball Canada safety and recognized uniform code requirement is permitted.

5.10 (3.03) 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 pitcher, if removed from the game may return, but may not pitch. 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.

7.01 (4.10) The number on innings prescribed for 15U Division is seven (7) innings.
NOTE: See general baseball rule re: ending a game.

5.11 (6.10) The designated hitter rule is not permitted in this age category.

**RULES GOVERNING ARM SMART (PITCH COUNT) in
15U BOYS AND 16U GIRLS DIVISION**

Refer to page cc9.

RULES GOVERNING 18U DIVISION

RULES GOVERNING ARM SMART (PITCH COUNT) in
18U DIVISION

Refer to page cc9.

RULES GOVERNING ARM SMART (PITCH COUNT) in

11U, 13U, 15U BOYS & 16U GIRLS, 18U, 21U Men, and CANADA CUP

Rules Governing the Pitcher

(Exhibition Play, League Play, Play-Off's, Tournaments, & Championships)

6.02 (8.01)

(1) Any player on the team is eligible to pitch, and there are no restrictions to the number of pitchers a manager may use in a game.

(2) Pitchers shall be permitted to have 2 appearances in the same calendar day. If a pitcher requires a rest following 1st appearance, they cannot return in the same calendar day.

(3) **If a pitcher is permitted to pitch on consecutive days, and the pitcher does not go over the individual day first threshold in game 1, they are permitted to have a 2nd appearance in the same calendar day.**

Pitchers cannot pitch in 3 games during a day.

Example; A 13U pitcher throws 25 pitches on Day 1, on Day 2 game one pitcher throws 10 pitches. The pitcher is eligible to pitch if their team plays another game on Day 2. For purposes of maximum number of pitches in a day, since the 13U pitcher has already thrown 10 pitches in game 1, their first pitch in game 2 should count as number 11 towards the day maximum of 85.

(4) Pitcher cannot pitch 3 consecutive days unless a pitcher's first 2 days combined does not exceed:

11U: 25

15U Boys / 16U Girls: 35

13U: 30

18U/Canada Cup/Canada Games : 40

If pitcher's day 1 + day 2 exceeds figure above for their division, they require at least 1 days rest.

Pitcher cannot pitch 4 consecutive days. One (1) days rest is needed.

- (5) Pitchers and managers shall follow the following guidelines:

11U	13U	15U Boys 16U Girls	18U/Canada Cup/Canada Games	21U Men	Rest required
1-25	1-30	1-35	1-40	1-45	None
26-40	31-45	36-50	41-55	46-60	1 day
41-55	46-60	51-65	56-70	61-75	2 days
56-65	61-75	66-80	71-85	76-90	3 days
66-75	76-85	81-95	86-105	91-115	4 days
75	85	95	105	115	Maximum

- (6) The official scorekeeper will calculate the total pitches thrown for that calendar day and determine the required rest starting the next calendar day. Athletes must not exceed the maximum pitch count total for that day.
- (7) Once a player assumes the position of pitcher, they cannot catch for the remainder of the day.
- (8) Pitchers will be permitted to finish the batter if his or her maximum pitch limit has been reached for that calendar day.
- (9) **Only pitches actually thrown will be included in Pitch Count totals. Automatic balls during an intentional walk do not count towards Pitch Count totals.**
Example; if during a count of 2 balls - 0 strike, a team signals to the umpire that a batter will receive an intentional walk, only 2 pitches will be counted for pitch count.
- (10) Required Rest shall be defined in "Days" starting at 12:01am and ending at 11:59 pm of the next calendar day.
- (11) If a game continues past 12:01am, those pitches are counted as if pitched prior to midnight. If a game is suspended, when it resumes it is defined as a different day.
- (12) A pitcher who is removed from the mound during a game shall not be permitted to return to pitch in the same game, even if the pitcher is retained in the game at another position.

- (13) Any violation of any part of the pitch count rule, the result is the Head Coach is ejected from the current game and receives an additional game suspension.
- (14) The total number of pitches thrown by an ambidextrous pitcher are counted for the purpose of calculating pitch count, regardless of which arm or combination there-of is throwing.
- (15) When a game is stopped by inclement weather or for any other reason than a mercy rule, that specific game has to be resumed at the point of stoppage. If Pitcher "A" is the starting pitcher of a game and has a pitch count below the first threshold, Pitcher "A" can then be used as a pitcher again for that particular game but considering he will be carrying the number of pitches thrown when the game stopped. This applies for a game that is resumed on the same day or on the next day.
For example, if Pitcher "A" threw 30 pitches at 15U Nationals, he will then be allowed to throw a maximum of 65 pitches when the game resumes. If Pitcher "A" had thrown 36 pitches when the rain started, he would not be eligible to pitch if that game is re-scheduled for the next day as he needs his full day of rest. If the game is resumed during the same day, he can then come back as pitcher while carrying his pitches.
- (16) A player playing in a division other than their own age group shall pitch based on the pitch count of the lower aged division.
For example; a 13U playing at 15U is subject to the 13U rules;
a 18U playing at 15U is subject to the 15U rules.

5.10 (8.06) (c) The manager or coach may make a 2nd visit to the mound while the same batter is at bat in order to remove the pitcher.

IMPORTANT PITCHING INFORMATION (ALL MINOR DIVISIONS)

When the use of a pitcher who is ineligible or about to become ineligible is evident scorekeepers or other officials MUST notify the manager or coach of the offending team so that an opportunity for assignment correction may be immediately affected. In the event that a coach deliberately over pitches his pitcher, the result is the Head Coach is ejected from the current game and receives an additional game suspension.

INFORMATION ON COMPILING A PITCHER'S - "OUT" RECORD

An "OUT" is listed against a pitcher's record during HIS ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT ONLY. Although all runners who may be on base upon a pitcher's removal are chargeable to that pitcher in determining won or lost records... ALL OUTS ON THE SAID RUNNERS SHALL BE LISTED AND CHARGED TO THE PITCHING RECORD OF THE SUBSTITUTE PITCHER OF ACTION WHEN THE OUTS OCCUR.

NO PITCHER SHALL BE SUBJECT TO PENALTY for exceeding the out limitations through: (a) a scorer's error in compiling records: or (b) should the limit be exceeded on a DOUBLE or TRIPLE play on the pitcher's last out.

NOTE: The extras OUT (S) as circumstances may provide in multiple play sequences ARE NOT CHARGEABLE TO ANY SUCCEEDING PITCHER. Scorers MUST NOTE the fact on the pitching records that extra out(s) over the maximum allowed were the results of a double or triple play action.

Annex E:

Rules interpretation

- **CATCHER'S MITT**

Rule 3.04:

The catcher may not substitute a fielder's glove or a first baseman's mitt for a catcher's mitt during the progress of the game or on any individual play. The catcher may use a catcher's mitt with a vinyl fluorescent piece attached.

- **PROCEDURES FOR MEASURING FIELDING GLOVES**

Rules 3.04, 3.05, 3.06:

Official Baseball Rules 3.04, 3.05, and 3.06 describe proper glove measurements and should be enforced for all gloves used in Major League games. The key measurements are "J" and "A" lines (see Diagram Number 4 in the Official Baseball Rules). The "J" line from the top of the index finger (first finger) to the bottom edge cannot measure more than 13 inches.

The "A" line, palm width, measured from the inside seam at the base of the index or first finger to the outside edge of the little finger of the glove, cannot be more than 7¾ inches. The first baseman's glove or mitt cannot be more than 13 inches from top to bottom, and the catcher's mitt cannot be more than 15½ inches from top to bottom or more than 38 inches in circumference.

Measurements should be made from the front or receiving side of the glove, and the measuring tape should be placed in contact with the glove and follow all contours.

The umpire may measure questionable gloves at his discretion, or the opposing manager may request that a glove be measured. Each manager is limited to **two** such requests per game. All measurements will be taken by the umpire between innings only. If the glove is illegal, it will be temporarily confiscated. A player refusing to obey the umpire's order may be ejected from the game. Play that has transpired prior to the measurement will be allowed to stand.

- **LINEUP CARDS**

Rule 4.03:

Each manager should write the name of each eligible player on the face of his club's batting order card in addition to furnishing the starting lineup. However, a manager's failure to list an eligible player does not prevent that player from entering the game, nor is such failure grounds for protest, as the listing of eligible players is simply a courtesy.

- **BALL GOING INTO PLAYER'S UNIFORM**

Rule 5.01(b):

If a batted or thrown ball inadvertently goes inside a player or coach's uniform (or lodges in the catcher's face mask or paraphernalia), the umpire shall call "Time." He will, using common sense and fair play, place all runners in such a manner that, in the umpire's judgment, will nullify the action of the ball going out of play. In no case may any outs be recorded on such play.

Note that this interpretation does not apply to situations where a batted or thrown ball lodges in a fielder's glove. In those cases, the ball is alive and in play. A fielder may legally throw the glove with the live ball lodged in the glove. Any fielder in possession of the glove containing the lodged ball is considered in possession of the ball for the purpose of the Rules. For example, a fielder could legally tag a runner or a base while in possession of the glove containing the lodged ball.

- **FIRST BASEMAN PLAYING IN FOUL TERRITORY**

Rule 5.02:

Official Baseball Rule 5.02 provides that when the ball is put in play at the start of or during a game, all fielders other than the catcher shall be on fair territory. In particular, when holding a runner on first base, the first baseman shall position himself with both feet in fair territory. There is no penalty specified for violation other than the first baseman shall be instructed to keep both feet in fair territory if brought to the attention of the umpire, or—if blatant or recurring violation—upon immediate direction of the umpire. If a player, after so directed by the umpire, blatantly refuses to comply, the player is subject to ejection.

- **BATTER'S POSITION IN BATTER'S BOX Rules 5.04(b)(5), 6.03(a)(1):**

When the batter **assumes a batting stance** in the batter's box, he shall have both feet entirely within the batter's box; i.e., no part of either foot may extend beyond the outer edge of the lines defining the box when the batter assumes a position in the box. There is no penalty specified for violation other than the batter shall be instructed to stay within the batter's box if brought to the attention of the umpire, or—if blatant or recurring violation—upon immediate direction of the umpire. If a player, after so directed by the umpire, blatantly refuses to comply, the player is subject to ejection. See Official Baseball Rule 5.04(b)(5).

Under Official Baseball Rule 6.03(a)(1), if a batter **hits** a ball (fair, foul, or foul tip) with one or both feet on the ground **entirely** outside the batter's box, the batter shall be declared out. (See Official Baseball Rule 6.03(a)(1).)

TO CLARIFY: There are two different rules regarding the batter's position in the batter's box. Rule 5.04(b)(5) requires the batter to have both feet within the batter's box when assuming an initial position in the box prior to hitting (no portion of the foot may be outside the line under this provision, although no penalty is prescribed other than the instructions given above). Rule 6.03(a)(1) provides that the batter be declared **out** if he **hits** the ball with one or both feet on the ground **entirely** outside the batter's box. (So long as any part of the foot is touching any part of the line when the batter **hits** the ball, he is within the rules.)

- **FLY BALL STRIKING TOP OF OUTFIELD WALL**

Rule 5.05(a):

Unless provided otherwise by local ground rule, a fair fly ball striking the top of the outfield wall and bounding back onto the playing field shall be treated the same as a fair fly ball that strikes the outfield wall and rebounds back onto the playing field (in play but may not be caught for the purposes of an out).

Unless provided otherwise by local ground rule, a fair fly ball striking the top of the outfield wall and bounding over the wall shall be ruled a home run.

Unless provided otherwise by a local ground rule, a fair fly ball striking the top of the outfield wall and remaining on the top of the wall shall be deemed a ground-rule double.

- **ABANDONING BASE PATH (INCLUDING AFTER THIRD STRIKE NOT CAUGHT)**

Rules 5.05(a)(2) Comment, 5.09(b)(2) Comment:

Under the Comment to Official Baseball Rule 5.05(a)(2), a batter **who strikes out on a third strike not caught is treated differently** than the plays relating to abandoning the base paths found in the Comments to Official Baseball Rule 5.09(b).

Specifically, the following interpretations shall govern a batter who has struck out on a third strike not caught:

A batter who does not realize his situation on a third strike not caught, and who is not in the process of running to first base, **shall be declared out once the batter leaves the dirt circle surrounding home plate.**

The above ruling shall also apply to a batter who strikes out on third strike not caught and who makes no effort to advance to first base within, in the umpire's judgment, a reasonable amount of time. For example, a batter who "lingers" at home plate, removing a shin guard, and then takes off for first base shall also be declared out.

Due to the variation in size and shape of dirt circles surrounding home plate in different ballparks, in the umpire's judgment when the batter-runner has shown no effort to advance to first base on a third strike not caught such batter may be declared out. In any case, should the batter leave the dirt circle surrounding home plate before attempting to advance to first base, the batter shall be declared out.

Umpires must be alert to time-play situations when a runner abandons an effort to touch

the next base, as demonstrated in the following play:

Play: Bases loaded, two out, score tied in the bottom of the ninth inning. Batter hits a home run out of the ballpark. Runner on first, thinking the home run automatically wins the game, leaves the baseline and heads toward the dugout. The runner on first is declared out before the runner from third reaches home plate. Other runners continue around the bases and eventually touch home.

Ruling: No runs score; the third out was made before the runner from third touched home plate. Game continues in the top of the tenth inning with the score still tied. **NOTE:** If there were less than two out, the game would end the moment the winning run touched home plate. See also Official Baseball Rules 5.08(b) and 7.01(g)(3).

- **CATCHER'S INTERFERENCE**

Rules 5.05(b)(3), 5.06(b)(3)(D), 6.01(g):

Under Official Baseball Rule 5.05(b)(3), if catcher's interference is called with a play in progress, the umpire will allow the play to continue because the manager may elect to take the play—*unless* the batter reaches first base and *all* other runners advance one base, in which event the play stands and the manager has no option to take the interference penalty.

The umpire should indicate catcher's interference by pointing at and calling the infraction. The manager shall make the election to take the play or take the interference penalty by advising the plate umpire immediately following the play, and once made, such election

cannot be changed.

If the batter-runner misses first base, or a runner misses his next base, he shall be considered as having reached the next base, as referred to in the Note to Official Baseball Rule 5.06(b)(3)(D) and as stated in the Approved Ruling of Official Baseball Rule 6.02(a):

A runner who misses the first base to which he is advancing and who is called out on appeal shall be considered as having advanced one base for the purpose of this rule.

If a runner is attempting to steal a base when the catcher interferes with the batter, the runner is awarded the base on the interference. Runners not attempting to steal or not forced to advance remain on the base they occupied at the time of the interference unless Official Baseball Rule 6.01(g) applies. Under Official Baseball Rule 6.01(g), if a runner is **stealing home** when the catcher interferes with the batter, the additional penalty of a **balk** is invoked, which enables **all** runners on base to advance (whether or not they were stealing).

See also Official Baseball Rules 5.05(b)(3), 5.06(b)(3)(D), and 6.01(g).

- **RUNNER PUSHED OFF BASE**

Rule 5.06(a)(1):

If in the judgment of an umpire, a runner is pushed or forced off a base by a fielder, intentionally or unintentionally, at which the runner would have otherwise been called safe, the umpire has the authority and discretion under the circumstances to return the runner to the base he was forced off following the conclusion of the play.

- **OVERRUNNING A BASE WITHOUT TOUCHING IT**

Rule 5.06(a)(1)

A runner does not acquire the right to an unoccupied base on an attempt to retire the runner until he touches it before he is put out. This is true regardless of whether the umpire's act of not making a call signifies to the defensive team that the runner failed to touch the base for purposes of an appeal play. See Rule 5.09(c)(3).

- **TWO RUNNERS IN CONTACT WITH BASE**

Rule 5.06(a)(2):

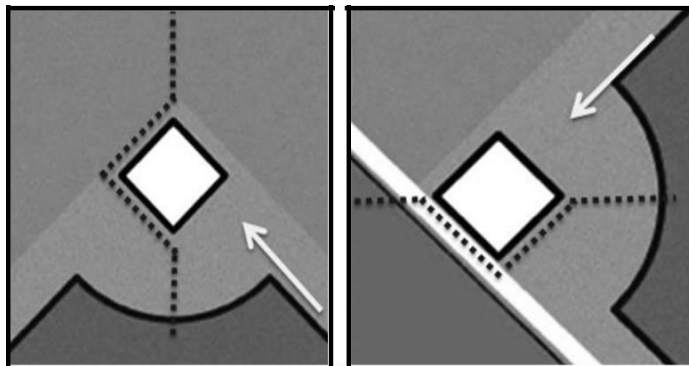
Under Official Baseball Rule 5.06(a)(2), if two runners are touching a base at the same time, the following runner is out when tagged (unless, of course, the lead runner is forced). It is suggested that the umpire clearly indicate by pointing which runner has been declared out in such situations. See Official Baseball Rules 5.06(a)(2) and 5.06(b)(2).

- **RUNNER PASSING A BASE**

Rule 5.06(b)(1):

A runner is considered to have passed a base if he has both feet on the ground beyond the back edge of the base or beyond the edge of the base in the direction in which he is advancing.

The direction the runner is advancing determines the edges of the base when defining when a runner has passed a base.



- **DETACHED EQUIPMENT TOUCHING PITCHED OR BATTED BALL**

Rule 5.06(b)(4)(C):

Any defensive player deliberately touching a batted ball over foul territory that, in the umpire's judgment, has an opportunity to become a fair ball with detached equipment will entitle all runners—including the batter-runner—to advance three bases from the time the ball was touched without liability to be put out. The ball is in play, and runners may advance beyond the awarded base at their own risk.

If a defensive player deliberately touches a batted ball over foul territory that, in the umpire's judgment, clearly has no opportunity to become a fair ball, the umpire shall rule a foul ball.

See also Official Baseball Rule 5.06(b)(4)(C).

15. LODGE BALL

Rule 5.06 (b)(4)(F)

A batted ball that sticks in a fence, scoreboard, shrubbery or vines located on the playing field should be considered a lodged ball. Likewise, a ball that goes behind a field tarp or wall padding without leaving the playing field should also be considered to be lodged and the same two base award applies.

16. PLAY OR ATTEMPTED PLAY

Rules 5.06(b)(4)(G), 5.09(c):

The following interpretation of “**play or attempted play**” applies to both **awarding of bases** (Official Baseball Rule 5.06(b)(4)(G)) and **appeal plays** (Official Baseball Rule 5.09(c)):

A **play or attempted play** is interpreted as a legitimate effort by a defensive player who has possession of the ball to actually retire a runner. This may include an actual attempt to tag a runner, a fielder running toward a base with the ball in an attempt to force or tag a runner, or actually throwing to another defensive player in an attempt to retire a runner. (The fact that the runner is not out is not relevant.) A fake or a feint to throw shall not be deemed a play or an attempted play.

EXAMPLES:

A play or attempted play:

- (1) Runners on first and second, ground ball to the shortstop, who makes a swipe at the runner from second but misses and then throws beyond first base into the stands.

Ruling: The swipe by the shortstop is an attempted play; thus the throw to first is not the first play by an infielder (even though it is the first throw), and the proper award of bases would be from the time of the throw.

- (2) Runner on first and ground ball to second baseman who flips ball to short to get runner from first but who is **safe**. Shortstop throws beyond first into the stands.

Ruling: The flip by the second baseman to the shortstop is an attempted play, even though unsuccessful. The throw to first is not the first play by an infielder and thus runner should be placed from the time of the throw. Runner who was on first would score and batter-runner would be placed at second.

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Not a play or attempted play:

- (1) A fake or a feint to a base but not actually throwing, even though the fielder draws an arm back to feint a throw.

- (2) A pitcher feinting a throw toward a base to hold or check a runner's progress in

order to complete an appeal play at another base.

(3) Runner on first, ground ball to the shortstop, who starts to flip the ball to the second baseman but does not and throws the ball beyond first and out of play.

Ruling: The feint to the second baseman is not considered a play or attempted play, and award of bases is from the time of the pitch.

(4) Runners on first and third, runner on first stealing as ground ball is hit to shortstop. The shortstop feints a throw home but does not throw—instead throws to first and into the stands; during this time the runner from first has rounded second base.

Ruling: The feint by the shortstop toward home is not considered a play or attempted play; thus the throw beyond first is the first play by an infielder and awards should be made from the time of the pitch.

17. AWARDING BASES ON WILD THROWS

Rules 5.06(b)(4)(G)

See Official Baseball Rule 5.06(b)(4)(G) regarding awarding of bases on balls that are thrown out of play. In making such awards, keep the following points in mind:

(1) If the throw is the first play by an infielder and the batter-runner has not reached first base when the throw was made, award all runners **from time of pitch**.

(2) If the throw is the first play by an infielder and all runners including the batter-runner have advanced a base when the throw was made, award all runners from **their positions at the time of the throw**.

(3) If the throw is not the first play by an infielder or the throw is made by an outfielder, award all runners from **their positions at the time of the throw**.

The Approved Ruling of Official Baseball Rule 5.06(b)(4)(G) provides that when the first throw is by an infielder **after** runners and batter have advanced one base, then runners are awarded two bases from their position when the throw was made. (See item (2) above.) This can happen on a high fly that an infielder goes back to catch but drops, during which time the batter and runners have clearly advanced one base; then, in an attempt to put out the batter-runner, who has already passed first base, the fielder throws the ball into the stands. While it is the first throw by an infielder, the runners, including the batter-runner, had advanced one base before the throw and accordingly are awarded two bases from the base they last touched when the throw was made. Before awarding two bases from the base last touched by the runners, the umpire must judge that all the runners—including the batter-runner—have definitely advanced to the next base before the throw was made.

The term “**when the wild throw was made**” means when the throw actually left the player’s hand and not when the thrown ball hit the ground, passed a receiving fielder, or went out of play into the stands.

When a runner is awarded bases without liability to be put out because the ball has gone out of play, the runner is not relieved of the responsibility to touch the awarded

base and all intervening bases.

In awarding of bases, crews should have the benefit of input of their partners. If there is any question as to the proper award, it is suggested the umpires confer as a crew.

18. BALLS DEFLECTED OUT OF PLAY

Rule 5.06(b)(4)(H):

The Approved Ruling of Official Baseball Rule 5.06(b)(4)(H) provides that when a **pitched** ball deflects off the catcher and goes **directly** out of play, the award is **one base** from the time of the pitch. Likewise, when a throw from the pitcher while in contact with the rubber deflects off a fielder and goes **directly** out of play, the award is also one base.

However, the Approved Ruling also provides that if the **pitched ball** (or ball thrown by the pitcher while in contact with the rubber) goes through or by the catcher (or fielder), remains on the playing field, and is **subsequently kicked or deflected out of play**, the award is **two bases** from the **time of the pitch**.

The above rulings apply if the deflection is unintentional on the part of the fielder. If, in the judgment of the umpires, a fielder **intentionally** kicks or deflects any batted or thrown ball out of play, the award is **two bases** from the time **the ball was kicked or deflected**.

The following list helps summarize awards when a ball is deflected out of play:

- If a pitched ball deflects off the catcher and goes **directly** out of play, the award is **one base from the time of the pitch**.
- If a ball thrown by the pitcher while in contact with the rubber deflects off a fielder and goes **directly** out of play, the award is **one base from the time of the throw**.
- If a pitched ball (or a ball thrown by the pitcher while in contact with the rubber) goes through or by the catcher (or fielder), remains on the playing field, and is **subsequently kicked or deflected** out of play (unintentionally in either case), the award is **two bases** from the time of the **pitch**. *This ruling applies without regard to whether or not the ball would have gone out of play had it not been kicked or deflected.* (See the Approved Ruling to Official Baseball Rule 5.06(b)(4)(H).)
- If a thrown ball deflects off a fielder and goes **directly** out of play, the award is two bases from the time of the pitch if it is the first play by an infielder; otherwise the award is two bases from the time of the throw.
- If a thrown ball goes through or by a fielder, remains on the playing field, and is **subsequently kicked or deflected** out of play (unintentionally in either case), the award is two bases from the time of the throw.

- If a fair fly ball is deflected in flight by a fielder and then goes out of the playing field in flight over fair territory, it is a home run.
- If a fair fly ball is deflected in flight by a fielder and then goes out of play outside the foul lines, the award is two bases from the time of the pitch.
- If a fair ball not in flight is deflected by a fielder and then goes out of play, the award is two bases from the time of the pitch.
- If a fielder has **complete possession** of a batted or thrown ball and subsequently deflects or kicks the ball out of play, the award is two bases from the position of the runners at the time the ball was kicked or deflected.
- If a fielder has **complete possession** of a batted or thrown ball and drops the ball while he is out of play, or if the fielder drops such a ball and it then goes out of play, the award is two bases from the position of the runners at the time the ball was dropped.
- If, in the judgment of the umpire, a fielder **intentionally kicks or deflects** a batted or thrown ball out of play, the award is **two bases** from **the time the ball was kicked or deflected**.

19. BATTED BALL STRIKING THE RUNNER

Rules 5.06(c)(6) and 6.01(a)(11):

The concept of the runner being in jeopardy after the ball goes past an infielder and strikes the runner in a situation where another infielder still has a chance to make a play on the ball applies **ONLY** when the ball **PASSES** the first infielder without being touched or deflected by him. This concept **DOES NOT APPLY** if the ball is **touched** or **deflected** by the first infielder, **even though another infielder has a chance to make a play on the ball**.

In other words, after a ball has been touched (deflected) by any infielder (including the pitcher), if the ball then strikes a runner (unintentionally on the part of the runner), the ball is alive and in play even if another infielder may be in position to field the ball. (See Official Baseball Rules 5.06(c)(6) and 6.01(a)(11).)

The reasoning for the above concept is that a runner cannot be expected to avoid a deflected ball while running and should not, therefore, be in jeopardy of being called out for being struck by such a deflected ball. Of course, a runner may still be guilty of intentional interference even after an infielder deflects the ball if the runner deliberately deflects the ball or allows it to strike him when he could have reasonably avoided it. The fact that the ball has been deflected by an infielder should not be taken as a license for a runner to interfere intentionally. (See Official Baseball Rules 6.01(a)(6) and 6.01(a)(7).)

After a batted ball has been touched (deflected) by an infielder, if the ball then strikes a

runner (unintentionally on the part of the runner), it is alive and in play despite the fact that another infielder may be in position to field the ball. This is **not** the case if a fielder is **making a play on the ball**. Specifically, if a batted ball is deflected by an infielder and another infielder has a play on the ball, the runner must avoid the fielder. If the runner interferes with the fielder making a play—even though the ball has been touched by another fielder—the runner is declared out. Under the rules, a fielder making a play on a batted ball takes priority.

On the other hand, if a batted ball goes through or by an infielder (other than the pitcher) *without touching the fielder* and then strikes a runner immediately behind the infielder, the umpire must then determine if another infielder has a chance to make a play on the ball. If the umpire determines another infielder **does** have a chance, the runner is **out**. If the umpire determines another infielder **does not** have a chance, the ball is alive and **in play**.

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The interpretation to be made with regard to the phrase “a fair ball goes through, or by, an infielder, and touches a runner immediately back of him” (Official Baseball Rules 6.01(a)(11) and 5.06(c)(6)) is that this refers to a ball that passes through the infielder’s legs, or by his immediate vicinity, and strikes a runner directly behind the infielder.

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EXAMPLES:

1. Runner on second base, one out. The batter hits a ball on the ground toward the hole. The third baseman charges in on the grass to try to cut the ball off as the shortstop breaks deep toward the hole while the runner is advancing. The ball gets past the third baseman without the third baseman having touched it and strikes the runner in the base path. The shortstop had a play on the ball.

Ruling: Runner from second is out and the batter-runner is awarded first base. The ball passed by but was not touched by an infielder other than the pitcher before striking the runner. However, another fielder behind the runner was deprived of an opportunity to field the ball.

2 Runner on second base, one out. The batter hits a ground ball toward the hole. The third baseman charges in on the grass to cut the ball off and the shortstop breaks deep toward the hole as the runner advances. The ball is deflected by the third baseman in the direction of the shortstop. The shortstop would have had a play on the ball, but the ball struck the runner, resulting in no play being possible.

Ruling: Runner from second is not out and the ball is alive and in play (assuming no intentional interference by the runner from second). The fact that the shortstop would have been able to make a play on the ball had it not struck the runner is disregarded because the ball was deflected by the first infielder.

3 Runner on first base, one out. Runner is stealing on the next pitch. The batter hits a

ground ball back toward the pitcher. The pitcher deflects the ball in the direction of the second baseman, who definitely has a chance to make a play on it. However, the ball strikes the runner before it reaches the second baseman.

Ruling: Runner from first is **not** out; the ball remains alive and in play (assuming no intentional interference by the runner). Compare this play with the following play.

4 Runner on first base, one out. Runner is running on the next pitch. The batter hits a ground ball back toward the pitcher. The pitcher deflects the ball in the direction of the second baseman. As the runner is running directly to second base, he unintentionally bumps into the second baseman, who is attempting to field the deflected ball.

Ruling: Interference is called and the runner from first is declared out. Even though deflected, this is still a batted ball and the runner must avoid the fielder. The batter-runner is awarded first base.

5 Runners on first and second, both runners stealing. Batter shows bunt, the first and third basemen move in, and the shortstop moves to cover third. The batter swings at the last minute and hits a ground ball in the direction of the shortstop position. However, the shortstop has moved to cover third base, and no one is in position to field the ball. The ground ball strikes the runner advancing from second base.

Ruling: Runner from second is declared out for being struck by a batted ball. The batter-runner is placed at first base. The ball is not considered to have gone through or by an infielder in this play.

6 Runners on first and second, first and third basemen in for a bunt, both runners stealing. Batter shows bunt but swings at the last minute and hits a chopper over the head of the third baseman who has moved in about 20 feet. The ball strikes the runner advancing from second. Two parts: (a) Assume the shortstop was in a position to make a play on the ball; (b) Assume the shortstop was not in position to make a play on the ball.

Ruling: In (a), runner from second is declared out. The ball is considered going by the third baseman, but another fielder had a chance to make a play on the ball. In (b), the ball is alive and in play. The ball is considered going by the third baseman, but no other infielder had a chance to make a play on the ball.

7 Runner on first base, hit-and-run. Batter hits a ground ball towards the second base position (which has been vacated by the second baseman, who is covering the bag at second). The ground ball strikes the runner advancing from first base.

Ruling: Runner from first is declared out for being struck by a fair batted ball. Batter-runner is awarded first base. The ball is not considered having passed through or by an infielder in this play.

8 Runner on first base, one out. Runner is running on the next pitch. The batter hits a ground ball back toward the pitcher. The pitcher deflects the ball in the direction of the second baseman, who definitely has a chance to make a play on it. However, the ball

strikes the runner before it reaches the second baseman. As a result of striking the runner, the ball caroms into the shortstop's glove, and the shortstop throws the batter-runner out at first base while the runner who was struck with the batted ball goes to second.

Ruling: The ball remains alive and in play (assuming no intentional interference by the runner originally on first). The batter-runner is out, and the runner originally on first is allowed to remain at second base.

9 Runner on first base, first baseman positioned in front of the runner. Batter hits a ground ball just outside the reach of the first baseman as the first baseman dives to his right. The ball then strikes the runner.

Ruling: In this play the ball is considered having passed by an infielder. The umpire must now judge if another infielder has the chance to make a play on the ball. If the umpire judges yes, then the runner is declared out. If the umpire judges no, the ball is alive and in play.

10 Bases loaded, no out. The infield is playing in. The batter hits a sharp ground ball that the third baseman deflects in the direction of the shortstop. Runner from second, seeing that the shortstop definitely will have a good chance of making a play on the ball, allows it to strike the runner. The ball caroms into left field and all runners take off.

Ruling: Runner from second has intentionally interfered with a batted ball to break up a possible double play. Runner from second is out and so is the batter-runner. Runners return to first and third. Runner from second has violated Official Baseball Rule 6.01(a)(6).

11 Runner on third, no out. Batter hits a sharp ground ball down the third base line that strikes the runner on third base in fair territory while the runner is still in contact with third base. The runner was not attempting to interfere intentionally, and the third baseman is playing behind the runner.

Ruling: Runner is declared out. Ball is dead, and batter-runner is awarded first base. The fact that the runner had contact with the base when struck with the batted ball has no bearing on the play. (An exception to this is when the runner is hit by an Infield Fly while on base.)

12 Runner on second base, no one out. Batter bunts the ball down the third base line. Pitcher and third baseman hover over the ball and let it roll down the line towards third, hoping it will go foul. The ball continues to roll down the line in fair territory with the pitcher and third baseman following it. The ball ends up rolling to third base, strikes the base, and then strikes the runner from second base who is now standing on third.

Ruling: Even though the ball has technically not passed a fielder, the ball is alive and in play because the fielders had an opportunity to field the batted ball but chose not to. The runner is not out in this situation.

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TO SUMMARIZE:

A runner is out when struck by a batted ball (unintentional on the part of the runner) unless:

The ball has been touched by an infielder; or

The ball has passed through or by an infielder AND no other infielder has a chance to make a play on the ball.

Also, a runner must attempt to avoid a fielder attempting to make a play on a batted ball, even if the ball was deflected by another fielder.

20. TIME OF PITCH

Rule 5.07(a):

The time of pitch is defined as the moment the pitcher's movements commit the pitcher to deliver the ball to the batter.

- In a windup position, this is defined as the moment the pitcher begins the natural movement associated with the pitcher's delivery of the ball to the batter (i.e., the start of his windup or delivery)
- From a set position, this is defined as the moment the pitcher begins the natural movement associated with the pitcher's delivery of the ball **after** the pitcher has come set with both hands together in front of his body.

A runner who advances while the pitcher is in contact with the rubber is considered to occupy the base last touched at the time the pitcher initiates his actual pitching motion to the batter. The pitching motion is defined as any movement that commits the pitcher to deliver the ball to the batter.

So long as the pitcher is not committed to pitch, a runner may advance and is considered to occupy the last base touched at the time the pitcher initiates his actual delivery to the batter.

The preliminary motion known as the "stretch" is **not** considered the start of the pitching motion.

21. WINDUP POSITION

Rule 5.07(a)(1):

Pitchers assume the windup position in one of three ways:

(1) Facing the batter, **hands together**, pivot foot in contact with the rubber, other foot free. This is the "traditional" windup position. From this position (hands together), any natural movement associated with his delivery of the ball to the batter commits the pitcher to pitch without interruption.

(2) Facing the batter, **hands apart** (usually at the side), pivot foot in contact with the

rubber, other foot free. From this windup position, the pitcher goes directly into his delivery to the batter. If the pitcher uses this windup position (hands at side), the first movement of his hands or arms or feet that is associated with his delivery commits the pitcher to pitch.

- (3) Facing the batter, hands apart, pivot foot in contact with the rubber, other foot free. From this position (hands apart), the pitcher receives the sign from the catcher and then brings his hands together in a **stationary position** ("pause") before beginning the delivery. Once the pitcher's hands are together, the pitcher is in the "traditional" windup position. If a pitcher uses this windup position, the act of bringing his arms up and positioning his hands in front of his body shall not be construed as the start of his actual delivery UNLESS some other action is initiated by another part of his body simultaneously and is associated with the actual delivery.

Any of the three positions described above is considered a legal windup position, and from such windup position (regardless of whether the pitcher's hands are together or apart), the pitcher may:

- (1) deliver the ball to the batter, or
- (2) step and throw to a base in an attempt to pick off a runner, or
- (3) disengage the rubber by stepping back with his pivot foot first. (Disengaging the rubber by stepping back with his free foot first is a balk when runners are on base regardless of whether the pitcher's hands are together or apart.)

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From any of the three types of windup positions referred to in this section, the pitcher may step and throw to a base in an attempt to pick off a runner (i.e., the pitcher is not required first to step off). Although this is not frequently seen, it is legal **provided** the pitcher does not make any motion associated with his delivery to the batter before the pitcher throws to the base.

Play : Bases loaded, pitcher in windup position. Before making any motion associated with his delivery of the pitch to the batter, the pitcher turns, steps, and throws to second (or to first or to third) in one continuous motion in an attempt to pick off the runner.

Ruling: Legal move.

TO CLARIFY:

- (1) If the pitcher's hands are held together in front of his body in a *stationary position* before the pitcher delivers to the batter, the preliminary action of bringing his hands together is **not** interpreted as the start of the actual windup or delivery to the batter. If, however, this preliminary action is accompanied by any other natural movement that is associated with the delivery to the batter, then the pitcher is committed to pitch without

altering or interrupting his delivery once such motion is initiated.

- (2) If a pitcher does **not** assume a *stationary, hands-together position* prior to initiating his actual delivery, any natural movement associated with the start of their delivery commits the pitcher to pitch.

.....

From the windup position, the pitcher may not go into a set or stretch position—if he does so, it is a balk when runners are on base.

In the windup position the pitcher must have both feet squarely on the ground.

.....

In 2006 the Official Playing Rules Committee made a number of changes to the Windup Position. Those changes took effect at the Major League level in 2007.

The changes allow a pitcher to have only a portion of his pivot foot, rather than the entire foot, in contact with the rubber. Furthermore, in the windup position, a pitcher is allowed to have his free foot at either side of the rubber, in front of the rubber, on the rubber, or behind the rubber, and to step to either side of the rubber—all of which are commonly accepted current practices. Previous editions of the Official Baseball Rules prohibited this.

Under the rules adopted in 2007,

- (a) Only a portion of the pitcher's pivot foot must be in contact with the rubber (no longer "entire pivot foot"). This applies to both windup and set positions. Under the new rules, pitchers may pitch "off the end" of the rubber, as long as any part of the pivot foot is in contact with the rubber.
- (b) In the windup position, the pitcher's free foot may be on the rubber, in front of the rubber, to the side of the rubber, or behind the rubber.
- (c) In the windup position, the pitcher is permitted to step to the side during his delivery (previously prohibited).

22. SET VS. WINDUP POSITION

Rule 5.07(2)

The comment to Rule 5.07(a)(2) states, in part, that, "With a runner or runners on base, a pitcher will be presumed to be pitching from the Set Position if he stands with his pivot foot in contact with and parallel to the pitcher's plate, and his other foot in front of the pitcher's plate, unless he notifies the umpire that he will be pitching from the Windup Position under such circumstances prior to the beginning of an at-bat. A pitcher will be permitted to notify the umpire that he is pitching from the Windup Position within an at-bat only in the event of (i) a substitution by the offensive team; or (ii) immediately upon the advancement of one or more runners (i.e., after one or more base runners advance

but before the delivery of the next pitch).”

Once the pitcher notifies the home plate umpire of his intention to pitch from the Windup, the umpire should call “Time”; the ball is dead; and the umpire should indicate to the other members of the crew and each Club that the pitcher has elected to pitch from the Windup.

23. COMMENT REGARDING GAME-ENDING PLAYS

Rule 5.08(b)

When the winning run is scored in the last half-inning of a regulation game, or in the last half of an extra inning, with the bases full as a result of any play other than those set forth in 5.08(b), the ball is in play and runners may be retired. If the third out is a force play, no runs shall score.

24. FIELDER GOING INTO OUT-OF-PLAY-AREA

Rule 5.09(a)(1) Comment:

The Comment to Official Baseball Rule 5.09(a)(1) stipulates that no fielder may step into or go into a dugout to make a catch. However, if a fielder, after catching a fly ball on the playing surface, steps or falls into any out-of-play- area at any point while in possession of the ball, the base runners shall be entitled to advance one base and the ball shall be dead.

In order to make a legal catch, the fielder must have one or both feet on or over the playing surface (including the lip of the dugout) and neither foot on the ground inside the dugout or other out-of-play surface.

A fielder is considered to be in the dugout—and thereby unable to make a valid catch—when the fielder has one or both feet on the surface inside the dugout (for example, on the steps or on the floor of the dugout) or has dived into the dugout with neither foot on or above the playing surface. The lip of a dugout (i.e., the top of the dugout steps that is even with the playing surface, even if it is a different material than the playing surface) is considered outside the dugout for purposes of this rule.

As an example, a player who catches a pop-up with one foot on the lip and the other foot on a step inside the dugout would be deemed to be inside the dugout, and no catch would be allowed. On the other hand, a player who catches a pop-up with one foot on the lip and the other foot in the air over a step or over the dugout floor would **not** be deemed to be inside the dugout, because in that example one foot is on the playing surface and neither foot is on the ground inside the dugout.

NOTE: A ball striking equipment on the lip of the dugout is dead. Clubs should make

best efforts to keep all equipment off the top step (lip) of the dugout.

EXAMPLES:

(1) Catcher catches a foul pop-up on the field of play, and momentum carries him into the dugout. **Ruling:** Legal catch. "Time" is called and all runners awarded one base from the time of the pitch.

(2) Catcher catches a foul pop-up on the field of play, and momentum carries him into the dugout. While in the dugout the catcher falls down, then drops the ball.

Ruling: Foul ball.

(3) Catcher makes a diving catch and slides into the dugout after catching the ball. The catcher ends up on the floor of the dugout, face-down, with possession of the ball.

Ruling: Legal catch. "Time" is called and all runners awarded one base from the time of the pitch.

(4) Bases loaded, one out. Fielder catches ball and momentum carries him into the stands. May the fielder throw for a play?

Ruling: No. "Time" is called, and all runners advance one base.

25. THROWN BALL STRIKES HELMET OR BAT**Rule 5.09(a)(8):**

If a thrown ball strikes a helmet or bat accidentally (no intent on the part of the runner to interfere) in fair or foul territory, the ball remains in play the same as if it had not hit the helmet or bat.

If, in the umpire's judgment, there is intent on the part of a runner to interfere with a thrown ball by dropping his helmet or bat or by throwing either at the ball, then the runner is out, the ball dead, and runner(s) return to the last base legally touched.

26. INFIELDER INTENTIONALLY DROPS FLY BALL OR LINE DRIVE Rule 5.09(a)(12):

Under Official Baseball Rule 5.09(a)(12), the batter is out, the ball is dead, and runner(s) return to their original base(s) when an infielder intentionally drops a fair fly ball or line drive with runners on first, first and second, first and third, or bases loaded (with less than two out).

Note that the batter is **not** declared out in this situation if the infielder permits the ball to drop **untouched** to the ground **except** when the Infield Fly rule applies.

When an infielder deliberately drops a fair ball or a line drive to set up a double play situation, runners may safely return to the bases they occupied at the time of the pitch. The same application shall be made if an outfielder has come so close to the infield to set up a double play situation if he intentionally drops the ball.

Runners cannot advance under this rule. Umpires shall immediately call "Time," when,

in their judgment, the ball is intentionally dropped.

27. OUT OF THE BASEPATH

Rule 5.09(b)(1)

When determining whether a base runner should be called out under Rule 5.09(b)(1), so long as the umpire determines that a play is being made on the runner and an attempt to tag is occurring, i.e. the fielder is moving to tag the runner, no physical tag attempt is required to call a runner out for leaving the basepath.

28. ABANDONMENT ON A FORCE PLAY

Rules 5.01(b)(1), 5.09(b)(2), 5.09(b)(1)&(2) Comment, 5.09(b)(6)

A base runner being called out for abandoning his effort to touch the next base does not change a force play to a tag or time play on any other runner(s).

29. RUNNER STEALING ON BALL FOUR Rule 5.09(b)(4):

Play : With a runner on first, with a 3-1 count on the batter, the runner attempts to steal second on the pitch, and the umpire calls the runner out. Ball four was called on the pitch. The runner, because of being called out, is now off the base is tagged again.

Ruling: Because the runner was entitled to second base on ball four, and is called out in error, the umpire shall call time, and place the runner back at second.

30. BATTER-RUNNER PASSING FIRST BASE

Rule 5.09(b)(4):

The exception to Rule 5.09(b)(4) prohibits the batter-runner from being tagged out for overrunning or oversliding first base if he immediately returns to the base. However, once the batter-runner returns to first base safely after overrunning/oversliding the base, he is no longer protected from being tagged out if he subsequently loses contact with the base

31. RUNNER MISSES HOME PLATE

Rules 5.09(b)(5), 5.09(b)(12), 5.09(c)(2),

Rule 5.09(b)(12) [former Rule 7.08(k)] states that should a runner, in scoring, fail to touch home plate and continue on the way to the bench (making no effort to return), the

runner may be put out by the fielder touching home plate and appealing to the umpire for a decision. However, this rule applies only where a runner is on the way to the bench and the catcher would be required to chase the runner. It does not apply to the ordinary play where the runner misses the plate and then immediately makes an effort to touch the plate before being tagged. In that case, the runner must be tagged. In such cases, base path rules still apply to the runner (i.e., he may not run more than three feet from the “base path” between him and home plate).

On a play at the plate, should the runner miss home plate and the fielder miss the tag on the runner, it is preferable that the umpire make **no signal** on the play. As outlined in the previous paragraph, the runner must then be tagged if the runner attempts to return to the plate; if the runner continues on the way to the bench, the defense may make an appeal.

A runner may no longer return to touch a missed base—home plate or otherwise after having entered the dugout. On a “No Touch/No Tag” play, the runner is permitted to return to touch home plate when the ball is dead as long as there are less than three outs and/or a following runner has not scored.

If two runners arrive at home plate about the same time and the first runner misses home plate but the second runner legally touches the plate, the first runner may not return to retouch home plate and may be put out on appeal. If the appeal on the runner is sustained for the third out of the inning, neither run scores. See Official Baseball Rule 5.09(c)(2) Approved Ruling (A) [former Rule 7.10(b) Approved Ruling (1)].

32. RUNNER HIT BY INFIELD FLY

Rule 5.09(b)(7):

Under rule 7.08(f), any runner is out when — he is touched by a fair ball in fair territory before the ball has touched or passed an infielder. The ball is dead and no runner may score, nor runners advance, except runners forced to advance.

If an infield fly touches a runner not on his or her base, both the runner and batter are out. The ball is dead and runners may not advance.

33. RUNNERS PASSING

Rule 5.09(b)(9)

Runners passing are not protected from being called out in accordance with Rule 5.09(b)(9) by time being called or other dead ball situation (i.e. ground-rule double, home run, etc.) if they are still in the act of running the bases.

34. RUNNER MISSES HOME PLATE**Rules 5.09(b)(12), 5.09(c)(2), 5.09(b)(5):**

Rule 5.09(b)(12) states that should a runner, in scoring, fail to touch home plate and continue on the way to the bench (making no effort to return), the runner may be put out by the fielder touching home plate and appealing to the umpire for a decision. However, this rule applies only where a runner is on the way to the bench and the catcher would be required to chase the runner. It does not apply to the ordinary play where the runner misses the plate and then immediately makes an effort to touch the plate before being tagged. In that case, the runner must be tagged. In such cases, base path rules still apply to the runner (i.e., he may not run more than three feet from the “base path” between him and home plate).

On a play at the plate, should the runner miss home plate and the fielder miss the tag on the runner, it is preferable that the umpire make **no signal** on the play. As outlined in the previous paragraph, the runner must then be tagged if the runner attempts to return to the plate; if the runner continues on the way to the bench, the defense may make an appeal.

A runner may no longer return to touch a missed base—home plate or other- wise—after having entered the dugout.

If two runners arrive at home plate about the same time and the first runner misses home plate but the second runner legally touches the plate, the first runner may not return to retouch home plate and may be put out on appeal. If the appeal on the runner is sustained for the third out of the inning, neither run scores. See Official Baseball Rule 5.09(c)(2) Approved Ruling (A).

35. APPEAL PLAYS—APPROVED RULINGS**Rule 5.09(c)**

Runner on first, one out. The batter doubles. Runner on first rounds the bases and tries for home. On the play at the plate, the catcher misses the tag and runner misses the plate in sliding by. As the catcher begins to chase the runner to apply a tag, the batter-runner tries for third base. Seeing this, the catcher throws to the third baseman, who retires the batter-runner. May the defensive team still appeal at home on the runner originally on first?

Ruling: Yes. The catcher’s play on the batter- runner at third base was still part of the

continuous action created by and following the batted ball. Therefore, the defensive team would not lose its rights to make an appeal by playing on the runner at home or the batter-runner at third and may still appeal at home.

- (1) Runner on first base, one out. The pitcher attempts a pickoff but throws the ball past the first baseman down the right field line. Runner misses second base but tries for third. The right fielder's throw to get the runner at third base is too late, although the runner is tagged by the third baseman. May the defense appeal at second base that the runner missed it?

Ruling: Yes. The third baseman's attempted play on the runner at third base was still part of the continuous action created by and following the aborted pick-off throw. Therefore, the defensive team does not lose its right to make its appeal by playing on the runner at third base and may still appeal.

- (2) Runners on first and third, two out. The pitcher's next pitch is a wild pitch back to the screen. While the ball is being chased down, the runner on third crosses the plate. Runner from first misses second base but tries for third. The catcher's throw to third base gets past the third baseman, and the runner tries to score. The shortstop, backing up third, attempts to throw the runner out at the plate, but the catcher's tag is too late and the runner is ruled safe. May the defensive team still appeal at second base on the runner originally on first?

Ruling: Yes. The defensive team's attempted plays on the runner originally on first at third and home were still part of the continuous action created by and following the wild pitched ball. Therefore, the defensive team does not lose its right to make its appeal by attempting these plays and may still appeal at second base on the runner originally on first.

- (3) Runner on first, one out. The batter singles. Runner from first misses second base and advances to third without a play. The ball comes into the infield and is returned to the pitcher. The pitcher stretches, comes to a set position, and then legally steps off the rubber to start an appeal at second base. The original runner from first (now on third) breaks for home as the defense starts its appeal. The pitcher, instead of completing the appeal play, throws home to get the runner, but the tag is too late and the runner is ruled safe. May the defensive team still appeal at second base?

Ruling: No. The defensive team's attempt to retire the original runner at home occurred after a definite break in the original continuous action that was created by and followed the batted ball. Therefore, the defensive team lost its right to make any appeals once it made the play at home and may not appeal at second nor at any other base.

- (4) Runner on first, one out. Runner from first goes to third on a single but misses second base. Runner is safe at third on a sliding tag play. The ball is returned to the pitcher, who steps on the rubber, stretches, and comes to a set position. The defense intends to appeal, but the pitcher balks in stepping off the rubber. After the penalty is enforced, may the defense still appeal at second base on the original runner from first?

Ruling: No. The defense did not lose its right to appeal by playing on the runner originally on first at third base; that play was still part of the continuous action created by and following the batted ball. However, a balk is considered a play for the purpose of this section of the appeal rule. Because the defensive team cannot appeal following a play or attempted play, the pitcher's balk cost the defensive team its right to make an appeal. NOTE: The pitcher is not required to step off the rubber prior to throwing to a base to make an appeal (see Official Baseball Rule 5.07(a) [former OBR 8.01]).

- (5) Runner on second, one out. Runner from second attempts to score on a single but misses third base. Runner is safe at home on a sliding tag play. On the throw home, the batter-runner tries to take second and is safe there on a sliding tag play, as the catcher's throw is too late to retire the batter-runner. Time is called. The pitcher steps on the rubber, stretches, and comes to a set position. The defense intends to appeal at third on the runner originally on second. The pitcher legally steps back off the rubber, checks the runner at second base, and steps to throw to third for the appeal. The pitcher's throw, however, is wild and goes out of play. The runner on second is properly awarded home. May the defense still make its intended appeal at third on the runner originally on second when a new ball is put into play?

Ruling: No. The attempted plays to retire the runner originally on second at home and the batter-runner at second occurred during the continuous action that was created by and followed the batted ball and do not nullify the defensive team's right to make an appeal. However, once the defensive team "errs" (i.e., throws the ball out of play) in its attempt to appeal at third on the runner originally on second, it loses its right to make an appeal. Throwing the ball out of play in this situation is considered an attempted play that occurred after a definite break in the continuous action play.

- (6) No runners. The batter doubles but misses first base. Time is called. The pitcher steps on the rubber, stretches, and comes to a set position. The defense intends to appeal at first base. The pitcher legally steps off the rubber and checks the runner at second base. The pitcher's throw for the appeal gets past the first baseman but remains in play. The runner advances to third as the ball is being retrieved. May the defensive team still make its intended appeal at first base?

Ruling: Yes. Because the ball is live and in play, if the ball is retrieved and thrown back to first base immediately (i.e., no intervening play), the appeal is allowed.

- (7) Runner on first, one out. The batter singles. Runner on first misses second base but is safe at third on sliding tag play. Time is called. The pitcher steps on the rubber, stretches, and comes to a set position. The defense intends to appeal at second base. The pitcher legally steps off the rubber. Seeing this, the runner originally on first (now on third) bluffs as if to go home. The pitcher, now off the rubber, steps toward third and cocks his arm as if to throw but does not throw. May the defensive team still make its intended appeal at second base on the runner originally on first?

Ruling: Yes. The attempted play at third on the runner originally on first was still part of the continuous action created by and following the batted ball and therefore did not nullify the defensive team's right to make an appeal. The bluff by the pitcher (step and cocked arm) to check the runner at third is not considered a play or attempted play. Therefore, the defensive team may still attempt its intended appeal at second base.

- (8) Runner on first, one out. Batter hits a home run out of ballpark. Runner from first misses second and batter-runner misses first. After both runners cross the plate, the umpire puts new ball in play. Pitcher takes a position on the rubber, steps off, and intends to make an appeal at first base on the batter-runner. However, the pitcher's throw is wild and goes into the stands. The umpire then puts another ball into play, and the pitcher again takes a position on the rubber and steps off. This time the pitcher intends to make an appeal at second base on the runner originally on first. Should the umpire allow the appeal?

Ruling: No. If the pitcher throws the ball out of play when making an appeal, such act shall be considered an attempted play. No further appeal will be allowed on any

runner at any base.

- (9) Runners on first and third, one out. Runner from first is stealing on the pitch. Batter hits a fly ball to right field that is caught for the second out. Runner on third tags and scores after the catch. Runner from first tries to return to first base after the catch, but the right fielder's throw beats the runner to the bag and the runner is declared out for the third out of the inning. Runner from third base touched home plate before the third out was made at first base.

Ruling: Run counts. This is a time play, NOT a force play.

- (10) May a runner who has missed a base return to retouch the missed base after having entered the dugout?

Ruling: No.

- (11) Batter-runner hits a ground ball and beats the play at first base but misses the bag.

Ruling: The proper mechanic is for the umpire to make no call on the play because the batter-runner has not yet touched first base. If the defense appeals by tagging the runner (or base) and appealing that the runner missed first base before the runner returns to first base, the batter-runner would be declared out. Note also Official Baseball Rule 5.09(b)(12) Comment [former OBR 7.08(k) Comment].

- (12) *The following play occurred in a Major League game and leads to a number of questions regarding appeal plays. The rulings below provide insight into various regulations concerning appeals and awards.*

Play: Runner on first, no outs, hit-and-run. Batter hits a line drive which strikes the pitcher in the back, flies into the air, and is caught in flight by the third baseman for an out. The runner on first is nearly to second base when the ball is caught. The third baseman throws to first, attempting to double the runner off first base; however, his throw is wild and goes into the stands. At the time of the throw, the runner from first has not quite reached second base. When the ball goes out of play, the runner from first has rounded second base (touching second as he rounded it) and is several steps towards shortstop.

- (a) What is the proper award?

Ruling: Third base—two bases from the time of the pitch because this is the first play by an infielder.

- (b) What if the runner is beyond second base at the time of the throw? Is the award then home?

Ruling: No, the award is still third because the throw was the first play by an infielder.

- (c) In the original play may the runner go back and retouch first base while the ball is dead?

Ruling: Yes, provided he does so before touching third base (and provided he touches all bases in order, both returning and advancing). See Official Baseball Rule 5.09(c)(2) Approved Ruling (B) [former OBR 7.10(b) Approved Ruling (2)]. This is a key point. Because the runner left first base too soon, the runner must return and retouch first base. Because the ball is dead, the runner must return to first base before the runner touches the next base. The runner's "next base" is determined by the runner's position at the time the ball went out of play. At the time the ball went out of play, the runner was between second and third. Therefore, in this play, the runner must return and retouch first base before touching third.

- (d) May the runner return to first base to retouch after the runner touches third base?

Ruling: No. (See preceding question and ruling.)

- (e) What if the runner attempts to return to first base after the runner touches third base? Should the umpire stop the runner from doing so?

Ruling: No. The umpire should not intervene in any way other than to realize that after the runner has touched third, the runner's retouch of first base is meaningless. After touching third base, if the runner should attempt to retrace his steps while the ball is dead (from third, back to second, back to first, then to second, and finally to third), the umpire would not physically stop the runner from doing so. However, the runner's retouch of first base would not correct the fact the runner left too soon because when the ball is dead, the runner must correct his base-running error before he touches the next base. (Again, see Official Baseball Rule 5.09(c)(2) Approved Ruling (B) [former OBR 7.10(b) Approved Ruling (2)].)

- (f) In this play, when the ball went out of play, the runner was already past second.

Isn't the runner already a "base beyond" the base the runner left too soon? And therefore, the runner should not be able to return to first base because the runner has already reached second base, correct?

Ruling: No. The "base beyond" or "next base" is determined by the runner's position at the time the ball goes out of play. In this play, the runner's "next base" is third base.

- (g) In this play, how can the runner correct the fact the runner left first base too soon?

Ruling: When the ball is dead (out of play), the runner should stop advancing towards third and retrace his steps in order, touching second and then first (all before touching third base). The runner should then advance to third (his awarded base) by touching second and then third, in order.

- (h) If the runner goes directly to third base on the award (and does not retouch first base while the ball is dead), may the defense appeal the fact the runner left too soon at first?

Ruling: Yes, after the ball is put back in play, the defense may appeal by tagging the runner or first base. (See Official Baseball Rule 5.09(c)(1) [former OBR 7.10(a)].)

- (i) After the ball is back in play, may the defense put the runner out by appealing at second base?

Ruling: No. The runner may be put out only by tagging the runner or the base the runner left too soon. (See Official Baseball Rule 5.09(c)(1) [former OBR 7.10(a)].)

- (j) Doesn't the act of the succeeding appeal attempt? appeal?

third baseman throwing the ball out of play nullify a That is, hasn't the defense erred on its first attempt to

Ruling: No. The wild throw by the third baseman is part of the continuous action creat-

ed by the batter hitting the ball and does not nullify a subsequent appeal after the continuous action has ended.

- (k) Suppose the defense does appeal at second base, and the umpire declares the runner safe (after ascertaining what the defense is appealing). May the defense then appeal at first base?

Ruling: Yes, because an appeal itself is not considered a play or attempted play.

- (l) What if the defense appeals at first base, but the pitcher balks in making the appeal?

Ruling: No subsequent appeal would be allowed, because a balk is considered a play.

- (m) What if the defense appeals at first base, but the pitcher throws the ball into the stands?

Ruling: No subsequent appeal would be allowed, as this is considered an attempted play.

- (n) Can the second baseman back up the appeal play at first? **II**

Ruling: While the second baseman may run onto foul territory after the ball is put into play, the umpire may not put the ball in play until all fielders (other than the catcher) are on fair territory. See Official Baseball Rule 5.02 [former OBR 4.03].

- (o) What if the defense appeals at first base, but the pitcher throws wildly and the ball rolls down the right-field line?

Ruling: If the wild throw is retrieved and thrown back to first base immediately (i.e., no intervening play), the appeal would be allowed.

- (p) To begin the appeal, the pitcher steps off the rubber, then fakes a throw to third to bluff the runner back. Is this an attempted play?

Ruling: No.

- (q) When the pitcher steps off the rubber to start the appeal, the runner breaks for home. Pitcher throws to the catcher, and the runner gets in a rundown, ending up safely at third base. May the defense now appeal at first?

Ruling: No.

(r) May a runner return to touch a missed base after the third out? **Answer:** No.

Example: Runner on second base, two out. Batter hits a base hit but is thrown out attempting to reach second base. Runner originally on second crossed the plate before the third out but missed the plate. After the third out at second base, the runner who missed the plate then returns and touches the plate. Defense, before leaving the infield, then appeals at home.

Ruling: Initially the run scores (runner reached home plate before the third out). However, the defense's appeal is sustained and the runner is called out because no run may score after the third out is made. See Official Baseball Rule 5.08(a) [former OBR 4.09(a)].

In addition to the preceding approved rulings regarding appeal plays, the examples and plays found in the Comments to Official Baseball Rule 5.08 [former OBR 4.09] also pertain to appeal plays. In particular, plays found in that section of the Official Baseball Rules demonstrate the following three concepts:

- No run shall score during a play in which the third out is made by the batter-runner before the batter-runner touches first base.
- No run shall score during a play in which the third out is a force out. Following runners are not affected by an act of a preceding runner unless two are out.

36. RETOUCHING BASES WHILE BALL IS DEAD

Rule 5.09(c)(2):

While the ball is dead, no runner may return to touch a missed base or one he has left too soon after he has advanced to and touched a **base beyond** the missed base. A runner may return to a missed base (or one he has left too soon) during the time the ball is dead if he has not touched the **next base**. A runner may, of course, return to any missed base (or one he has left too soon) while the ball is in play unless a following runner has scored. See Approved Rulings (B) and (A) to Official Baseball Rule 5.09(c)(2).

The “ **next base**” or “**base beyond**” in this section refers to the position of the runner at the time the ball went out of play.

EXAMPLES:

(1) Batter hits a home run out of the ballpark or a ground-rule double and misses first base (ball is dead).

Ruling: The batter-runner may return to first base to correct the mistake before

touching second; but if the batter-runner touches second he may not return to first, and if defensive team appeals the batter-runner is declared out at first.

(2) Batter hits a ball to shortstop who throws wild into stands (ball is dead); batter-runner misses first base but is awarded second base on the overthrow.

Ruling: Even though the umpire has awarded the batter-runner second base on the overthrow, the batter-runner must touch first base before touching second. If the batter-runner does not return to first base before touching second, the batter-runner would be out on appeal at first.

(3) Batter hits single to right field and misses first base in rounding it. Right fielder makes quick throw to first baseman in an attempt to pick off the batter- runner, who has rounded the base. However, the right fielder's throw is wild and goes into the dugout.

Ruling: Batter-runner is awarded third base. However, the batter-runner must return to and touch first base before touching second. While the ball is dead, the batter-runner may return to first base to correct the error before touching second; but if the batter-runner touches second he may not return to first, and if the defensive team appeals, the batter-runner is declared out at first.

(4) Runner on second base, no outs. Batter hits fly ball to right field that is caught for the first out. Runner at second base leaves too soon. Runner slides into third base safely, but the right fielder's throw goes into the dugout.

Ruling: Runner is awarded home. However, while the ball is dead the runner must return to and retouch second base. Furthermore, because the runner had already reached third base before the ball went out of play, the runner must return to second base before touching home (his next base). If the runner touches home, the runner may not return to second, and if the defense appeals the runner is declared out at second.

(5) Runners on first and second, one out. Batter hits deep fly ball that is caught by right fielder. The runner from second was running when the ball was hit, did not tag up, and proceeds to touch and round third base. After the runner from second has rounded third base, the right fielder throws behind the runner from first, who is returning to first base. The fielder's throw is wild and goes out of play. The umpires call “Time” and award the

runners home and third. When the umpires call "Time" the runner from second is between third and home, and the runner from first is between first and second. At this point the manager yells to the runner from second (who is between third and home) to go back and tag up at second base. Is this permissible, or is the runner considered a "base beyond" the base the runner left too soon?

Ruling : It **is** permissible for the runner to return to second base while the ball is dead. When the ball went out of play the runner originally on second base was past third (between third and home). The runner 's "next base" is therefore home. While the ball is dead the runner may return to second base and retouch at any time prior to touching home plate. However, if the runner advances to and touches home while the ball is dead, the runner may **not** return.

(6)Runner on first, one out. Hit-and-run. Batter hits a line drive to the shortstop, who catches the ball for the second out. Shortstop 's throw to first is wild and goes into the stands. Runner originally on first is between first and second when the wild throw is made and goes out of play.

Ruling: Runner is awarded third. However, while the ball is dead, the runner must return to and retouch first base before touching second on the way to third. If the runner touches second, the runner may not return to first, and if the defensive team appeals the runner is declared out at first.

(7)Runner on first, hit-and-run. Batter hits a fly ball to left field that is caught. The runner touches second in advancing but misses second on the way back to first. The throw back to first base is wild and goes into the stands. When the wild throw was made the runner was between first and second.

Ruling: Runner is awarded third base. If the runner retouches first and then second in advancing to the awarded base, the runner's failure to touch second base in returning to first is "corrected" under the theory that touching the base the "last time by" corrects any previous error.

37. SUBSTITUTIONS

Rule 5.10:

A player or players may be substituted during a game at any time the ball is dead. A substitution is completed and the player is considered as having entered the game when the manager or his designee notifies the plate umpire of the substitution. If no such notification is given to the umpire or after notification no announcement is made, the player shall be considered as having entered the game when:

- (1) If a pitcher, he takes his place on the pitcher's plate prior to delivering a pitch (preparatory or otherwise);
- (2) If a batter, he takes his place in the batter's box;
- (3) If a fielder, he reaches the position usually occupied by the fielder he has replaced, and **play commences**;
- (4) If a runner, he takes the place of the runner he has replaced.

Umpires should confirm all substitutes from the manager and inform the opposing manager of all substitutes.

NOTE: If a pitcher has been brought into the game but has not faced one batter (or retired the side) when the game is stopped for weather, such pitcher may, but is not required to, continue pitching when the game is resumed.

Refer also to Official Baseball Rule 5.10 for additional information concerning substitutions.

38. MULTIPLE SUBSTITUTIONS AND DOUBLE-SWITCHES

Rule 5.10(b) Comment:

When a manager makes two or more substitutions at the same time, the manager must, **at the same moment**, advise the plate umpire of the names of the substitutes, their defensive positions, and in what place each will hit in the batting order. The manager cannot give notice of one of the substitutions, leave the umpire, come back to the plate umpire, and then locate the other player in the lineup. In case the manager fails or refuses to make a decision, the plate umpire is authorized to decide the necessary batting order changes, and the umpire's decision is final.

Play: A manager goes to the mound and talks with the pitcher. The plate umpire goes out to break up the conference, and while on the mound the manager informs the umpire that the manager wishes to make a double-switch.

Ruling: Legal, provided the manager has not signaled to the bullpen prior to informing the umpire of the multiple substitution.

A manager may give the umpire a double-switch while defensive players are entering the playing field. However, in the unlikely event that an unannounced pitcher takes a position on the pitching rubber before the manager confers with the umpire, Official Baseball Rule 5.10(j)(1) provides such pitcher to have entered the game. In such case, a subsequent attempt by the manager to make a double-switch shall not be allowed.

Again, the opposing manager should be informed of multiple substitutions and should be given the proper batting position of each substitution.

39. PITCHER CHANGING DEFENSIVE POSITIONS Rule 5.10(d) Comment:

Under the Comment to Official Baseball Rule 5.10(d), a pitcher may change to a defensive position other than pitcher only **once** an inning. In other words, a pitcher may change to another defensive position and then return to the mound during the same inning, but after so doing he may not leave the mound again in that inning (unless, of course, he is removed from the game). If such a pitcher returns to the mound during the same inning the new pitcher may take as many as 8 warm up pitches.

40. ON-DECK CIRCLE**Rule 5.10(k):**

The next batter up must be in the on-deck circle, and this is the only player who should be there (i.e., not more than one player at a time). No other player of the side at bat will be permitted on the field except the batter, base runners, and coaches.

41. TRIPS TO THE MOUND**Rule 5.10(L):**

A second trip to the mound to the same pitcher in the same inning by a manager or coach will cause that pitcher's removal **from the pitching position**.

The manager or coach is prohibited from making a second visit to the mound while the same hitter is at bat, but if a pinch hitter is substituted for this batter, the manager or coach may then make a second visit to the mound, but must then remove the pitcher.

For the purpose of this rule, a batter's time at bat begins the moment the preceding batter is put out or becomes a base runner.

A trip to the mound begins when the manager or coach crosses the foul line. The trip ends when the manager or coach leaves the 18-foot circle surrounding the pitcher's rubber.

A consequence of the rule regarding trips to the mound is that once a manager or coach has completed a trip to the mound, the pitcher then pitching must continue pitching to the batter then at bat (or retire the side) **unless** a pinch hitter is substituted or unless one of the following situations applies:

(1) If a game becomes suspended during a manager's or coach's trip to the mound (or after the trip but while the same batter is still at bat), a new pitcher may be substituted when the game is later resumed.

(2) If a rain delay occurs during a manager's or coach's trip to the mound (or after the trip but while the same batter is still at bat), a new pitcher may be substituted when the game is resumed following the rain delay.

If the manager or coach goes to the catcher or an infielder and that player then goes to the mound—or the pitcher goes to that player's position—before there is an intervening play (a pitch or other play), that will be the same as the manager or coach going to the mound.

If a catcher or other player goes to the dugout or manager and then immediately to the mound, that will be deemed a trip.

If a pitcher is removed and the manager or coach remains to talk to the new pitcher, this is not charged as a visit to the new pitcher.

If a coach goes to the mound and removes a pitcher and then the manager goes to the mound to talk with the new pitcher, that will constitute one trip to that new pitcher that inning.

If a manager changes pitchers and leaves the mound, he (or a coach) **may** come out again to visit the pitcher **while the same batter is at bat**, but this will constitute one trip to that new pitcher that inning.

If the manager and pitcher are both ejected at the same time, a coach or acting manager may visit the mound to meet with the new pitcher prior to play resuming without a trip being charged—provided that the manager who has been ejected has not already conferred with and left the new pitcher.

For example, if the pitcher and manager are both ejected and a new pitcher takes the mound alone, a coach may come out of the dugout and go to the mound while the new pitcher is warming up without a trip being charged. On the other hand, if the ejected manager remains on the mound until the new pitcher arrives, a subsequent visit to the new pitcher by a member of the coaching staff prior to resumption of play constitutes a trip to the new pitcher.

If a manager or coach's conference with the pitcher takes place on the **grass** (i.e., off the dirt of the mound), this constitutes a trip. If a manager or coach confers with the pitcher on the grass (or the meeting "moves" from the dirt to the grass), the trip ends when the manager or coach "breaks" from the meeting. He must then keep going and not return to the pitcher.

Any attempt—in the umpire's judgment—to circumvent this rule shall be deemed a trip. In a case where a manager or coach has made his first trip to the mound and then attempts to return a second time to the mound in the same inning with the same pitcher in the game and **the same batter at bat**, he shall be **warned** by the umpire that this is not permitted. If the manager or coach ignores such warning, the manager or coach shall

be removed from the game and the pitcher required to pitch to the batter then at bat until such batter is retired or gets on base (or the side is retired). After the batter is retired, or becomes a base runner (or the side is retired), then this pitcher must be removed from the game. The manager should be notified that the pitcher will be removed from the game after pitching to one hitter, in order that the manager can have a substitute pitcher warmed up. The new pitcher may take up to eight (8) warm up pitches if he desires prior to the resumption of the game.

NOTE : If through umpire oversight or inability to warn the manager or coach, the manager or coach is inadvertently allowed to go to the mound a second time while the same batter is at bat (**without the manager or coach being warned** that he cannot do so), the pitcher then pitching will be required to pitch to the batter then at bat until the batter is retired or gets on base (or the side is retired). After the batter is retired or becomes a base runner (or the side is retired), this pitcher must then be removed from the game. **However**, because the umpire did not **warn** the manager or coach that a second trip to the mound was not permitted while the same batter was at bat, the manager or coach is **NOT** ejected from the game in this situation. It is only when the manager or coach ignores the umpire's warning of no second trip that the ejection applies.

The manager may request permission from the umpire to visit the mound in case of injury or illness of the pitcher, and with permission granted it will not be counted as a visit to the mound. The plate umpire shall accompany the manager or coach in such situations and remain in the vicinity of the conference to ensure this regulation is not abused. The opposing manager is to be informed at the conclusion of the conference that this was not a trip. The umpire has the sole authority to count or "wave off " the trip. A trainer does not have to accompany the manager to the mound for the umpire to "wave off " the trip.

In the case of a player-manager, in the judgment of the umpire any visit to the mound will constitute a trip. The umpire shall notify the player-manager and the opposing manager each time a trip is charged.

In the case of a player-coach, while playing the coach will be treated as a player until he is considered to have abused the privilege. If, in the judgment of the umpire, the privilege is abused, the player-coach and his manager will be advised that any future visits to the mound will be charged as trips.

42. DESIGNATED HITTER

Rule 5.11:

The designated hitter rule is covered thoroughly in Official Baseball Rule 5.11. Additional interpretations are included below:

- If a defensive player goes to the mound (i.e., replaces the pitcher), this move shall terminate the designated hitter's role for the remainder of the game.
- The designated hitter may not sit in the bullpen unless serving as a catcher in the bullpen.

43. TEMPORARY FAILURE OF LIGHTS

Rule 5.12(b)(2):

The Note to Official Baseball Rule 5.12(b) states that a league may adopt its own regulations governing games interrupted by light failure. The following are the regulations to be adopted:

In the event of a temporary failure of lights while a ball is in flight or a play is in progress and the umpires are not able to follow the play because of the light failure, the umpires will immediately call "Time." If a play is in progress when such light failure occurs and further action is possible, the entire play shall be nullified. When the lights are restored, play shall resume with the same situation as existed at the start of the play that was interrupted by the light failure.

NOTE: If runners are being awarded bases at the time of light failure, after the lights have been restored runners are allowed to run bases in accordance with base-running rules.

Play : Batter hits ball out of ballpark for home run. After the ball has left the park and runners are rounding the bases, light failure occurs.

Ruling: When the lights are restored, runners are allowed to run bases in accordance with base-running rules.

44. OFFENSIVE INTERFERENCE

Rule 6.01, Definitions of Terms (Interference(a)):

While contact may occur between a fielder and runner during a tag attempt, a runner is not allowed to use his hands or arms to commit an obviously malicious or unsportsman-like act—such as grabbing, tackling, intentionally slapping at the baseball, punching, kicking, flagrantly using his arms or forearms, etc.—to commit an intentional act of interference unrelated to running the bases. Further, if in the judgment of the umpire such intentional act was to prevent a double play, the umpire would rule the batter-runner out as well.

45. INTERFERENCE WITH INTERVENING PLAY Rule 6.01(a):

Play: Play at the plate on runner attempting to score; runner is called safe. A following play is made on the batter-runner, who is called out for interference outside the three-foot lane.

Ruling : With less than two out, the run scores and batter-runner is out. With two out, the run does not count. The reasoning is that an intervening play occurred before the interference. Runners would return to base last legally touched at the time of interference. However, with two out, the runner reached home on a play in which the batter-runner was out before reaching first base. (See also last paragraph in Rule 6.01(a).)

46. BATTER INTERFERES AFTER THIRD STRIKE NOT CAUGHT

Rule 6.01(a)(1):

See Official Baseball Rule 6.01(a)(1) and associated Comment regarding situations where the batter-runner, after a dropped third strike, interferes with the catcher attempting to field the ball. Rule 6.01(a)(1) was changed for the 2013 season, and the previous interpretation of this rule is no longer valid. Under the new rule, it no longer matters if the batter is in the vicinity of home plate or up the first baseline when the infraction occurs. If, in the umpire's judgment the batter-runner "clearly hinders the catcher in his attempt to field the ball," the batter-runner is declared out, the ball is dead, and runner(s) return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch. The location of the batter-runner is no longer relevant.

47. INTENTIONALLY DEFLECTING COURSE OF BALL

Rule 6.01(a)(2):

Official Baseball Rule 6.01(a)(2) provides that the batter or runner is out for interference if

he intentionally "deflects the course of a foul ball in any manner." While picking up a foul ball or otherwise touching it may not, by such act itself, actually deflect the course of the ball, an umpire may judge such act as deflecting the course of the ball if, in the umpire's judgment, the ball might have become a fair ball had it not been touched.

It would be better if no member of the offensive team picked up or otherwise touched a foul ball. There is no objection to a coach returning a foul ball to the umpire after it has passed first or third base, but the coach should not touch a ball that possibly may go fair. (See also Official Baseball Rule 5.09(a)(9).)

48. WILLFUL AND DELIBERATE INTERFERENCE

Rules 6.01(a)(6), 6.01(a)(7), 6.01(a)(5), 5.09(a)(13), 5.09(b)(3), 6.01(j)

Rules 6.01(a)(6) and 6.01(a)(7) were added to the Official Baseball Rules to add an additional penalty when a base runner or a batter-runner deliberately and intentionally interferes with a batted ball or a fielder in the act of fielding a batted ball to deprive the defensive team of an opportunity to complete a possible double play. Keep in mind the rules provide that the runner or batter-runner must interfere with the **obvious attempt to break up a double play**.

Rule 5.09(a)(13) was added to the Official Baseball Rules “to penalize the offensive team for deliberate, unwarranted, unsportsmanlike action by the runner in leaving the baseline for the obvious purpose of crashing the pivot man on a double play rather than trying to reach the base.”

If, in the judgment of the umpire, a runner willfully and deliberately interferes with a fielder attempting to catch a thrown ball or attempting to throw a ball with the obvious intent to deprive the defense of the opportunity to make a double play, the umpire shall declare the runner out for interference and shall also declare the batter-runner out for the interference of his teammate.

NOTE: A runner should not be called out for unintentional interference if he has contact with a legally occupied base when he inadvertently hinders the fielder. See Rule 6.01(a) Interference Penalty (Comment) for cases when such interference by the runner is intentional while in contact with a legally occupied base.

GUIDELINES FOR ENFORCEMENT OF RULE 6.01(j) (SLIDE RULE):

For the purposes of this rule, the runner’s “pathway” shall be the direct route from his initial starting position to the next base. A runner who makes a clear and distinct change in his route to the base shall be judged to have changed his pathway. Conversely, a runner who runs in a straight path or angles his pathway over the course of his entire route to the base shall not be considered to have changed his pathway. For example, a runner who starts from the infield side of the base and angles his pathway to result on the outfield side of the base shall not be judged to have changed his pathway.

A slide shall be deemed appropriate, in the case of a feet first slide, if the runner’s buttocks and legs should hit the ground before contact with the base. In the case of a head first slide, a runner shall be deemed to have slid appropriately if his body should hit the ground before contact with the base. These parameters are from Rule 6.01(i)(1) Comment to the Collisions at Home Plate.

A runner may slide sideways into a base and extend his legs toward a fielder as part of a bona fide slide described in Rule 6.01(j).

When making a determination that a runner violated Rule 6.01(j) by failing to engage in a “bona fide slide” and making (or attempting to make) contact with a fielder while hindering or impeding him from attempting to turn a double play (at any base), the interfer-

ence is to be signaled by the umpire pointing laterally at the interference while loudly and clearly stating, "That's interference!" The umpires shall allow play to continue until the initial throw after the interference. At that moment, the umpires shall call "Time" and impose the penalty for interference. If the "initial" throw is not completed the umpires should call time immediately.

EXAMPLES:

1. Bases loaded, no outs, ground ball to shortstop. Anticipating a double play, runner from second intentionally crashes into the shortstop and grabs him just as the shortstop is beginning a throw to second.

Ruling: Runner from second is guilty of willfully and deliberately interfering with a fielder with the obvious intent to deprive the defense of the opportunity to make a double play. The runner from second is declared out and so is the batter-runner. Runners return to first and third.

2. Runners on first and third, no outs. Runner on first is stealing as batter hits a ground ball to shortstop. Anticipating a double play, runner from first intentionally rolls into and grabs the second baseman who is covering second and waiting for the throw from the shortstop.

Ruling: Runner on first has not made a "bona fide slide" because of his intentional actions to roll into and initiate contact with the fielder by throwing his arm to grab him. This is interference and the runner from first is declared out and so is the batter-runner. Runner returns to third.

3. Bases loaded, no outs, ground ball to shortstop. The shortstop's throw to second retires the runner from first. However, anticipating a double play, the runner from first intentionally slides out of the base line and crashes into the second baseman just as the second baseman is beginning a throw to first base. Runner is not able to reach second base with his hand or foot.

Ruling: Runner has not made a "bona fide slide" as he was not about to reach the base with his hand or foot and changed his pathway for the purpose of initiating contact with the fielder. Batter-runner is declared out for runner's interference, and runners return to second and third. Note in this example that if the runner had not been ruled out at second (i.e., if the throw pulled the fielder off the bag) and the runner had still intentionally interfered in the manner described, both such runner and the batter-runner would be declared out.

4. Runner on first, no outs. Batter hits a ground ball to the second baseman, who attempts to tag the runner. However, the runner, in the judgment of the umpire, intentionally tries to slap the ball out of the fielder's glove, or tackles or grabs hold of the fielder so that the fielder is not able to make a play.

Ruling: The runner has willfully and deliberately interfered with a fielder with the obvious intent

to prevent a double play. Runner from first is declared out and so is the batter-runner.

In interference plays of this nature, the umpire shall be governed by the intent of the base runner. If the umpire judges that the runner willfully and deliberately interfered with the obvious intent to deprive the defense of the opportunity to make a double play, the umpire shall declare both the runner and batter-runner out. If this is not the case, the umpire shall declare only the runner out. Note, however, that if the runner has already been put out, then the runner on whom the defense was attempting to make a play shall be declared out. See Official Baseball Rule 6.01(a)(5).

49. FIELDER PROTECTED WHILE MAKING A PLAY Rule 6.01(a)(10) [former rule 7.09(j)]:

Note that under the Official Baseball Rules, a fielder is protected while in the act of fielding a batted ball. If, after a player has fielded a batted ball but before he is able to throw the ball, a runner hinders or impedes such fielder, the runner shall be called out for interference. Furthermore, a runner who is judged to have hindered a fielder who is attempting to make a play on a batted ball is out whether the hindrance was intentional or not.

50. SPECTATOR INTERFERENCE

Rule 6.01(e) and Comment [former Rule 3.16]:

The umpire shall call spectator interference by first signaling and calling "Time" (both hands overhead) to halt play and then grasping the left wrist with right hand (held above the head) to indicate spectator interference.

When there is intentional interference with a ball in play, either by a spectator or by a person permitted on the playing field (as covered in Official Baseball Rule 6.01(d) [former OBR 3.15]), the ball is dead the instant the interference occurs. The umpire who calls the interference (any umpire may call it) should consult with other umpires to determine what reasonably might have happened had the interference not occurred.

The spectator interference rule states specifically that the umpire shall impose such penalty or penalties as in the umpire's judgment will nullify the act of interference, and the ball is dead the instant the interference occurs.

For the purposes of Rule 6.01(e) [Former Rule 3.16 Comment]: If a spectator touches the ball while beyond the front of a padded wall (regardless of whether the padding reaches the top of the concrete fence; i.e., onto the field of play), such act shall constitute spectator interference. The ball becomes dead at the moment of the interference

and the umpire shall impose such penalties as in his opinion will nullify the act of interference.

A padded wall attached to a concrete fence shall be considered part of the fence; provided that the padding is designed to reach the top of the fence. (However, if such padding does not reach the top of the fence, and instead the top of the fence is higher and recessed back from the top of the padding attached to it, then the padding shall be considered "part of the playing field"). If a batted, thrown or pitched ball should land on top of the padded wall it is alive and in play. If a player can reach the ball on top of the padded wall it stays alive and in play. If a player cannot reach the ball, then it is considered "out of play." Fair fly balls striking the top of the outfield wall shall continue to be governed by Rule interpretation #9) Umpire Manual.

Note that on non-home run boundary areas, any batted, thrown or pitched ball that hits, rolls or stops on the top of the wall or fence (including the padding attached along the stands) is alive and in play. If, however, such batted, thrown or pitched ball has not yet entered into the stands and is touched by a spectator, it shall be deemed "out of play" and not "spectator interference."

It is possible to have spectator interference on a ball pitched to the batter. If a wild pitch does not go into the stands but remains in play and is interfered with by a spectator, the spectator interference penalty shall apply.

The very nature of the game requires different consideration of what may at first seem the same play (dimensions of the ball park, speed of runner, etc.). The umpires should consider all factors in determining penalties for spectator interference. Refer also to Official Baseball Rule 6.01(e) [former OBR 3.16].

51. OBSTRUCTION MECHANIC

Rule 6.01(h):

There are two types of obstruction and a different mechanic is used with each type.

1 The first type of obstruction (Official Baseball Rule 6.01(h)(1)) deals with cases when **the runner is obstructed WHILE a play is being made on such runner.**

Examples of this type of obstruction include:

- (1) Runner is obstructed during a rundown.
- (2) Runner is obstructed as a fielder is making a direct throw to a base in an attempt to retire that runner.
- (3) Batter-runner is obstructed before reaching first base on a ground ball to an infielder.
- (4) Any other example where a play is being made directly on the runner at the moment the runner is obstructed.

This type of obstruction is to be signaled by the umpire immediately calling "Time" (both hands overhead) and then pointing laterally at the obstruction while calling loudly and clearly, "That's obstruction." The ball is dead immediately under this section of the obstruction rule, and all runners shall be awarded bases they would have reached had there been no obstruction. Furthermore, the obstructed runner shall be awarded at least one base beyond his last legally touched base at the time of obstruction.

Note that this section of the obstruction rule (i.e., runner obstructed while play being made on such runner) also provides for cases when a **thrown ball is in flight at the moment the obstruction occurs**. In such cases, the umpire shall take into consideration the results of the throw when making the award. As an example, if a throw is in flight at the moment the obstruction occurs (umpire calls "Time") and if the throw turns out to be wild and goes out of play, all runners will be awarded **two bases** (even though the umpire had called "Time" before the ball went out of play). In such cases as this, the umpires have the responsibility of determining whether a throw is made **before** or **after** the obstruction. If the umpire judges that a throw was made after the obstruction, the obstructed runner will be awarded only **one base** from the base such runner last touched at the time of obstruction.

2 The second type of obstruction (Official Baseball Rule 6.01(h)(2)) deals with cases when **the runner is obstructed while NO PLAY is being made on such runner**. Examples of this type of obstruction include:

- (1) Batter-runner is obstructed in rounding first base on a base hit while the ball is in the outfield.
- (2) Batter-runner is obstructed before reaching first base on a ball hit to the outfield.
- (3) Runner from first steals second; catcher's throw is wild and goes into center field; runner is obstructed in attempting to advance to third base. Ball is loose in the outfield when obstruction occurs.
- (4) Runner from second is obstructed while rounding third base on a hit to the outfield.
- (5) Any other example where no play is being made directly on the runner at the moment he is obstructed.

Under this section of the obstruction rule, the obstruction is to be signaled by the umpire pointing laterally at the obstruction while calling loudly and clearly, "That's obstruction." The ball is not dead, however, and the umpire shall allow play to continue *until all play has ceased and no further action is possible* (see exception in NOTE (1) below). At that moment, the umpire shall call "Time" and impose such penalties, if any, that in the umpire's judgment will nullify the act of obstruction. It is important to note that in cases occurring under this section of the obstruction rule, the umpire shall not call "Time" until all

action has ceased and no further play ~~is possible~~.

NOTE (1): If a runner is obstructed under this second section of the obstruction rule, play is to proceed to completion—even if it results in a play later being made on the runner who was previously obstructed. **However**, if such a play on a previously obstructed runner results in that runner actually being tagged **out** before reaching the base to which such runner would have been awarded because of the obstruction, the umpire shall in that case call “Time” at the moment the runner is **tagged out**. The umpire shall then impose such penalties that will nullify the obstruction, which will include, of course, the obstructed runner being awarded the base to which such runner would be entitled because of the obstruction.

NOTE (2): Runner Obstructed While No Play Being Made on Him. In determining what base a runner will be awarded under this second section of the obstruction rule, it is permissible for the umpire to consider the position and speed of the runner, ball, and fielder at the moment the obstruction occurs. However, the ultimate decision in placing the runners shall not be made until all play has ceased and shall be based on the principle that the obstructed runner will be entitled to the base such runner would have reached had no obstruction occurred

NOTE (3): If a runner is obstructed while no play is being made on him, the umpire making the call should have the benefit of input of his partners in determining what bases, if any, shall be awarded to the obstructed runner. In other words, the crew may confer in order to determine what reasonably might have happened had the obstruction not occurred.

EXAMPLE:

Play: Batter-runner hits a fair ball down the right field line and is obstructed in rounding first base. At the moment the obstruction occurs, the right fielder has not yet fielded the ball, and it appears at that moment that the batter-runner will end up with a stand-up double. However, as play proceeds, the ball gets by the right fielder, and the batter-runner continues on to third. The batter-runner is then thrown out at third base on a very close play.

Ruling: Because it is permissible for the umpire to consider the position of the runner, ball, and fielder at the moment the obstruction occurs, the umpire may initially plan on “protecting” the batter-runner as far as second base. However, as play continued, it became apparent that had the batter-runner not been obstructed in rounding first base, the batter-runner would have reached third safely. Therefore, the moment the batter-runner

is tagged out at third base, “Time” is called and the batter-runner is awarded third on the obstruction. This decision is made on the principle that the umpire, in making awards on this type of obstruction, shall allow play to continue until no further action is possible and then shall make awards—if any—that will nullify the obstruction. In this example, if the umpire felt that the obstruction had no bearing on the fact that the batter-runner was thrown out at third, the out would stand.

52. BATTER-RUNNER OBSTRUCTED BEFORE REACHING FIRST BASE

Rule 6.01(h)(1):

When the batter-runner is obstructed before reaching first base, it is not always the case that the batter-runner will be awarded first base on this type of obstruction. For example, if the batter-runner is obstructed before reaching first base on a fly ball or line drive that is **caught**, the batter-runner is **out**. The reasoning here is that the obstruction had no bearing on the fact that the batter hit a fly ball that was caught by the defense. Similarly, should the batter-runner be obstructed before reaching first base on a **foul ball** not caught, the **foul ball** prevails. Again, the reasoning is that the obstruction had nothing to do with the fact that the batter hit a foul ball.

Situations where the batter-runner is obstructed before reaching first base can generally be divided into three cases. Again note that in this type of obstruction, it is **not** always the case that “Time” is called immediately and the batter-runner awarded first base.

Case 1: Batter-runner is obstructed before reaching first base on a **ground ball** to an infielder. It appears that the infielder will have an easy play on the ball.

Ruling: This is obstruction under Official Baseball Rule 6.01(h)(1). “Time” is called immediately and batter-runner is awarded first base.

Case 2: Batter-runner is obstructed before reaching first base on a **pop-up or line drive** to an infielder.

Ruling: Call the obstruction by pointing at the obstruction and calling, “That’s obstruction.” However, leave the ball in play. If the pop-up or line drive is caught, batter-runner is out. However, if the pop-up or line drive is dropped (and is a fair ball) and if the batter-runner has not yet reached first base when the ball is dropped, “Time” is called and the batter-runner is awarded first base under Official Baseball Rule 6.01(h)(1). Other runners would be awarded bases they would have reached had no obstruction occurred. (In this case, the play reverts back to Case 1 above.) On the other hand, if the batter-runner has clearly reached (or rounded) first base when the fly ball is dropped, play is allowed to continue until no further action is possible with the umpire then making awards—if any—that will nullify the obstruction.

Case 3: Batter-runner is obstructed before reaching first base on a **ball hit to the outfield**.

Ruling: Call the obstruction by pointing at the obstruction and calling, “That’s obstruction”; however, leave the ball in play until all action has ceased. Then call “Time” and impose such penalties, if any, that will nullify the act of obstruction. If a fly ball is

caught in this situation, batter-runner is out. If the batted ball was a fair ball not caught, the batter-runner will always be “protected” at least to first base.

53. OBSTRUCTION AND INTERFERENCE PLAYS — APPROVED RULINGS

Rules 6.01(h)(1), 6.01(h)(2), 6.01, 5.02(c):

(1) Runner on first base; batter-runner gets in rundown between **II** home and first. Can obstruction be called going back to home?

Ruling: No, unless the obstruction is intentional.

NOTE: In situations where the batter-runner gets in a rundown between first and home, if the batter-runner retreats and **reaches** home plate, the batter-runner shall be declared out.

(2) Batter-runner is obstructed before reaching first base with no play being made on him (for example, on a ball hit to the outfield).

Ruling: Call the obstruction by pointing at the infraction and calling, “That’s obstruction”; however, leave the ball in play until the play is over. Then impose such penalties, if any, that will nullify the act of obstruction. If fly ball is caught in this situation, the batter-runner is out. If the batted ball was a fair ball not caught, the batter-runner will always be “protected” at least to first base.

(3) Runner is on second base when the batter-runner is obstructed after reaching first base. The umpire intends to award the batter-runner second base on the obstruction. What happens to the runner on second?

Ruling: Runner on second is awarded third base.

(4) With bases loaded, batter hits a sharp ground ball that deflects off of the shortstop and starts to roll away from him. As the shortstop starts to go after the ball, the runner from second collides with the shortstop.

Ruling: After the ball deflects off the shortstop, if the ball is within the fielder’s **immediate reach**, the runner must avoid the fielder, and if contact occurs under those circumstances, interference shall be called and the runner declared out. (In this situation the fielder is still considered “in the act of fielding” the ball and has not “missed” as described in the Comment to Official Baseball Rule 6.01(h).) However, if the ball is **not**

within reach of the fielder after it deflects off the fielder (i.e., the fielder must chase after the ball), the fielder must then avoid the runner, and if contact occurs under those circumstances, obstruction shall be called under Official Baseball Rule 6.01(h)(2).

(5)With a runner on first base, the batter hits a line drive back to the pitcher that deflects off of the pitcher's glove and rolls towards the second baseman. As the second baseman is attempting to field the ball, the runner from first collides with the second baseman.

Ruling: In the judgment of the umpire, if the second baseman has a legitimate play on the ball, the runner from first is called out for interference. The ball is dead at the moment of interference, and the batter-runner is placed at first base (provided the interference was not intentional; if intentional, both runner and batter-runner are declared out). However, if the umpire rules that the second baseman does not have a legitimate play on the ball (i.e., the second baseman was merely moving in the direction of a loose ball), then obstruction is called under Official Baseball Rule 6.01(h)(2).

(6)Runner on first base, no one out. On a hit-and-run play, the batter hits a fair ball down the right field line. In rounding second base and heading for third, the runner from first collides with the shortstop and falls down. Because of the collision, the runner is not able to advance to third base and returns to second as the ball is being thrown back to the infield. Had the runner not collided with the shortstop, the runner would have easily advanced to third base.

Ruling: Obstruction is called when the collision occurs, but the ball remains in play because no play was being made on the obstructed runner at the moment such runner was obstructed. "Time" is called when all action has ceased, and the obstructed runner is awarded third base because that is the base such runner would have reached had no obstruction occurred. The batter-runner would also be placed at the base such batter-runner would have reached had no obstruction occurred (either first or second, depending on the umpire's judgment).

NOTE : In this play, if the runner from first had been thrown out going back into second base, the umpire would call "Time" the moment the runner is tagged out. The obstructed runner would then be awarded third base (assuming that is the base such runner would have reached had no obstruction occurred), and the batter-runner would also be placed at the base the batter-runner would have reached, in the umpire's judgment, had no obstruction occurred.

(7)Batter hits a ground ball or pop-up between home and first base that the pitcher and first baseman both attempt to field. Batter-runner makes contact with one or both fielders in running to first base.

Ruling: Under Official Baseball Rule 6.01(a)(10), if two or more fielders attempt to field

a

batted ball, and the runner comes in contact with one or more of them, the umpire shall determine which fielder is entitled to the benefit of the interference rule, and shall NOT declare the runner out for coming in contact with a fielder other than the one the umpire determines to be entitled to field such a ball. It is therefore possible for the umpire to make either an interference or obstruction call on this play based upon the umpire's determination as to which fielder was entitled to field the batted ball. If the runner makes contact with a fielder other than the one the umpire determines to be entitled to field the ball, such a fielder has very likely obstructed the runner.

(8) Runner on second base, no outs. Pitcher attempts a pickoff at second, and the runner gets in a rundown between second and third. During the rundown the runner is obstructed by the third baseman while a throw is in flight from the shortstop. The shortstop's throw is wild and goes into the dugout.

Ruling: The runner is awarded home (two bases from the runner's position at the time of the throw). The runner was obstructed while a play was being made on him ("Type 1" obstruction), and the umpire should call "Time" at the moment the obstruction occurs. However, under the Comment to Official Baseball Rule 6.01(h)(1), if a thrown ball is in flight before the obstruction is called by the umpire, runners shall be awarded such bases on wild throws as they would have been awarded had no obstruction occurred. Therefore, even though the runner was obstructed **while** a play was being made on him, in this situation the runner is awarded **two bases** from the time of the throw (and not the customary "at least **one** base beyond the base he last legally touched before the obstruction").

(9) Runner on first base, no outs. Ground ball up the first-base line. First baseman picks up the ball and throws to second base for a force out. After the out at second, the batter-runner is obstructed by the pitcher.

Ruling: "Time" is called and the batter-runner is awarded first base. The out at second base stands.

(10) Runner on first base, two out. Batter hits a fair ball into the right-field corner. Right fielder throws to second to retire the batter-runner, who is advancing on the play. The throw is off-target and goes into left field. The batter-runner gets up and attempts to advance. The shortstop starts chasing after the ball and runs into the batter-runner. The batter-runner continues to advance and is thrown out on a close play at the plate.

Ruling: Obstruction is called when the contact occurs between the shortstop and the batter-runner. Play is allowed to continue because no play is being made on the runner at the moment such runner is obstructed. After the runner is out at home, if the umpires deem that the runner would have scored had such runner **not** been obstructed (i.e., the

obstruction caused the runner to be out), “Time” is called and the batter-runner awarded home.

(11) Runner on third base, one out. Batter hits a fly ball to right-center field, and the runner goes back to third base to tag up. Third baseman approaches the runner, faces him, and jockeys back and forth, intentionally trying to block the runner’s view of the fielder catching the ball.

Ruling: This is obstruction under Official Baseball Rule 6.01(h)(2). The umpire should call the infraction when it occurs and award bases, if any, in the appropriate manner.

(12) With a runner on first base, the first baseman—rather than holding the runner in the traditional manner—jockeys back and forth in front of the runner, several feet to the second base side of the bag. In the umpire’s judgment the first baseman is doing this intentionally to block the runner’s view of the pitcher.

Ruling : While Official Baseball Rule 5.02(c) allows a fielder to position himself anywhere in fair territory, if the umpire deems the fielder’s actions are a deliberate effort to block the runner’s view of the pitcher, it is illegal and clearly not within the spirit of the Rules. The first baseman should be warned to stop, and if he persists, he is subject to ejection.

(13) Runner on first base is stealing, no outs, no count on the batter. Pitcher pitches out. Batter, observing the pitch-out, intentionally throws his bat at the catcher in a feigned swing, and the bat strikes the catcher as he is catching the pitch or attempting to throw. Batter remains in the batter’s box during this time.

Ruling: Interference. Batter is declared out unless the catcher’s initial throw retires the runner, in which case the play stands.

(14) Runner on first base is stealing, three balls on the batter. The next pitch is a check-swing that the plate umpire initially rules a ball. The batter-runner takes off for first base and in so doing interferes (out of the batter’s box) with the catcher’s throw to retire the runner attempting to reach second. Runner is safe at second. An appeal is made to the base umpire regarding the check-swing, and the base umpire rules a swing.

Ruling : Batter’s interference. Batter is declared out and runner returns to first base. Note that if this situation occurred with two strikes on the batter, then both the batter and runner are declared out.

54. CALLING “TIME” AFTER A BALK Rule 6.02(a):

The penalty for balk allows the play to proceed without reference to the balk if the batter and all runners advance one base on the pitch following the balk (i.e., the actual pitch

and/or action caused by the batter hitting the ball). The umpire shall not call "Time" until play stops following the balk. The question therefore arises as to when **II** the umpire is to call "Time" to kill the ball after calling a balk. The following cases should help explain when play is considered "*stopped*" and at what moment the umpire should call "Time" following the call of balk:

(1) If the pitcher balks and does not throw the ball, call "That's a balk; Time!" and enforce the balk.

(2) If the balk is followed by a batted ball, leave the ball in play until it is apparent that the batter and all runners will not advance one base. At that moment, call "Time" and enforce the balk.

If, however, the batter reaches first base and all runners advance at least one base on play following the balk, play proceeds **without reference to the balk**.

EXAMPLES:

(a) If a batted ball follows the balk and results in a fly ball that is caught, call "Time" the moment the fly ball is caught. Then enforce the balk.

(b) If a batted ball follows the balk and results in a ground-out on a previous runner at the base to which the runner would be entitled because of the balk, call "Time" the moment the out is made. Then enforce the balk.

(3) If the balk is followed by a pitch that is **caught** by the catcher, call "Time" the moment the catcher catches the ball. Then enforce the balk. (Note exception in ball four situations covered in item (5) below.)

(4) If the balk is followed by a pickoff throw to a base that is **caught** by a fielder, call "Time" the moment the fielder catches the ball. Then enforce the balk.

(5) If the balk is followed by ball four delivered to the batter and is caught by the catcher, call "Time" and enforce the balk **unless** all runners advance one base because of ball four. In that situation, play proceeds **without reference to the balk**.

(6) If the balk is followed by a pitch that strikes the batter, call "Time" the moment the pitch strikes the batter. Then enforce the balk **unless** the hit batter forces all other runners to advance one base, in which case play proceeds **without reference to the balk**.

(7) If the balk is followed by a **wild throw** to a base, the Approved Ruling of Official Baseball Rule 6.02(a) provides that the runner may advance beyond the base to which the runner is entitled at his own risk. In that situation the umpire shall call the balk in the usual manner but shall not call "Time" until **all play has ceased** (runners have stopped trying to advance and a fielder is in possession of the ball in the infield).

(8) If the balk is followed by a **wild pitch**, the Approved Ruling of Official Baseball Rule 6.02(a) provides that the runner may advance beyond the base to which the runner is entitled at his own risk. In that situation, the umpire shall call the balk in the usual manner but shall not call "Time" until **all play has ceased** (runners have stopped trying to

advance and a fielder is in possession of the ball in the infield).

Note that even if the runner advances to or beyond the base to which the runner is entitled because of a wild pitch following a balk, the balk is still "acknowledged." That is, the pitch is nullified and the batter will resume the at-bat with the count that existed when the balk occurred unless:

(a)The wild pitch was ball four on which all runners advanced one base; or

(b)The wild pitch was strike three on which the batter and all other runners advanced one base.

In both situations (a) and (b) above, play proceeds **without reference to the balk**, because all runners (including the batter-runner) advanced one base on the pitch following the balk.

55. BALK REGULATIONS

Rule 6.02(a):

A balk shall be called audibly ("Balk!" or "That's a balk!") and by pointing laterally at the pitcher. However, the ball is not dead automatically when this call is made. The ball becomes dead only when the umpire calls "Time" following the call of balk, and the call of "Time" is to be made only when play stops (i.e., when it is apparent that all runners including the batter-runner will not advance one base).

REGULATIONS:

(a)The pitcher shall be charged with a balk if, while in contact with the rubber, he throws to a fielder who is either in front of or behind first or third base and obviously not making an attempt at retiring the runner at that base. However, there is no violation if the pitcher throws the ball directly to first or third base in this situation. (Also see next paragraph in this section.)

(b)There is no violation if a pitcher attempts a legal pickoff at second base and, seeing no fielder covering the bag, throws to a fielder, who is neither in the vicinity of the bag nor making an actual attempt to retire the runner.

(c)When a pitcher swings **any part** of his free foot past the back edge of the pitcher's rubber, it is a balk if he does not pitch to the batter, unless he throws (or feints a throw) to second base on a pickoff play. (Note that this violation is in reference only to the pitcher's **foot** . If the **knee** of the pitcher's free leg passes behind the back edge of the rubber but his foot does not, he may legally throw to first base with no violation.)

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Items (d) through (i) below deal with step balks:

(d) Official Baseball Rule 6.02(a)(3) requires the pitcher, while touching the pitcher's plate, to **step directly** toward a base **before** throwing to that base. If a pitcher turns or spins off of his free foot without actually stepping, or if he turns his body and throws **before** stepping, it is a balk.

NOTE: The pitcher is required to step directly toward a base when feinting a throw to a base.

(e) **A manager, coach, or player may not come onto the field or leave his position to protest the call of a balk as defined in Official Baseball Rule 6.02(a)(3) (failure to step directly towards a base before throwing there). If such protest is made, the manager, coach, or player shall be ejected from the game.**

(f) A manager may come out and question the reason for a balk call and shall not be ejected for his visit to learn why the balk was called. The manager may be ejected if he argues the call after explanation.

(g) If a pitcher, while touching the pitcher's plate, jumps into the air with both feet simultaneously and his non-pivot foot lands in a **step** towards first base before he throws to that base, he has made a legal move.

(h) Under the changes made to the Official Baseball Rules for 2013, the pitcher, while in contact with the rubber, may no longer fake a throw to third base (in addition to not being allowed to fake to first base). This rule change outlaws the so-called "Third-to-First Move."

The pitcher is still allowed to fake a throw to second base while in contact with the rubber provided that he steps towards second.

Note that a pitcher, when faking a throw to second base, is not required to have arm motion in the fake, although a legal step is required.

The pitcher, of course, may properly disengage the rubber and then fake to any base. The pitcher is considered an infielder after he properly disengages the rubber.

See Official Baseball Rule 6.02(a)(2) and the Comments to Official Baseball Rule 6.02(a)(3). (i) It is legal for a right-handed pitcher to begin a pickoff move to first base by first moving his

pivot foot in the direction of third base **provided** that he makes a legal **step** toward first base with the non-pivot foot before throwing there and provided that the move is continuous and without interruption. A pitcher who makes such a pickoff move is considered to be in contact with the rubber when he makes his throw to first base.

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(j) When using the set position with runners on base, a pitcher must come to a complete stop with his front foot on the ground.

(k) It is a balk if the pitcher, while touching the pitching rubber, accidentally or intentionally drops the ball or if the ball slips or falls out of his hand or glove. However, a pitched

ball that slips out of the pitcher's hand and crosses the foul line shall be called a ball; otherwise it will be called no pitch. If the ball does not cross the foul line, this would be a balk with men on base.

(l) If the pitcher steps off the rubber with his non-pivot foot when pitching from the windup position, the pitcher shall be charged with a balk.

(m) If the pitcher places the resin bag in his glove with, in the umpire's judgment, the intent of deceiving the runner, it is a balk.

(n) Prior to assuming a legal pitching position (windup or set position) it is permissible for the pitcher to **momentarily adjust** the ball in his glove. In order for this to be allowed, the movement must be **momentary** in nature. If the pitcher has his hands together long enough that, in the judgment of the umpire, it appears that he has actually come to a set position or has actually assumed the windup position, then should the pitcher separate his hands, a balk shall be called under Official Baseball Rule 6.02(a)(10).

(o) After coming to a legal pitching position (windup or set), if the pitcher removes one hand from the ball other than in an actual pitch or in throwing to a base, it is a balk.

(p) Under Official Baseball Rule 6.01(g), if a runner is **stealing home** when the catcher interferes with the batter, an additional penalty of a **balk** is invoked which enables **all** runners on base to advance (whether or not they were stealing).

56. PENALTY FOR BALK

Rule 6.02(a):

Under Official Baseball Rule 6.02(a), the penalty for a balk shall be: The ball is dead (**when play stops**), and each runner shall advance one base without liability to be put out unless the batter reaches first base on a hit, an error, a base on balls, a hit batter, or otherwise and all other runners advance at least one base, in which case the play proceeds without reference to the balk.

The penalty for a balk provides that if a batter reaches first base safely on a hit or error, base on balls, or otherwise on a pitch on which a balk is called, the batter shall be entitled to first base **only if all other runners have advanced one base or more on the play**, in which case the balk is disregarded. If the **batter-runner and all other runners** do not advance, the balk penalty prevails, the batter must return to the batter's box with the previous count, and runners advance one base as penalty for the balk.

A runner who misses the first base to which the runner is advancing and who is called out on appeal shall be considered as having advanced one base for the purpose of this rule.

When a balk is made on a pitch that is a fourth ball it shall be ruled the same as when the batter hits a balk pitch and is safe on a hit or error, provided all runners advance at least one base on the play. Therefore, with a runner on first, first and second, or first, second and third, when a balk is called on the fourth ball, the batter goes to first base

and all runners advance at least one base. If they attempt to advance more than one base, they do so at their own risk.

However, if first base is not occupied and all other runners do not advance at least one base on the play, the balk penalty prevails: The ball is dead; the batter returns to the batter's box and assumes the same ball and strike count as before the balk pitch; and all runners are allowed to advance one base as penalty for the balk.

Note that in cases where a pitcher balks and throws wild, either to a base or to home plate, a runner may advance beyond the base to which such runner is entitled by the balk, at his own risk.

57. STEPPING TO A BASE

Rule 6.02(a)(3):

The pitcher, while touching the rubber, must step **directly** toward a base before throwing to that base. If a pitcher turns or spins off his free foot without actually stepping, it is a balk.

In stepping to a base, the pitcher must lift his entire non-pivot foot off the ground and bring it down in a location different from where it started and toward the base. The entire non-pivot foot must move in a **direction** and **distance** to the base. This will constitute a step. The pitcher is not allowed to lift his non-pivot foot up and bring it back down in the same spot where it started. In stepping, the heel of the pitcher's free foot may not end up in the same spot it started.

58. THROWING TO AN UNOCCUPIED BASE

Rule 6.02(a)(4):

Official Baseball Rule 6.02(a)(4) provides that the pitcher be charged with a balk if, while in contact with the pitcher's plate, he throws to an unoccupied base except for the purpose of making a play.

EXAMPLES:

(1) Runners on first and second, pitcher in set position. Runner breaks for third base and pitcher throws to third base.

Ruling: Legal play.

(2) Runners on first and second, pitcher in set position. Runner bluffs going to third base and pitcher throws to third base. However, runner did not go.

Ruling: Balk, pursuant to Official Baseball Rule 6.02(a)(4).

The key to understanding the above two plays is for the umpire to use good judgment in deciding whether or not the runner was making an actual attempt to advance to third

base or whether the runner was bluffing. These plays will most likely happen with a 3-2 count and two out.

In addition, note that the Comment to Official Baseball Rule 6.02(a)(4) states: **“When determining whether the pitcher throws or feints a throw to an unoccupied base for the purpose of making a play, the umpire should consider whether a runner on the previous base demonstrates or otherwise creates an impression of his intent to advance to such unoccupied base.”**

Another interpretation regarding Official Baseball Rule 6.02(a)(4) concerns appeal plays:

It is NOT a balk for the pitcher, while in contact with the rubber, to throw to an unoccupied base IF it is for the purpose of making an appeal play. (Note that the pitcher does **not** have to step back off the rubber to make an appeal play.)

59. PITCHER GOING TO HIS MOUTH

Rule 6.02(c)(1):

Should the pitcher go to his mouth while off the 18-foot circle, he should wipe off before

contacting the ball, as to do otherwise could possibly violate Rule 6.02(c)(4).

60. WARNINGS AFTER IMMEDIATE EJECTION OF PITCHER

Rule 6.02(c)(9):

If the first instance of an intentional pitch being thrown at a batter in a game results in a pitcher being immediately ejected, the umpire shall issue a warning **II** to both managers that

subsequent violations in that game will result in ejection of the pitcher and manager. Each subsequent pitcher should be warned as he enters the game.

61. BATTER INTERFERES WITH CATCHER Rules 6.03(a)(3), 6.01(a)(1):

If the batter interferes with the catcher's throw after the batter is out on strike three, the runner is declared out for batter's interference.

62. BACKSWING (FOLLOW-THROUGH) HITS CATCHER Rule 6.03(a)(3):

If a batter strikes at a ball and misses and in the umpire's judgment unintentionally hits the catcher or the ball in back of the batter on the follow-through or backswing while the batter is still in the batter's box, it shall be called a strike only (no interference). The ball will be dead, however, and no runner shall advance on the play. If this infraction should occur in a situation where the catcher's initial throw directly retires a runner despite the infraction, the play stands the same as if no violation had occurred. If this infraction should occur in a situation where the batter would normally become a runner because of a third strike not caught, the ball shall be dead and the batter declared out.

This interpretation applies even if the catcher is in the act of making a throw to retire a runner. That is, if the batter is in the batter's box and his normal back-swing or follow-through unintentionally strikes the catcher or the ball while the catcher is in the act of throwing, "Time" is called and runners return (unless the catcher's initial throw retires the runner).

63. BATTER INTERFERES WITH CATCHER'S THROW BACK TO PITCH

Rule 6.03(a)(3):

If the batter interferes with the catcher's throw back to the pitcher by stepping out of the batter's box while at bat (no runners attempting to advance), it shall not be considered interference under Official Baseball Rule 6.03(a)(3). In such cases, the umpire shall call "Time" only (no interference). The ball is dead and no runner shall advance on the play.

This interpretation does not, of course, give the batter license to interfere intentionally with the catcher's throw back to the pitcher, and in such cases the batter shall be called out. If the batter becomes a runner on ball four and the catcher's throw strikes him or his bat, the ball remains alive and in play (provided no intentional interference by the batter-runner).

If the batter interferes with the catcher's throw to retire a runner by stepping out of the batter's box, interference shall be called on the batter under Official Baseball Rule 6.03(a)(3).

However, if the batter is standing in the batter's box and he or his bat is struck by the catcher's throw back to the pitcher (or throw in attempting to retire a runner) and, in the umpire's judgment, there is no intent on the part of the batter to interfere with the throw, the ball is alive and in play.

64. EJECTIONS AND SUSPENSIONS

Rule 6.04(d):

A manager, player, coach or trainer who has been ejected from a game may not stand in proximity to the dugout.

A manager who has been suspended shall take no part in the direction of his team during a game, either directly or indirectly.

65. WEATHER TAKING PRECEDENCE**Rule 7.02(a):**

The Note to Official Baseball Rule 7.02 states that weather and similar conditions shall take precedence in determining whether a called game shall be a suspended game. If a game is halted by weather, and subsequent light failure or an intervening curfew or time limit prevents its resumption, it shall not be a suspended game. If a game is halted by light failure, and weather or field conditions prevent its resumption, it shall not be a suspended game. (See Note to Official Baseball Rule 7.02(a).)

If play is stopped because of **weather** and during the delay (before the tarps have been

removed), **light failure** occurs and causes the game to be terminated, the game will be considered as having been terminated because of **weather** and shall not be a suspended game.

If play is stopped because of **weather** and during the delay (before the tarps have been removed) a **curfew or time limit** prevents its resumption, the game will be considered as having been terminated because of **weather** and shall not be a suspended game.

However, in games that have been delayed because of **weather**, once the umpires direct the grounds crew to remove the tarps and prepare the field for play, **the weather factor is then removed**. In such cases, if light failure then occurs or if a curfew or time limit is subsequently reached, the game will be considered a **suspended** game.

If play is stopped because of **light failure** and rain subsequently occurs before play can be resumed, the umpires shall then determine the ultimate reason for terminating the game.

EXAMPLES:

(1) Game stopped because of light failure; rain occurs during light failure; lights come back on during or after rain; field determined to be unplayable.

Ruling: Game called due to weather. Not a suspended game.

(2) Game stopped because of light failure; rain occurs during light failure; field determined to be unplayable but still no lights.

Ruling: Game called due to weather. Not a suspended game.

(3) Game stopped because of light failure; a light rain occurs during light failure; rain stops and field determined to be playable but still no lights.

Ruling: Game called because of light failure. This is a suspended game.

66. LINEUPS AND SUSPENDED GAMES

Rule 7.02(c):

The Comment to Rule 7.02(c) states that if immediately prior to a game becoming suspended, a substitute pitcher has been put into the game but has not retired the side or pitched until the batter has been put out or has become a base runner, when the game is resumed such a pitcher **may**, but is **not required to**, start the resumed portion of the game. If such pitcher does not start when the game is resumed, he will be considered as having been substituted for and may not be used in that game.

If a game is suspended during a manager's or coach's trip to the mound (or after the trip but while the same batter is still at bat), a new pitcher may be substituted when the game is resumed.

If a pitcher has been brought into the game but has not faced one batter (or retired the side) when the game is stopped for weather, such pitcher may, but is not required to, continue pitching when the game is resumed.

67. CHECK-SWING APPEALS

Rule 8.02(c):

The Comments to Official Baseball Rule 8.02(c) provide that the manager or catcher may request the plate umpire to ask a partner for help on a half-swing when the plate umpire calls the pitch a ball. The rule further states that appeals on a half-swing may only be made on a call of ball and when asked to appeal.

The preferred mechanic for asking help on a check swing is for the plate umpire to point assertively with the **left arm** directly at the appropriate base umpire while asking if the batter swung. This mechanic helps avoid confusion between an appeal and a strike mechanic.

Under the Official Baseball Rules, the plate umpire has an obligation to ask for help when the catcher or manager of the defensive team requests an appeal.

Play (1): Runner on first base, 3-1 count on the batter. Runner is stealing on the pitch, and batter check swings. Plate umpire rules batter did not swing (ball four), but catcher throws the ball to second base nonetheless, resulting in the runner from first being tagged before such runner reaches second.

Ruling: Umpire at second should initially not rule the runner safe or out since it is ball four—unless appealed and ruled a swing. If an appeal is made and ruled a strike, umpire at second should then make the call of “safe” or “out,” depending upon the initial play at second. (See Official Baseball Rule 8.02(c).)

Play (2): Runner on first base is stealing, three balls on the batter. The next pitch is a check-swing that the plate umpire initially rules a ball. The batter-runner takes off for first base and in so doing interferes (out of the batter’s box) with the catcher’s throw to retire the runner attempting to reach second. Runner is safe at second. An appeal is made to the base umpire regarding the check-swing, and the base umpire rules a swing.

Ruling : Batter’s interference. Batter is declared out and runner returns to first base. Note that if this situation occurred with two strikes on the batter, then both the batter and runner are declared out.

Also note in the Comments to Rule 8.02(c) the important time limitations instituted in 2014 regarding a request for the plate umpire to appeal to the base umpire on a check-swing.

68. “VOLUNTARY STRIKE”

Rule 8.02(c) Comment

In the situation where the third strike eludes the catcher on a half-swing and the batter-runner is entitled to run to first base, the appeal should be made to the base umpire instantly (without waiting for a request from the defense); but even if the appeal is not instant, the appropriate base umpire should **immediately and voluntarily** make a call of strike **IF** the base umpire is going to reverse the plate umpire’s call. This will give the batter the immediate opportunity to run.

69. BALL STRIKES BIRD OR ANIMAL

Definitions of Terms:

If a batted or thrown ball strikes a bird in flight or other animal on the playing field, the ball is considered alive and in play, the same as if it had not touched the bird or animal.

If a pitched ball strikes a bird in flight or other animal on the playing field, the pitch is nullified and play shall be resumed with the previous count.

70. BASE ON BALLS

Definitions of Terms

If the defensive team's manager notifies the umpire that he would like to intentionally walk the batter,

71. Prior to the at-bat beginning: As the batter approaches the plate the umpire will call "Time," the ball is dead, and the umpire shall award the batter first base and advance any other runner(s) forced to advance by the batter being walked.
72. During an at-bat: The umpire will call "Time," the ball is dead, and the umpire shall award the batter first base and advance any other runner(s) forced to advance by the batter being walked.

If a substitute batter is being entered into the game, the plate umpire should confirm and officially signal the batter into the game prior to addressing the defensive Club's request to intentionally walk the batter.

71. INFIELDER INTERFERES WITH COURSE OF BALL

Definitions of Terms:

When a batted ball is rolling fair down the foul line between home plate and either first or third base and a fielder stoops down over the ball and blows on it or in any other manner does some act that in the judgment of the umpire causes the ball to roll onto foul territory, the umpire shall rule a fair ball. The ball is alive and in play.

72. LEGAL CATCH

Definitions of Terms:

The Umpire should find that **a legal catch has occurred** pursuant to Definitions of Terms, "Catch," or valid force out or tag has occurred pursuant to Definitions of Terms, "Tag," **if the fielder had complete control over the ball in his glove, and drops the ball after intentionally opening his glove to make the transfer to his throwing hand. A legal catch does not require that the fielder secure possession or control of the ball in his throwing hand when making the transfer.**

A fielder may not jump over any fence, railing, or rope marking the limits of the playing field in order to catch the ball. A fielder may (1) reach over such fence, railing, or rope to make a catch; (2) fall over the same after completing the catch; (3) jump on top of a railing or fence marking the boundary of the field to make a catch; or (4) climb onto a fence or on a field canvas and catch the ball. In all four cases the catch would be legal, as dictated by the best judgment of the umpire.

The same restrictions apply to a foul ball descending into a stand. A catcher or fielder may not jump into a stand to catch such a ball, but reaching into the stand and making the play is permitted.

Play: Bases loaded, one out. Fielder catches fly ball and momentum carries him into the stands. Fielder remains standing. Can the fielder throw for a play?

Ruling: No. "Time" is called and all runners advance one base.

As provided in Official Baseball Rule 5.09(a)(1) Comment, no fielder may step into any out-of-play area to make a catch. However, if a fielder, after making a legal catch, steps or falls into any out-of-play area at any point while in possession of the ball, the base runners shall be entitled to advance one base and the ball shall be dead.

73. FOUL TIPS

Definitions of Terms:

Regarding the definition of a foul tip, the proper interpretation is that a foul tip must be caught by the catcher.

It is recommended that umpires indicate foul tips by signaling foul tip followed by a strike mechanic, particularly on check-swing foul tips and foul tips that are caught close to the ground.

74. Touch

Definitions of Terms:

Regarding the definition of a touch, equipment intentionally placed somewhere by a player should be considered worn in its intended place.

Example: Batting gloves placed in a player's back pocket are in the intended place on his person.

75. Balk – Pitch count

If during an at-bat the pitcher balks in his delivery and continues with his delivery and the pitch crosses the foul line, a pitch shall be charged against the pitch count.

Appendix F:

Volunteers screening

BASEBALL CANADA POLICY STATEMENT ON STAFF AND VOLUNTEER SCREENING

Application

This policy applies to Baseball Canada, and to any organization or entity which has the responsibility for the administration or management of an event under the auspices of Baseball Canada.

Purpose

The purpose of screening is to identify staff and volunteers who pose a risk to children or youth. Screening is very important in sport organizations which are primarily volunteer-driven and which offer programs for young people. Sport organizations have a legal responsibility to protect children and youth from foreseeable harm, and may be held responsible for failing to take reasonable measures in the area of screening staff and volunteers who will be working directly with children and youth.

Mandatory Screening

Baseball Canada endorses the concept of screening personnel (paid staff and volunteer) in situations where the age of the participant, the setting, the nature of the activity and the degree of supervision are such as to potentially give rise to a risk of harm to children or youth participating in the activities of Baseball Canada. As a result, screening shall occur for all staff or volunteer positions relating to Baseball Canada activities and events (whether organized by Baseball Canada directly, or by another organization or entity on behalf of Baseball Canada) which can be categorized as high risk.

Definition of High Risk Situations

High risk situations are those involving interactions between a staff person or volunteer and a minor, where such interactions may be, at times, one-on-one, in settings which may be private, and where there is little regular supervision of the activity by persons in positions of authority. The responsibility for assessing high-risk situations, which require screening procedures, rests with the organizers of the event. Upon request, Baseball Canada will provide assistance to event organizers in identifying these high-risk situations.

Volunteers (continued)

Minimum Screening Activities for High Risk Situations

For the appointment of staff or volunteers to positions deemed to present, or potentially present, a high risk the following screening activities, at a minimum, will occur:

The staff person/volunteer shall have a written job description that will set out clear guidelines about appropriate behaviour.

The recruitment process for the staff person/volunteer shall involve the organization

- requiring all candidate to complete an application form for the position, interviewing all candidates for their positions, and
- checking a minimum of two employment or volunteer references for each candidate, one of which shall be specific to working with children and youth

The staff person/volunteer shall be given an initial orientation session (either individually or as part of a group) which will explain the organization's policies and operating procedures, including performance expectations, and shall be provided with the 'on-the-job' training necessary for satisfactory performance in the position.

For the duration of the staff person/volunteer's appointment, there shall be a designated person in a position of authority with the organization, who shall regularly monitor the staff person/volunteer's work, provide feedback where appropriate and report any concerns to the leadership of the organization.

Appendix G:
Baseball Canada Severe Weather Policy

BASEBALL CANADA

SEVERE WEATHER POLICY

BASEBALL CANADA'S POLICY ON SEVERE WEATHER DURING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

RESPONSIBILITIES

THE BASEBALL CANADA REPRESENTATIVE, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE UMPIRE SUPERVISORS AND THE UMPIRE CREW, ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR STOPPING A GAME WHEN SEVERE WEATHER HITS.

THUNDER ROARS = STOP

WHEN THUNDER ROARS, THE GAME WILL BE STOPPED. PLAYERS, COACHES, UMPIRES AND FANS SHOULD SEEK PROPER SHELTER.

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/foudre-lightning/>

**STORM
SHELTER**

FIND ADEQUATE SHELTER

PROPER SHELTER DOES NOT INCLUDE THE DUGOUT. ANY FREQUENTLY USED BUILDING IS CONSIDERED SAFE. ANY VEHICLE WITH A HARD METAL ROOF AND ROLLED-UP WINDOWS CAN PROVIDE A MEASURE OF SAFETY.

RESUMING THE ACTION

AT BASEBALL CANADA EVENTS, THE BASEBALL CANADA REP AND UMPIRES WILL WAIT AT LEAST THIRTY (30) MINUTES AFTER THE LAST SOUND OF THUNDER BEFORE RETURNING TO THE FIELD AND RESUMING THE GAME.

GET EDUCATED

THE CANADIAN LIGHTNING DANGER MAP, DESIGNED BY ENVIRONMENT CANADA IS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW PRIOR OR DURING ANY EVENTS.

https://weather.gc.ca/lightning/index_e.html

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT US AT WWW.BASEBALL.CA



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