

ROPSSAA BASEBALL

PLAYING REGULATIONS

1. **DATE**

(a) **Season**

The length of the season shall be determined by the dates set out by the co-curricular schedule.

(b) **Starting times**

Triple Header 9:00am, 12:00pm and 3:00pm

Double Header: 9:00am and 12:00pm OR 12:00pm, and 3:00pm

Single Game: 12:00pm OR 3:00pm

Note: All start times may vary due to diamond availability

2. **LOCATION**

(a) League games will be scheduled with an attempt to make the number of home and away games equal.

(b) During the playoffs the home team will be the team which placed higher in the standings at the end of regular season play. In the event of a tie, a coin toss will determine the home team.

3. **ELIGIBILITY**

(a) All competitors must meet the eligibility requirements as per Article X of the Constitution.

(b) A participant shall not have attained their 19th birthday by January 1st prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held (for the 2023-2024 season, born in 2004 or later).

(c) All competitors must initial their acknowledgement of the Code of Conduct.

(d) **Team Eligibility**

(i) Individuals are eligible for one level of competition only.

(ii) For team sports, individuals must have participated in at least 50% of their team's regular season games to be eligible for playoffs and OFSAA. Players missing games due to injury (INJ), or awaiting transfer approval (ATA), must appear so designated on a game sheet to maintain their eligibility. Games missed due to injury are subject to review of a doctor's note. Players under game or school suspension may not have their name included on a game sheet for participation percentages.

(iii) All game sheets/rosters are to include the names of all those in the bench area (players, coaches, managers). In order to be in the bench area an individual's name must appear on the eligibility sheet. Players under game or school suspension may not sit in the bench area.

- (iv) Individuals are deemed to have played if their name appears on a game sheet. Individuals must be present at a game to be included on a game sheet.
- (v) A staff member must be present in the bench area from the start of the warm-up until the last competitor has left the area.

4. OPERATING STRUCTURE

(a) League Games

ROPSSAA Baseball will offer three (3) tiers of play. The leagues will consist of regular season, playoff and championship play in all tiers.

- (i) Tiers may be divided into geographic conferences where numbers warrant.

Teams with 3 or less elite/AAA level players or a combination of 5 or less elite/AAA/AA players may play Tier Two.

Teams with 4 or more elite/AAA level players or a combination of 6 or more AA/AAA/Elite players MUST play in the OFSAA division or Tier One.

Grade 9 AA students do not count towards AA/AAA/Elite numbers.

Note: An AAA/Elite player is defined as any student who is currently participating on or has participated for an AAA/Elite program in the 12 months prior to May 1 of the current school year.

- (ii) All tier two teams must submit a player registration form (Appendix A) this is signed by all players identifying their name, club team and level of baseball played outside of school. The form must be signed by every player, the head coach and the principal at the school and is due at the same time as the eligibility sheet.

(b) Ties in League Standings between 2 teams

1. The result of the league game between the two.
2. The total number of defensive runs given up divided by the defensive innings played (the lowest 'run differential' advances).
3. The number of defensive runs given up divided by defensive innings played will be recomputed using just the teams involved in the tie.

Note: Teams who have forfeited/defaulted games are excluded from the tie breaker

(c) Ties in League Standings between 3 or more teams

1. The result of the league game between the teams.
2. The total number of defensive runs given up, divided by the number of innings played on defense, is computed for each team involved in the tie. The one team with the lowest 'run differential' advances.
3. The number of defensive runs given up, divided by defensive innings played, will be recomputed using just the teams involved in the tie.

Note: If a team only plays part of the half-inning on defensive before the game is ended, that partial inning will count as a full half inning for the purpose of computing run differential.

Note: Teams who have forfeited/defaulted games are excluded from the tie breaker

(d) Wild Card Team Selection

In a 3-division system the wild card spots will be determined on a year to year rotational basis.

- (i) Should they be required in 2024 wild cards will be awarded to the Central and North divisions, 2025 will be the North and South divisions 2026 will be the Central and South divisions and so on.
- (ii) If there is a season where the league is not split into 3 divisions the rotation will be paused until the next season in which a 3 division system is needed.

(e) Playoff Structure

Playoff structure to be decided upon confirmation of divisions and will be based on the guidelines laid out in the ROPSSAA Constitution.

(f) Scheduled Games

- (i) Coaches are responsible for reviewing final league game schedules and playoff schedules as to locations, dates, and times to ensure their attendance.
- (ii) Failure to attend at the scheduled time will result in forfeiture of the game and/or loss of opportunity to compete. The defaulting team will cover all costs associated with the game as determined by ROPSSAA Council.
- (iii) Failure to fulfill game requirements leading to the abandonment of a game will result in a loss for that team. An incident report must be completed as submitted to the ROPSSAA Athletic office by the abandoning team within 24 hours of the game. No school shall be entered until after a Board of Inquiry. A team abandoning a game may be required to cover any costs incurred as determined by ROPSSAA Council.
- (iv)
 - a) Schools must bring their own warm-up equipment and first aid kit.
 - b)
 - i) Schools must endeavor to arrive no earlier than 60 minutes before game time. Teams arriving earlier than this must be supervised by the head coach in an area where students from the home school do not congregate. Schools with team members who do not travel with the head coach (in taxis, cars, on foot, etc.) must inform players that they must wait for their head coach and should ensure that the head coach is the first to arrive at the host school.
 - ii) Schools arriving for an away game between 30 and 60 minutes before game time must accompany the head coach to the competition area and liaise with the host school. The visiting team will be provided with a safe waiting area and change room

during this time and the visiting head coach must provide supervision of his/her players. Visiting athletes must bring all their belongings with them to the competition area.

iii) Visiting schools are entitled to access to the competition area at the same time as the host school, and no later than 30 minutes before the game time (pertains to the first game).

iv) Visiting schools are entitled to access to a safe waiting area and change room at the completion of the competition.

- (g) (i) Line up cards must be exchanged prior to the first pitch.
- (ii) It is the responsibility of coaches to ensure that roster sheets are properly completed. **A properly completed roster sheet includes players' first and last names, recorded pitch count for those who pitched, and signatures of all participating players.**

It will be the responsibility of each team to upload their own roster sheet. All game sheets must be uploaded by 12:00noon the day following the game. Failure to do so may result in the team being ineligible to participate in ROPSSAA playoffs.

5. ENTRIES

- (a) Completed playing registration forms and eligibility sheets must be in the hands of the Sport Convenor before the first league game.
- (b) Each school may enter one team.
- (c) A team may dress 25 players.
- (d) Individuals must have participated in at least 50% of their team's league games to be eligible for playoffs.

6. EXPENSES

- (a) For all games the cost of umpire and diamonds (where applicable) shall be shared equally by the participating teams. The Tier One Championship game will be paid for by ROPSSAA.

7. RULES AND OFFICIALS

- (a) The current Ontario Baseball Rules will be in effect with the following exceptions/additions:
- (i) All pitchers will be subject to a pitch count with the following rules:
1. Pitchers shall be limited to the number of pitches thrown in a single day as outlined below. Pitchers are required to rest in accordance with the chart below as determined by the total number of pitches thrown on any one calendar day:

Number of pitches thrown	Rest Required
1-40	None
41-55	1 day
56-70	2 days
71-85	3 days
86-105	4 days
105	Daily Maximum

2. For the purpose of calculating days of rest required, the day after the game day is considered Day 1 of the rest period.
3. Intentional walks and balks shall count toward the pitcher's pitch count total if a pitch is thrown.
4. Players are permitted to pitch in 2 separate games in the same day as long as they do not exceed 40 pitches in the first game of the day. No player is permitted to pitch in more than 2 games per day regardless of the number of pitches thrown.
5. No player may pitch on three consecutive days unless their total pitch count for the three days does not exceed **40 pitches**.
6. *Once a player has assumed the pitching position, they are no longer permitted to catch for the remainder of the day. Once a player has assumed the catching position, they are no longer permitted to pitch for the remainder of the day.*
7. Pitchers will be permitted to complete the at-bat of the batter they are facing when their Daily Maximum pitch limit has been reached for that calendar day but must be removed immediately after (i) the batter is retired, or (ii) the batter becomes a runner, or (iii) the third out of the inning is made.
8. The scorekeepers/pitch counter for both teams shall keep an official pitch count recorder which will be shared after the completion of each inning.
9. The scorekeepers/pitch counter for both teams must provide the current pitch count for any pitcher when requested by either coach or the umpire.
10. The score keepers/pitch count recorder shall inform the home plate umpire when a pitcher has delivered his/her limit of pitches for the game. The home plate umpire will then notify the pitcher's manager that the pitcher must be removed.

Note: It is the responsibility of the coach to remove the pitcher when that pitcher is no longer eligible, even if the pitch count recorder and/or the umpire fail to notify the manager.

11. Illegal pitching penalty: where a player throws more pitches that is permitted under; or pitches without the rest required; or pitches on 3 consecutive days in violation or pitches in the same game in violation the penalty shall be forfeiture by the player's team. A second violation by a team will result in the head coach's indefinite suspension.

- (ii) Designated runner must be used for the catcher with 2 out - the runner will be the player who made the 2nd out.
- (iii) Designated hitter (DH) may be used for any player.
- (iv) Teams in Tier 1 and Tier 2 may use an Extra Hitter (EH). OFSAA Division teams are not permitted to use the EH.

The 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 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.

- (v) Substitution may occur. Individuals may return to the game at any point to their original position in the batting order. Once a substitute leaves the game they may not return.

i.e. If 'B' substitutes for 'A', 'A' can only come back in for 'B' and 'B' may not return or if 'B' comes in for 'A' and 'C' comes in for 'B' neither 'A' or 'B' may return.

- (b) (i) In the regular season, games will be 7 innings. Coaches of both teams must ensure that the umpire announces the time of the first pitch, so the game is timed properly. In the regular season no new inning to start after the 2-hour time period. Where a regular season game is shortened by weather a full game will be 4,5,6, or 7 innings. If a game is shortened by weather, the score shall revert to the end of the last complete inning unless 4 innings have not been completed in which case the game will be replayed. Ties in league games will stand.

Note: The Athletic Convenor may shorten the time limit as required. Coaches will be notified as soon as possible should a shorter time limit be implemented.

- (ii) In the playoffs, games will be 7 innings. In the case of a tie, extra innings will be played until a winner is declared. Where a playoff game is shortened by weather the game will be replayed should less than 4 innings be played or it will be completed from the point of stoppage should 4 or more innings be played.

Note: The Athletic Convenor may shorten the time limit as required. Coaches will be notified as soon as possible should a shorter time limit be implemented.

- (c) In all regular season and playoff games the OBA mercy rule is in effect. 10 runs after 5 innings, 15 runs after 4 innings or 18 runs after 3 innings.
- (d) There will be 1 minute between innings.
- (e) Three umpires to be assigned to each final game.

8. AWARDS

- (a) Gold Medallions are to be awarded to the winners of the ROPSSAA Finals in each tier (maximum 25 per team).
- (b) Silver Medallions are to be awarded to the members of the runner-up team in each tier (maximum 25 per team).
- (c) ROPSSAA Championship Trophy to be awarded to the winning team in each tier.

Note: Should there be less than 6 teams in a tier, only the team trophy will be awarded.

9. UNIFORMS

- (a) Teams shall be dressed in similar shirts and hats.
- (b) Metal cleats may be worn.
- (c) Catchers during game play and warming up a pitcher must wear a mask with a throat protector.
- (d) The on-deck batter, batter and base runners must wear a helmet with flaps covering both ears.
- (e) Each player must wear a protective cup.
- (f) Athletes may not change their clothing in the competition area. For all outdoor sports, athletes must arrive dressed to compete. Visiting teams requiring the use of washroom facilities must send a staff member into the school with the team member(s). For all indoor sports, athletes must move to the designed locker room or change area to change their clothing.
- (g) Base coaches MUST wear batting helmets.

10. SCORING

- (a) Forfeited and defaulted games shall be recorded as 1 – 0 score for the non-offending team. Teams who have forfeited and defaulted on games will be excluded from the tie-breaker rule.
- (b) It is the responsibility of the visiting team to verify the score after each inning.
- (c) Three points to be awarded for each win and one point to be awarded for each tie.

11. EQUIPMENT

- (a) The only types of baseballs permitted for use are:
Rawlings ROML
Rawlings 80cc
Mizuno MB380
- (b) Each team will supply two (2) new baseballs for each game.
- (c) Teams designated as the home team shall be responsible for providing and setting out bases and keeping the official score for that game.
- (d) Solid wood or composite bats only to be used. Bats must be a maximum of ' -3' in weight (drop 3 bat).

12. DEPORTMENT

- (a) Competitors and coaches are expected to behave in a sportsmanlike manner as per Article XVI, Section II of the ROPSSAA Constitution.
- (b) A player ejected from a game will automatically receive a game suspension from the next league or playoff game.
- (c) Ejection of any head coach/staff sponsor results in forfeiture of the game and/or match if there is only one school staff member eligible to coach as per Article X. If there is more than one eligible staff member(s) on the bench at the time of ejection, the game will be allowed to continue, and the ejected individual must leave the competition area (i.e. gymnasium/field).
- (d) School teams shall always be under the supervision of an approved staff member of the school which they represent, prior to, during and after the completion of the competition and until all the team has left the site. Failure to comply may lead to sanctions by ROPSSAA Council.

13. JURY OF APPEAL

- (a) A Jury of Appeal constructed at the pre-season coaches meeting will rule on all disputes which do not fall within the playing regulations or rules. This jury will consist of the Convenor and four coaches from participating schools.

14. OFSSAA REPRESENTATIVE

- (a) The winner of the OFSAA division Championship Tournament will represent ROPSSAA in the OFSAA Tournament. The runner-up of the Championship Tournament will advance should ROPSSAA be awarded a second spot in the tournament.
- (b) In the event that ROPSSAA be awarded a third spot in the OFSAA tournament, the winner of the game between the two teams losing the semi-final games will advance.

SCHOOL: _____

[illegible]

Coaches are responsible for confirming the level of participation outside of high school that their players participate in. Schools found to have submitted inaccurate information will be subject to discipline by the Association.

THIS FORM IS DUE ALONG WITH YOUR ELIGIBILITY SHEET

HEAD COACH (please print)

SIGNATURE

PRINCIPAL (please print)

SIGNATURE