

Official Rules of Baseball

Canadian Content



**BASEBALL CANADA
CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2011**

January 15	National Teams Awards Banquet & Fundraiser	Toronto, ON
April 20 - 30	Junior National Team Spring Training Camp (ESPN's Wide World of Sports)	Orlando, FL
May 18 - 27	Junior National Team Dominican Tour	Dominican Republic
July 28 – 31	Senior Women Invitational	North York, ON
Aug 10 - 15	Baseball Canada Cup	Moncton, NB
Aug 18 – 22	Junior Championships	Windsor, ON
Aug 18 – 22	Midget Championships	Regina, SK
Aug 18 – 22	Pee Wee Boys – Regional (Western)	BC
Aug 25 – 29	Senior Men Championships	Chatham, NB
Aug 25 – 29	Bantam Boys Championships	Vaughn, ON
Aug 25 – 29	Bantam Girls Championships	TBD
Sept 8 – 12	Pee Wee Boys – Regional (Atlantic)	NS
TBD	Mizuno Elite Development Camp Rogers Centre	Toronto, ON
Oct TBD	Junior National Team Fall Instructional League Camp (ESPN's Wide World of Sports)	Orlando, FL
Oct 19 - 28	Pan American Games	Guadalajara, Mexico
Nov 2 - 6	Baseball Canada Fall Convention	Winnipeg, MB

Please check Baseball Canada website
at www.baseball.ca for the latest information.

OFFICIAL RULES OF BASEBALL CANADIAN CONTENT

1. Age Categories - Baseball Canada

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

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

Bantam Boys 15 years old and younger who do not reach their 16th birthday during the current calendar year.

Bantam Girls 16 years old and younger who do not reach their 17th birthday during the current calendar year.

Midget Boys 18 years old and younger who do not reach their 19th birthday during the current calendar year.

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

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

Canada Games 17 years old and younger who do not reach their 20th birthday during the current calendar year.

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

Senior Men - Open classification.

Senior 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

1.04 On page 13, delete "Lime", Keep chalk, and other white material.

1.10 Bats constructed of alumni, fibreglass magnesium, or other approved manufacturer's materials will be permitted. For Baseball Canada Championships, at the Bantam category, only Minus 3 (Minus 5 for bantam girls) (length-weight differential) bats with 2 5/8 maximum diameter barrel will be allowed. For Baseball Canada Cup, Midget, Junior, Canada Games and Senior Men (minus 5 for Senior Women) championship, only wood bats will be allowed. The bat must clearly show the manufacturer's ORIGINAL marking (length-weight differential). If not, the bat will be considered illegal. Rule 6.06 (d) will apply with this addition as shown in bold above. This rule applies only to non-wooden bats.

1.11 All uniforms must have numbers on the back of the uniform shirt. Religious headgear that is consistent with Baseball Canada safety and recognized uniform code requirement is permitted.

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. Chinstraps on batting helmets are to be mandatory for Pee Wee category and lower.

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.

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

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).

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.

6.05 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.

6.10 The designated hitter may be used in any exhibition play, league play, play-offs, tournaments, and championships in the midget, junior, senior and Baseball Canada Cup.

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.

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.

11.00 MINOR DIVISIONAL PLAY

RULES GOVERNING MOSQUITO DIVISION

1.0 - Playing Field: Dimensions, Equipment

- 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. and 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 8 x 12 feet and 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 (I 80 feet min., suggested 200 feet) ... (Centre field 200 feet min., suggested 225 feet).
- 1.10** THE BAT: The bat shall be round and made entirely of wood or approved material ... it shall NOT be more than thirty-two (32) inches in length, nor more than 2-1/4 inches in diameter at its thickest part. Bats may be taped to a distance not exceeding sixteen (16) inches from the handle.
- 1.11** SHOES: Shoes with metal cleats or "spikes" are prohibited. Rubber molded cleats on running shoes are permitted.

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

4.00 - Starting and Ending a Game

- 4.10** The number of innings prescribed for the Mosquito Division is SIX (6) innings. NOTE: See general baseball rule re: ending a game.

6.00 - The Batter

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

7.00 - (The Runner) Special Regulations Governing Lead-offs in Mosquito Division

- 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.

Case Example of Lead-Off Infractions:

- (1) Runner on first leaves too soon... batter reaches first on a single... RUNNER can go on 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 PITCH COUNT in MOSQUITO DIVISION

Refer to page 93.

RULES GOVERNING PEE WEE DIVISION

1.0 - Playing Field: Dimensions, Equipment

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.).

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

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

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.

- Starting and Ending a Game

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

6.00 - The Batter

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

7.00 - The Runner

ALL RUNNERS ARE PERMITTED TO LEAD - OFF. All base-runners are governed by standards of regulation baseball on all base-running actions.

RULES GOVERNING PITCH COUNT in PEE WEE DIVISION

Refer to page 93.

RULES GOVERNING BANTAM BOYS AND GIRLS DIVISION**1.0 - Playing Field: Dimensions, Equipment**

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 8 x 16 ft. and 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.)

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

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.

4.00 - Starting and Ending a Game

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

6.00 - The Batter

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

**RULES GOVERNING PITCH COUNT in
BANTAM (Boys & Girls) DIVISION**

Refer to page 93.

RULES GOVERNING MIDGET DIVISION**RULES GOVERNING PITCH COUNT in
MIDGET DIVISION**

Refer to page 93.

**RULES GOVERNING PITCH COUNT in
MOSQUITO, PEE WEE, BANTAM (Boys & Girls),
and MIDGET DIVISION**

Rules Governing the Pitcher

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

- 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) Pitcher cannot pitch 3 consecutive days unless a pitcher's first 2 days combined does not exceed:
Mosquito:25 Pee Wee:30 Bantam Boys/Girls:35 Midget: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.
- (4) Pitchers and managers shall follow the following guidelines:

Mosquito (9-11)	Pee Wee (12-13)	Bantam Boys/Girls (14-15)	Midget (16-18)	Rest required
1-25	1-30	1-35	1-40	None
26-40	31-45	36-50	41-55	1 day
41-55	46-60	51-65	56-70	2 days
56-65	61-75	66-80	71-85	3 days
66-75	76-85	81-95	86-105	4 days
75	85	95	105	Maximum

- (5) 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.
- (6) Once a player assumes the position of pitcher, they cannot catch for the remainder of the day.
- (7) Pitchers will be permitted to finish the batter if his or her maximum pitch limit has been reached for that calendar day.
- (8) Intentional Walks will be included in Pitch Count totals.
- (9) Required Rest shall be defined in "Days" starting at 12:01am and ending at 11:59 pm of the next calendar day.
- (10) 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.
- (11) 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.

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

**IMPORANT 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 game shall be forfeited.

**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.

Baseball Canada Umpires Committee

Rule Interpretations / Case Studies

1) Obstruction before first base.

Situation:

On a fly ball to right field line and a runner on third the batter runner is obstructed on his way to first. The right fielder catches the ball and R3 tags up and scores.

Rule 7.06 a): When a batter-runner is obstructed before he touches first base, the ball is dead and runners shall advance, without liability to be put out, to the base they would have reached, in the umpires judgment; if there had been no obstruction.

Interpretation: Since the batter was out on the fly ball, and would not have reached first base safely, the batter shall be ruled out and the play stands with no reference to the obstruction.

2) Runner stealing on ball four:

Situation:

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.

Interpretation: 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.

3) Multiple substitutions involving the DH

Situation:

The pitcher is removed from the mound and is now playing short stop, and the new pitcher enters the game from the bullpen.

Rule: 6.10 states that the game pitcher can only pinch hit (bat) for the DH. *Which means the new pitcher would have to bat in the batting position that was occupied by the DH.*

Interpretation: This is a multiple substitution and the manager can choose where he wants the players to bat. If the manager does not specify, the new pitcher will bat in the batting position that was occupied by the DH.

4) Obstruction with continuous action

Situation: Bases loaded, the batter doubles and R3 and R2 score. R1 is obstructed rounding third base and continues home and is thrown out at home. The batter, on the throw to the plate, attempts to go to third base and is called out.

Rule 7.06 b) If no play is being made on the obstructed runner (at the time of the obstruction) the play shall proceed until no further action is possible. The umpire shall then call time and expose such penalties. In the above situation, R1 would be ruled safe on the obstruction and the batter would be ruled out.

Interpretation: On an obstruction play, the ball becomes dead when the play is made on the obstructed runner, therefore, when the tag is made at the

plate, time is called and the runner is called safe on the obstruction, and the batter returns to second.

5) Balk followed by a throw

Situation: R1 is stealing. The pitcher balks while throwing to first. The first baseman catches and throws the ball to the shortstop, who tags R1 as he over slides second base.

Rule 8.05 penalty. The ball is dead and each runner shall advance one base without liability to be put out unless all runners advance at least one base in which case the play proceeds without reference to the balk.

Interpretation: A balk is indicated, and since the first baseman caught the ball, (not a wild throw as indicated under "penalty approved ruling"), time is called and the runner is awarded second base.

6) Catcher's Interference with R3 stealing home

Situation: 1 out, with runners at second and third. R3 attempts to steal home, R2 remains at second. The catcher interferes with the batter and the pitch is fouled off.

Rule 6.08 c). If a catcher interferes with the batter, the batter is awarded first base. If, on such interference a runner trying to score on a steal or squeeze from third, the ball is dead and the runner on third scores and the batter is awarded first base. Runners not attempting to steal or not forced to advance remain at the base they occupied at the time of the interference.

Rule 7.07. If with a runner on third base and trying to score by means of a squeeze play or a steal, the catcher steps on or in front of home plate without possession of the ball, or

touches the batter or his bat, the pitcher shall be charged with a balk and the batter shall be awarded first base on the interference and the ball is dead.

Interpretation: The balk is enforced. All runners advance one base, and the batter is awarded first base on the catcher's interference.

6) Plays / Attempted Plays

Interpretation: A play or an attempted play shall be considered as one of the five following situations:

- Tag or attempted tag of a runner
- Tag or attempted tag of a base
- Throw from another fielder in an attempt to get an out
- Rundown
- Balk

7) Player Manager and visits to the mound

Interpretation: A player manager is the person who is designated by his team and is recognized under the roster requirements.

- 1) A player (or player coach) may visit a pitcher as permitted by the umpire whether or not time has been called. This would not be considered a trip to the mound.
- 2) A player manager who leaves his position to talk to his pitcher, whether or not time is called, is subject to the same rules provisions as a non playing manager. Therefore, a trip would be charged to the pitcher.

8) Ball Going into Player's Uniform

Existing Rule 5.09(g), 7.05(f), 7.05(g), 7.05(h), 7.05(i)

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." The umpire will place all runners, including the batter-runner, in such a manner that in the umpire's judgment, will nullify the action of the ball going out of play. In no circumstance may any outs be recorded on such a play.

This does not apply to situations where a batted or thrown ball lodges in a fielder's glove. In that case, 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.

9) Backswing Hits the Catcher

Existing Rule 6.06(c)

If a batter strikes at a ball and misses and in the umpire's judgment unintentionally hits the catcher or the ball in the back of the batter on the follow-through or backswing while in the batter is still in the batter's box, it shall be called a strike only, not 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 this infraction, the play stands the same as if no violation occurred. If this infraction occurs in a situation where a 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 does not apply to a situation where a batter is attempting to bunt and decides to pull his / her bat backwards and not attempt to strike the ball. This situation is not considered a follow-through or backswing as the batter is in full control of his / her bat. Should the batter interfere with the catcher by pulling his / her bat backwards and there is no play being made on a runner, "Time" shall be called but no interference. This does not give the batter the license to pull his back intentionally interfering with the catcher. If the catcher is making an attempt to retire a runner when the batter pulls his / her bat backwards, interference should be called on the batter and no runners may advance. If the catcher's first throw retires the runner attempting to advance, then the interference shall be disregarded.