

Official Rules of Baseball

Canadian Content



Baseball Canada shall follow the official rules of baseball except as modified within the Canadian Content section. Where there is a change to the official rules of baseball, the change will not take effect until it is approved by the Board of Directors.

**OFFICIAL RULES OF BASEBALL
CANADIAN CONTENT****1. Age Categories - Baseball Canada**

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

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

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

15U Boys - 15 years old and younger who do not reach their 16th birthday during the current calendar year. (For Nationals; Bottom 3 seeded teams in Pool B have the opportunity to use 2 overage players. If Host Province is in the bottom 3 teams, Host team also allowed 2 overaged players. An overage player is maximum 1 year older.)

16U Girls - 16 years old and younger who do not reach their 17th birthday during the current calendar year. (For Nationals; NL, NS, NB, PEI, AB, SK, MB, ON2, QC2, & BC2 may bring three players who do not reach their 18th birthday during the current calendar year.)

18U Boys - 18 years old and younger who do not reach their 19th birthday during the current calendar year. (For Nationals; Bottom 3 seeded teams in Pool B have the opportunity to use 2 overage players. If Host Province is in the bottom 3 teams, Host team also allowed 2 overaged players. An overage player is maximum 1 year older.)

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

21U Men/Women - 21 years old and younger who do not reach their 22nd birthday during the current calendar year.

Canada Cup and Canada Games - 17 years old and younger who do not reach their 18th birthday during the current calendar year. (For Nationals; NF, NS, NB, PEI, AB, SK, & 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

3.02 For 13U, 16U Girls, 21U Women and Senior Women National Championships, a max barrel of 2 3/4" with (i) a 1.15 BPF (Bat Performance Factor) or (ii) USA Baseball Model is permitted. For the 13U National Championships using up to a minus 10-length/weight differential is permitted. For 16U Girls, 21U Women and Senior Women National Championships using up to a minus 5 length/weight differential is permitted.

For Canada Cup and Canada Games, only wood or bamboo bats will be allowed. No composite bats will be allowed.

For 15U Boys, 18U, 21U and Senior Men championships, only wood bats, bamboo bats and wood composite bats will be allowed. Wood composite bats include wood bats with fibreglass sheathing and wood barrelled bats with composite handles. Wood composite bats do not include any bat that has any metallic component."

The bat must clearly show the manufacturer's original markings (including, if applicable, length-weight differential). If not, the bat will be considered illegal.

Rule 6.06(d) will apply to any bat not complying with the above.

A player is to follow the bat rule based on the division that they are playing in during the game.

For example; a 13U player playing in a 15U game is subject to the 15U bat rule.

a 16U Girl playing in a 15U game is subject to the 15U bat rule.

3.02 All uniforms must have numbers on the back of the uniform shirt.

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

3.03 (b) and (e) All players, including pitchers, are permitted to wear compression sleeves on one or both arms. If only wearing one, it may be worn on either the pitching or glove arm. A compression sleeve extending only to the elbow shall have the same restrictions as a compression sleeve extending to the wrist. Pitchers must wear compression sleeves which are solid in colour and may not be white or grey. Pitchers may not wear compression sleeves which are distracting in nature including designs and reflective material.

A sports elbow brace may be worn by a pitcher provided it is covered by a sleeve which is not distracting in nature including designs & reflective material.

3.08 All players shall wear double earflap helmets while at bat, in the on-deck circle and on the base-paths in all age categories. Baseball Canada recognizes NOCSAE as their standard for Baseball Helmets. Baseball Canada recommends that no modifications to a helmet be made, other than what is done by the manufacturer or is completed at the explicit directions of the manufacturer. Batting helmets do not require Facemasks or Chin Straps, but this rule does not prohibit the use of them.

3.09 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.

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

3.01 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).

5.07 (b) Warm-Up Pitches

When a new pitcher enters the game, they shall receive 8 preparatory pitches, unless under emergency circumstances covered elsewhere in OBR. Each additional inning, they shall receive 5 preparatory pitches, the umpire has the discretion to extend this to 8 pitches under special circumstances, i.e. Cold weather or extraordinary long inning. Both of these shall not exceed 90 seconds.

BETWEEN INNING CLOCK**GENERAL GUIDELINES:**

The between innings clock will be set at ninety (90) seconds.

Umpire will keep time with stopwatch.

The clock will be in effect for the entire game, including any extra innings.

It will be activated once the last out of the inning has been recorded.

The pitcher must complete and may not exceed 8 warm up pitches within the time.

The catcher will be instructed a throw to second base with 30 seconds left on the clock.

The batter must be entering the batter's box as time expires or when instructed by the Home Plate Umpire.

The umpire will use discretion when the catcher is a runner or batter / hitter when the half inning ends.

6.04 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.

6.01 Contact Rule:

All penalties and enforcement guidelines regarding collisions at home plate and slides at bases apply as outlined in Rules 6.01(i) and Rules 6.01(j) of the Official Rules of Baseball. In addition, any offensive or defensive player who, in the umpire's judgement, makes malicious contact with another player shall be ejected. Contact shall be considered malicious if, in the umpire's judgement, it is the result of intentional excessive force or there is an intent to injure.

5.11 The designated hitter may be used in any exhibition play, league play, play-offs, tournaments, and championships in the 18U, 21U, senior and Baseball Canada Cup.

6.02 (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.

5.10 (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.

9.17 (1) Starting pitcher is credited with the win if they complete four (4) full innings.

(11.00) MINOR DIVISIONAL PLAY**RULES GOVERNING 11U DIVISION (Guidelines Only)**

2.01 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).

3.02 THE BAT: Contact Provincial office for more information.

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

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

5.10 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 him 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).

7.01 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.

5.05 (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.

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

5.06 Special Regulations Governing Lead-offs in 11U Division

For 11U low tier division only:

5.06 (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 he is 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.

- 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.
- 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.

5.06 (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.

RULES GOVERNING ARM SMART (PITCH COUNT) in
11U DIVISION
Refer to page cc9.

RULES GOVERNING 13U DIVISION

2.01 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).

3.02 THE BAT: See rule book page cc3.

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

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

5.10 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.

7.01 The number of innings prescribed for 13U division is seven (7) innings.

NOTE: See general baseball rules re: ending a game.

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

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

RULES GOVERNING ARM SMART (PITCH COUNT) in
13U DIVISION
Refer to page cc9.

RULES GOVERNING 15U BOYS AND 16U GIRLS DIVISION

- 2.01** The playing field shall conform to the following measurements:
- The distance between all bases shall be eighty (80) feet.
 - The distance between the point of home base and the front side of the pitcher's plate shall be fifty-four (54) ft.
 - 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.
 - The coaches' boxes shall be 8x16 ft & NOT closer than 10 ft from the base paths.
 - The backstop (behind home plate) shall NOT BE LESS THAN 40 ft. and no more than 50 ft. from home plate.
 - 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)

3.02 THE BAT: See rule book page cc3.

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

5.10 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.

7.01 The number on innings prescribed for 15U Division is seven (7) innings.
NOTE: See general baseball rule re: ending a game.

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

RULES GOVERNING ARM SMART (PITCH COUNT) in
15U BOYS AND 16U GIRLS DIVISION
Refer to page cc9.

RULES GOVERNING 18U DIVISION

RULES GOVERNING ARM SMART (PITCH COUNT) in
18U DIVISION
Refer to page cc9.

**RULES GOVERNING ARM SMART (PITCH COUNT) in
11U, 13U, 15U BOYS & 16U GIRLS, 18U, 21U Men, and CANADA
CUP**

Rules Governing the Pitcher

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

6.02

- 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.
- 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.
- If a pitcher meets the requirements to pitch on consecutive days and the pitcher does not go over the first daily threshold during game 1, they are permitted to have a 2nd appearance in the same calendar day. Pitchers will not be permitted to exceed the maximum daily allowable number of pitches in any two day period.**

Pitchers cannot pitch in 3 games during a day.

Example: A 11U pitcher throws 20 pitches on Day 1. On Day 2, that pitcher is limited to 55 pitches. A 15U pitcher throws 25 pitches on Day 1. On Day 2, that pitcher is limited to 70 pitches. A 21U pitcher

throws 45 pitches on Day 1. On Day 2, that pitcher is limited to 70 pitches.

- (4) Pitcher cannot pitch 3 consecutive days unless a pitcher’s first 2 days combined does not exceed:

11U : 25 15U Boys / 16U Girls : 35
 13U: 30 18U/Canada Cup/Canada Games : 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.

A Pitcher’s combined 4 day pitch count cannot exceed:

11U : 105 15U Boys / 16U Girls : 135
13U: 120 18U/Canada Cup/Canada Games: 150
21U: 165

- (5) Pitchers and managers shall follow the following guidelines:

11U	13U	15U Boys 16U Girls	18U Canada Cup Canada Games	21U Men & Women	Rest required
1-25	1-30	1-35	1-40	1-45	None
26-40	31-45	36-50	41-55	46-60	1 day
41-55	46-60	51-65	56-70	61-75	2 days
56-65	61-75	66-80	71-85	76-90	3 days
66-75	76-85	81-95	86-105	91-115	4 days
75	85	95	105	115	Maximum

- (6) 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.
- (7) Once a player assumes the position of pitcher, they cannot catch for the remainder of the day.
- (8) Pitchers will be permitted to finish the batter if his or her maximum pitch limit has been reached for that calendar day.
- (A) When a pitcher reaches the maximum number of pitches allowed for a threshold (see table above), he can complete the at-bat without the penalty on days of rest, as long as he does not pitch to another batter. In this situation, the number of pitches corresponding to the threshold reached will be indicated on the pitching log.**

The coach or manager needs to acknowledge this to the umpire at this moment prior to the next pitch. Umpire would then notify the scorekeeper.

B) When the pitcher reaches the maximum number of pitches allowed (75, 85, 95, 105 and 115 pitches) during a day during a batters at-bat, he is allowed to complete the at-bat and must be replaced following that batter.

- (9) Only pitches actually thrown will be included in Pitch Count totals. Automatic balls during an intentional walk do not count towards Pitch Count totals. Example; if during a count of 2 balls - 0 strike, a team signals to the umpire that a batter will receive an intentional walk, only 2 pitches will be counted for pitch count.
- (10) Required Rest shall be defined in “Days” starting at 12:01am and ending at 11:59 pm of the next calendar day.

- (11) 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.
- (12) 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.
- (13) Any violation of any part of the pitch count rule, the result is the Head Coach is ejected from the current game and receives an additional game suspension.
- (14) The total number of pitches thrown by an ambidextrous pitcher are counted for the purpose of calculating pitch count, regardless of which arm or combination there-of is throwing.
- (15) When a game is stopped by inclement weather or for any other reason than a mercy rule, that specific game has to be resumed at the point of stoppage. If Pitcher "A" is the starting pitcher of a game and has a pitch count below the first threshold, Pitcher "A" can then be used as a pitcher again for that particular game but considering he will be carrying the number of pitches thrown when the game stopped. This applies for a game that is resumed on the same day or on the next day.
For example, if Pitcher "A" threw 30 pitches at 15U Nationals, he will then be allowed to throw a maximum of 65 pitches when the game resumes. If Pitcher "A" had thrown 36 pitches when the rain started, he would not be eligible to pitch if that game is re-scheduled for the next day as he needs his full day of rest. If the game is resumed during the same day, he can then come back as pitcher while carrying his pitches.
- (16) A player playing in a division other than their own age group shall pitch based on the pitch count of the lower aged division.
For example; a 13U playing at 15U is subject to the 13U rules;
a 18U playing at 15U is subject to the 15U rules.
- 5.10 (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 result is the Head Coach is ejected from the current game and receives an additional game suspension.

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.