



11U Reference Rules

Rules for the 11U age category were removed from the Rules & Regulation for Championships document prior to the 2024 season as Baseball Canada does not hold an 11U Championship.

Below you can find the 11U specific rules as of the 2023 rulebook.

Age Categories - Baseball Canada

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

RULES GOVERNING 11U DIVISION (Guidelines Only)

1. 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).

2. Bat Rules

Contact Provincial office for more information.

3. Shoes

Shoes with metal cleats or "spikes" are prohibited. Rubber molded cleats on running shoes are permitted.

4. Religious headgear

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

5. Eligibility

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 them 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).

6. Game Length

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.

7. Dropped Third Strike

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.

8. DH Rule

The designated hitter rule is not permitted in this age category.

9. Special Regulations Governing Lead-offs in 11U Division

For 11U low tier division only:

- 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 they are 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.
 - i. 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.
 - ii. 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.

9.1. Special Regulations Governing Lead-offs in 11U Division

- 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.

10. Pitch Count

Reference 11U pitch count guidelines found in the most recent year's Rules & Regulations for Championships. 11U pitch count rules remain in the Rules & Regulations for Championships as 11U pitchers may pitch in Baseball Canada 13U Championships.