

Bloordale Baseball League House League Rules (Mosquito and Older)



GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The goal at Bloordale is to provide young people with an opportunity to enjoy the game of baseball and at the same time to develop their athletic, social and interpersonal skills.

For all those who volunteer to coach, it is our goal to be fair to all players, fellow coaches, umpires and parents. We should always 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.

The general rules of baseball, as approved by the Ontario Baseball Association apply to Bloordale House League Baseball with the following exceptions and modifications as outlined below in the individual division rules.

No rules will be changed, deleted or altered in anyway without consultation from the Umpire in Chief and League President.

All Coaches, players, umpires, spectators and league officials shall adhere to the Bloordale Code of Conduct.

NUMBER OF PLAYERS and GAME LOGISTICS

1. A team must field 8 registered players for the game to be official. Any team unable to field the minimum number of players by 15 minutes after the scheduled start of the game will default the game. If during the course of the game a team is reduced to 7 players due to injury, the game may continue. There are no exceptions to this rule.
2. The game will be deemed to have officially started at the scheduled time regardless of when the first pitch is thrown.
 - a. The official start time can change if agreed upon by the two coaches and the umpires at the start of the game, during the home plate meeting.
3. No new inning may start beyond 1 hour and 45 minutes after the scheduled start time.
4. Coaches should meet 30 minutes prior to 1 hour and 45 minutes to determine and agree upon the "open inning". If no agreement is reached, the home plate umpire's decision is final.
5. There is a limit of four runs per inning, except in the last inning, which is open (unlimited runs).

- a. In the Mosquito division, the open inning will end when there have been three outs or the team has gone through their batting order one complete time. If teams do not have an equal number of batters in their lineup, the team with the shorter lineup will bat the same numbers of batters as the team with the larger line up.

RAIN-OUTS and WEATHER

1. Field playability will be determined after consultation with both team coaches, and/or league officials. (i.e. executive, convenor or umpire).
2. If a field is determined to be unplayable, please notify Bloordale umpire in chief and division convenor.
3. It is the coach's responsibility to contact the players if a game won't be played. If the head coach is not available, then one of the assistant coaches should be in charge.
4. The OBA lightning protocol is to be followed at all times:
 - a. **When thunder roars, GO INDOORS!** If you can hear thunder, you can get hit by lightning. Take shelter immediately. If you cannot find a sturdy, fully enclosed building with wiring and plumbing, get into a metal-roofed vehicle. Stay inside for 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder.

UNIFORMS and EQUIPMENT

1. Player, managers and coaches must wear Bloordale issued uniforms and hats at all times during the game.
2. Players must have their shirt jerseys tucked into their pants.
3. No short pants are permitted.
4. No metal spikes/cleats may be worn.
5. All players who bat or who are base runners must wear a helmet with a retaining chin strap.
 - a. C-Flap helmets may also be worn (these are helmets with plastic guards that protect the face). The C-Flap design prevents the use of a chinstrap and must be worn as designed by the manufacturer
6. If a player intentionally discards his helmet while running the bases, the umpire may call him or her out. A warning should be given by the umpire to both teams the first time any violation of this rule occurs. Thereafter the rule should be enforced.

HOME TEAM

1. The Home Team is declared as shown on the Schedule
2. The Home Team shall provide game balls and set up the field for play. If it is the last game of the day, they are responsible for taking down the field and ensuring that all equipment is returned to the equipment box and that the box is securely locked.
3. The Home Team's bench shall be on the third base side.
4. The Home Team shall pay the umpires' services before the game.

5. The Home Team is responsible for reporting the score to the Convenor within 24 hours.

UMPIRES

1. Once the game starts, the umpires shall have full control of the game. The umpires' decision is final.
2. If there are any disputes, it is important for the coaches to resolve the issue with the umpires. If a resolution cannot be reached the umpire's call will stand and the impacted coach may file a written protest. The protest shall be made to the umpire-in-chief and division convenor within 24 hours for review and resolution. The game is to continue.
3. If only one umpire presides over the game, then they shall receive double the pay.
4. If it is determined that a game cannot be played prior to the start time, notify the umpire-in-chief so that the umpires can be cancelled. Once umpires appear for the game, they are to be paid the full amount.

BATTING

1. All players on the batting list must bat in sequential order. No pinch-hitting is permitted.
2. The line-up cannot be altered during the course of the game, with the exception of late arriving players.
3. Any player who arrives late for the game, but before completion of the second inning can be added to the lineup by placing his or her name at the end of that team's list. No player shall be added to the list after two innings have been completed. During regular season play, this rule may be waived by the opposing coach in the spirit of inclusion.
4. If a Player leaves the game for any reason, that player's name will be scratched from the line-up and the batting rotation will be reduced with no consequence to the team.
5. A batter who puts the ball into play while batting out of order is automatically out and all runners must return to the base that they occupied before the batter went to the plate, provided the opposing coach protests the matter to the umpire before the first pitch is thrown to the next batter. If it is discovered, while the batter is still at the plate, that the batter is batting out of order, the correct batter will be allowed to hit, but he or she must assume the count as accumulated by the incorrect batter.
6. If the ball hits the batter's hands when the batter is swinging at a pitch and goes into fair territory it is a fair ball and the batter must run towards first base.
7. If a ball is hit and strikes a runner who is not on base, the base runner is out and the hitter gets first base. However, the base runner is not out, if the hit ball passes or touches a fielding player – other than the pitcher – before striking the base runner. In this case the ball remains in play and all the runners advance on the bases until the fielding team brings the play to a stop.

FIELDING

1. Players in the field may not be substituted for player from the bench during the course of an inning, except in the case of injury or illness to the fielding player. The injured player, once removed from the field cannot 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.
 - a. Mosquito division can replace a pitcher with a player from the bench if required
2. Players are assigned their fielding positions for the entire inning and cannot be moved from one fielding position to another during the course of an inning.
3. No fielder shall obstruct a base runner unless they are fielding or receiving a ball. If obstruction is called by the umpire, the umpire shall, at his discretion place runners accordingly.
4. No player shall play the same infield position more than twice in the game. The only exception is when it is necessary to substitute for an injured catcher, in which case the coach can put in a player to catch the rest of the inning although they may have already completed two innings at catcher during the course of the game.

PITCHING

1. Any player on the team is entitled to pitch and during the course of the season all players should have had the opportunity to pitch in a game.
2. No player can pitch more than 2 consecutive innings in a game.
3. If a pitcher delivers at least one pitch in an inning, he or she will be deemed to have pitched that inning.
4. A pitcher who is removed from the mound in one inning or fails to return to the mound for the second consecutive inning cannot return to pitch again in the same game.
5. A maximum of 6 warm-up pitches is allowed at the start of the inning or by a new pitcher entering the game.
6. Intentional walks are not permitted.
7. For all divisions, a third trip by a manager/coach to the same pitcher in the same inning shall result in the pitcher's automatic removal from the pitching position.
8. A maximum of two innings may be pitched by a Select player or combination of Select players.
 - a. A Select player is defined as being a full time, rostered Baseball Ontario-Select Division player.
9. In Mosquito, two of the first four innings (6 outs) must be pitched by a first year player or combination of first year players.
 - a. A first year play shall be defined as Minor Mosquito in age
10. In the event that a player pitches and catches in the same game, the following limits will apply.
 - a. Catch 2 inning – Pitch none
 - b. Catch 1 inning – Pitch 1 inning
 - c. Catch 3 innings – Pitch none – Bantam only
11. Balk pitches will not be called in house league. However, runners will not be disadvantaged as a result of balks.

BASE RUNNING

1. Lead offs
 - a. Lead offs are permitted in PeeWee and Bantam.
 - b. Mosquito – lead offs are permitted only after the pitched ball has crossed the plate.
2. Stealing home
 - a. Mosquito - Stealing home is not permitted. However, should a defensive team player (pitcher or catcher) attempt to make a play on a runner at any of the bases between pitches, a runner on third base may attempt to advance to home plate at their own risk.
 - b. PeeWee and Bantam – A base runner can steal home on any pass 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 vicinity
 - i. 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.
3. There will be no advances on a catcher's overthrow to the pitcher.
4. It is the responsibility of the base runner to avoid contact when there is a close play at any base including home plate. When a runner is attempting to score and there is a play at the plate, the runner MUST make all attempts to avoid contact/collisions with the catcher. It is advised that all runners should slide for all plays at the plate. Umpires will enforce the rule as outlined under the OBA rules. Runners will be called out if, in the opinion of the umpire, malicious contact is made with the catcher and no attempt to slide was made. Every attempt must be made to avoid collisions at the plate.
5. 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.
6. A base runner is out if he or she runs more than 3 feet (one metre) off the baseline in order to avoid a tag.
7. It is the baserunners responsibility to avoid interfering with a fielder making a play on a batted/thrown ball. In this case a runner will be called out and any subsequent runners will be placed at the umpire's discretion.
8. PeeWee and Bantam - Dropped Third Strike. A batter may attempt to advance to first base on a "dropped third strike" only when first base is unoccupied OR there are two outs. If there is a runner on first base and less than two outs, then a dropped third strike doesn't matter and the batter is out.

DIAMOND LAYOUT

Division	Base Distances	Pitching Rubber Distances
Rookie	65 feet	44 feet
Mosquito	65 feet	44 feet
Peewee	75 feet	50 feet
Bantam	90 feet	60 feet 6 inches

CONTACT INFORMATION

Umpire in Chief - umpire@bloordalebaseball.com

Mosquito Convenor - mosquito@bloordalebaseball.com

PeeWee Convenor - peewee@bloordalebaseball.com

Bantam Convenor - bantam@bloordalebaseball.com