

Royal York Baseball League and Bloordale Baseball Association

BANTAM HOUSE LEAGUE RULES 2008

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Our goal is to provide children with an opportunity to enjoy the game of baseball and at the same time to develop their social and interpersonal skills.

For us as parents who volunteer to coach, it should be our goal to be fair to all children and to promote respect for all players, other coaches, umpires and other parents. We should forever be good role models by promoting sportsmanship and fair play at all times.

All players are entitled and should be encouraged to play all positions.

All players are entitled to equal playing time. No player can sit out two consecutive innings – this is, after all, house league.

The general rules as set out by the OBA apply to Bantam house league baseball. There are however some exceptions designed and adapted for the RYBL - Bloordale League play.

1.0 NUMBER OF PLAYERS

- 1.1 A team must have at least 7 players to start a game. Once started, should a team be reduced to 6 players, due to illness or injury sustained by a player(s) during the course of the game, the affected team may continue to play the game. If a team is short one or two players of the normal nine (9) players to play the game, it can call up a player from its peewee house league programme for that game. No peewee house league player shall be called up for more than three games during the course of the season. No peewee house league player can play if the team has nine bantam players available to play the game.
- 1.2 If a team has less than 7 players at the regular time for starting the game, there shall be a 10 minute delay. If the team is still short of the required 7 players after the expiry of the 10 minutes, that team shall forfeit the game. The game will not be replayed as a make-up game. Thereafter, the coaches will divide the players in attendance and play an exhibition game.
- 1.3 If 10 minutes have expired after the regular starting time for the game and both teams have less than 7 players to start the game, both teams shall forfeit the game or in the discretion of the convener the game can be rescheduled. The teams may nonetheless play a game with the players present.

2.0 BATTING ORDER

- 2.1 All team players shall be listed on the score card for purposes of establishing a batting order.
- 2.2 All players on the batting list must bat in sequential order. *No pinch-hitting is permitted.*
- 2.3 The line-up can not be altered during the course of the game, with the exception of late arriving players.
- 2.4 Any player who arrives late for the game but before completion of the fourth inning can be added to the line-up by placing the player's name at the end of that team's list.

3.0 FIELDING POSITIONS AND PITCHING

- 3.1 No player on the field can be positioned in foul territory except for the catcher who shall be placed behind home plate.
- 3.2 *No player can play at the same infield position more than three (3) times in the course of the game, with the exception of the pitching position which shall be limited to 2 innings as per rule 3.6. If agreed by both coaches, in a seven inning game a catcher may be permitted to play 4 innings, however, not consecutively.*
- 3.3 *No player may pitch and catch more than 3 innings combined.*
- 3.4 Players in the field may not be substituted with players from the bench during the course of an inning, except in the case of injury or illness to a fielding player. The injured player once removed from the field can not be returned to the fielding position for the balance of that inning. The replacement player shall occupy only the position vacated by the injured player, with the exception for an injured catcher for whom a player either in the field or from the bench can be substituted.
- 3.5 Players are assigned their fielding positions for the entire inning and can not be moved from one fielding position to another during the course of an inning, except to accommodate the pitcher as set out under subparagraph 3.5 or an injured catcher as set out under subparagraph 3.3.
- 3.6 No player can pitch more than 2 innings in a game.
- 3.7 Should a pitcher be substituted for during the course of an inning, the pitcher is placed in the fielding position of the person who replaces the pitcher on the mound. A player from the bench can not come into the game to pitch during the course of any inning.
- 3.8 If a pitcher delivers one or more pitches in an inning, the pitcher will be deemed to have pitched that inning.

- 3.9 A pitcher who is removed from the mound during an inning can not return to pitch again in the same inning.
- 3.10 At the House League level, intentional walks should not be pitched. Catchers are encouraged to change the location of pitches. (This may result in a walk, but it should not be intentional). Pitch-outs are permitted where the catcher is attempting to throw out a runner

4.0 BATTING

- 4.1 Players on the team shall bat in the order as recorded on the scorecard.
- 4.2 For each successive inning the batting order starts with the player whose name follows the last batter from the preceding inning.
- 4.3 Once a team scores five (5) runs during an inning, the “at bat” is concluded for that team. There is no limit as to the number of runs a team can score in the last inning of the game or any earlier inning declared by the umpire as being the last inning.

5.0 BASE RUNNING

- 5.1. All base runners are permitted to “lead off” and to steal bases.
- 5.2. A base runner can steal home on any passed ball, but not on the throw by the catcher back to the pitcher when the catcher is in the vicinity of home plate and the pitcher is on the mound or thereabouts: (i.e., the purpose behind this rule is to discourage attempts to steal home plate while the baseball is being thrown back to the pitcher by the catcher in the normal course of a game. Such attempts often result in excessive delays of the game necessitating the catchers to often walk towards these runners in order to force them back to third base before throwing the ball back to the pitcher. This rule applies even in the event that the pitcher is unable to catch the ball thrown back from the catcher. We encourage all children to have the opportunity to pitch, regardless of their ability to catch)
- 5.3 If the catcher gets on base with two outs or is on base when two outs have already been recorded, he can be substituted for by a pinch runner. The pinch runner must be the player last out in the inning.
- 5.4 ***When a runner is attempting to score and there is a play at the plate, the runner MUST slide. If he/she does not, the runner will be called out. Every attempt must be made to avoid collisions at the plate.***

6.0 LENGTH OF THE GAME

- 6.1 All games will be 7 innings in duration, unless called due to darkness or foul weather in which case the game will be considered completed if a minimum of 3 innings have been played (i.e., if the home team is winning after 2 ½ innings and the game is called). If the game is called in the middle of an inning, the score will be recorded as of the last completed inning. All games not considered completed will be rescheduled and played as a new game.
- 6.2 The time slot reserved for each game is 2.5 hours for games held at Queensway, Ourland and Tom Riley. No new inning shall commence after 2 hours from the start of the game. Time will be calculated and will start to run only after the first pitch has been thrown.
- 6.3 No extra innings can be played to break a tie, the game shall be recorded as tied, except during play-offs.

7.0 RESCHEDULING GAMES

- 7.1 If foul weather or field conditions threaten the scheduled game with cancellation well prior to the game starting time, it is the responsibility of the Home Team Head Coach to decide if the game should be postponed. The decision, whenever possible, should be made at least one hour before game time and in consultation with the Visiting Team Head Coach. Once the decision has been made to postpone the game, the Home Team Head Coach is required to contact the Umpires or the Umpire Co-ordinator of the respective league to inform him or her of the cancellation.
- 7.2 It is the responsibility of the Home Team Head Coach to contact the League Convenor and request possible rescheduling of cancelled games. The Umpire Co-ordinator is to arrange for the umpires for the re-scheduled game.

8.0 UMPIRES

- 8.1 If only one Umpire presides at the start of the game, a responsible parent from one of the teams can act as the second Umpire. If no Umpire attends, the Coaches have the option of using two parents as Umpires for the game.
- 8.2 The **RYBL** Umpires shall be paid **\$25 (twenty-five)** dollars per game per umpire by the Home Team Coach immediately upon completion of the game. Each league is responsible for the assignment and payment of its respective umpires

9 PLAYER SAFETY

- 9.1 All players must wear long pants or baseball pants during all games and practices. No shorts are allowed.
- 9.2 Plastic cleats or rubber cleats are permissible.
- 9.3 All players must wear a protective cup (Jock).
- 9.4 All players who bat, are runners on the bases, or are in the batter's circle waiting their turn to bat, must wear a helmet with a retaining chin strap.
- 9.5 If a player intentionally discards his helmet while running the bases, the Umpire may call him out. A warning should be given by the Umpire to the player and team the first time any violation of this rule occurs. Thereafter the rule should be enforced. When an out is called on violation of the helmet rule, all other runners are allowed to stay on the base to which they have advanced, as if the penalized runner had not been on the bases.