



2026 Rules & Regulations for Baseball Canada Championships

If discrepancies arise between the English and French versions of the 2026 Rules & Regulations for Baseball Canada Championships, the English version will prevail.

The Rules & Regulations for Baseball Canada Championships has replaced the previously used (up to 2023) Canadian Content and Championship Rulebook by combining and reformatting the two into one document.

Table of Contents

Section 1 – Pre-Tournament Organization

Section 1.1 - Championship Commitment

- a) Financial Responsibility
- b) Attendance
- c) Accommodation Commitment

Section 1.2 - Eligibility Rules – Athletes

- a) Amateur Requirement & Reinstatement
- b) Canadian Citizenship Requirement
- c) Requirement to be Registered to a Provincial Baseball Association
- d) Age Requirements

Section 1.3 – Eligibility Rules - Coaches

- a) Coaching Certification
- b) Development Coaches
- c) Coaching Age Requirements
- d) Coach Roster Restrictions
- e) Female Coach Requirement

Section 1.4 – Eligibility Rules – Chef de Mission

- a) Appointment
- b) Role

Section 1.5 – Rosters

- a) Roster Submission
- b) Roster Changes
- c) Ineligible Player on Roster
- d) Insufficient Coaches on Roster
- e) Roster Distribution
- f) Roster Challenges
- g) Roster Size
- h) Publicity

Section 1.6 - Championship Schedules

- a) Schedule Approval Process
- b) On-Site Changes to the Schedule
- c) Championship Length
- d) Start Times
- e) Determination of Home & Visitor
- f) Medal Round Games Not Played

Section 2 - Championship Standards

Section 2.1 - Team Conduct

Section 2.2 - Team Dress

Section 2.3 - Personnel in Playing Areas

Section 2.4 – Tobacco

Section 2.5 - Travesty of the Game

Section 2.6 – Anthem Standoffs

Section 2.7 – Other

Section 3 – Championship Procedures

Section 3.1 - Pre-Championship Meeting

Section 3.2 - Power of Decision

Section 3.3 – Field Dimensions

Section 3.4 - Dugouts

Section 3.5 - Tiebreaker Games

Section 3.6 - Tiebreaker Rules

- a) Mercy Rule
- b) Forfeits
- c) Extra Innings
- d) Fractional Innings
- e) Tiebreaker Priorities
- f) Deadlock

Section 3.7 - Time Between Games

Section 3.8 - Arrival Time

Section 3.9 - Infield/Outfield Warmup

Section 3.10 - Start Times

Section 3.11 - Lineups

Section 3.12 - Communication of Pitcher Between Teams

Section 3.13 - Post Game Procedures

Section 3.14 - Protest Procedures

- a) Composition
- b) Procedure
- c) Decision

Section 3.15 - Discipline Process

- a) Application
- b) Process
- c) Discipline Beyond a Championship
- d) Automatic or Minimum Sanctions
- e) Fines for Team or Individual Conduct

Section 3.16 – Financial Consequences

- a) List of Fines

- b) Issuing Fines
- c) Appealing Fines

Section 4 – Safety Rules

Section 4.1 - Protective Headgear

Section 4.2 - Protection for Catchers

Section 4.3 - Metal Spikes

Section 4.4 – Safety Rules Governing the Pitcher

- a) Eligibility
- b) Rest Requirements
- c) Multiple Appearance in a Day
- d) Two Day Maximum Pitch Limits
- e) Pitching on Three Consecutive Days
- f) Four Consecutive Days
- g) Four Day Maximum Pitch Limits
- h) Balks
- i) Ambidextrous Pitches
- j) Playing in Different Age Divisions
- k) Pitching & Catching
- l) Completing a Batter
- m) Intentional Walks
- n) Returning to Pitch
- o) Penalty
- p) Suspended Games
- q) Second Trip

Section 5 – Game Play Rules

Section 5.1 - Compression Sleeves

Section 5.2 - Designated Hitter

Section 5.3 - Extra Hitter

Section 5.4 - Courtesy/Designated Runners:

Section 5.5 - Length of Games

Section 5.6 - Suspended Games

Section 5.7 - Mercy Rule

Section 5.8 - Between Inning Timing

Section 5.9 - Contact Rule

Section 5.10 - Extra inning game procedure

Section 5.11 - Re-entry Rule

Section 5.12 - Bat Rules

Section 5.13 – Winning Pitcher Determination

Section 5.14 – Technology

Section 5.15 – Pitch Timers

Section 6 – Championship Formats

Section 1 – Pre-Tournament Organization

Section 1.1 - Championship Commitment

a) Financial Responsibility

Each Provincial Baseball Association (PBA) shall be required to have on file at the Baseball Canada office in Ottawa, a letter of financial responsibility that will cover all its teams competing in the Baseball Canada Championships. This letter shall continue to be in force from year-to-year until rescinded in writing. The letter of financial responsibility shall make the PBA financially responsible for any damages or other costs caused by the PBA's teams.

b) Attendance

Each year, on or before November 30th, each PBA shall advise Baseball Canada in writing of its intention to appear or not appear at the various Baseball Canada Championships in the following year. Failure to do so shall result in the following default decisions being taken by Baseball Canada. Provinces have the option to attend all events but are only obligated to attend the ones listed in the table below.

<u>Provinces</u>	<u>Mandated Championships</u>
British Columbia	Attend 16U Girls and Canada Cup
Ontario	
Quebec	
New Brunswick	Attend Canada Cup
Newfoundland and Labrador	
Nova Scotia	
Prince Edward Island	
Alberta	
Manitoba	
Saskatchewan	

c) Accommodation Commitment

A team or province requesting to withdraw from Championship host accommodation must request this in writing to Baseball Canada 45 days in advance of the first day of Championships.

Section 1.2 - Eligibility Rules - Athletes

a) Amateur Requirement & Reinstatement in the Baseball Canada Championships

Only amateurs are permitted to play in Baseball Canada Championships. An amateur baseball player is one whose involvement in baseball is not the player's primary source of income.

A former professional, reinstated to amateur status, may participate in a Baseball Canada Championship. It is the responsibility of Baseball Canada to reinstate a professional as an amateur. Any professional, who wishes to be reinstated as an amateur, must complete a reinstatement form supplied by Baseball Canada. The form must then be submitted, in

accordance with the provincial registration deadline, through the PBA concerned, to Baseball Canada, who shall make a ruling. To be eligible for reinstatement, a professional must be released by, or retired from, any professional team and not subject to a professional contract by July 1st and for a period of at least thirty days before the Championship. A copy of the release, or letter of resignation, must be provided in satisfactory form to Baseball Canada. The decision of Baseball Canada is final and may not be appealed. Depending on the case, Baseball Canada may allow a reinstatement after the July 1st deadline.

Female athletes playing professionally may participate in Baseball Canada Championships.

b) Canadian Citizenship Requirement

An athlete participating in a Baseball Canada Championship must be a Canadian citizen or a full-time resident of Canada by September 15th of the previous year.

c) Requirement to be Registered to a Provincial Baseball Association

(i) A player cannot be registered in two provinces simultaneously.

(ii) Any player moving to another province after June 1st of the current year, must obtain a release from their original province to play for the new province. A release requested by a student before June 1st shall not be refused.

(iii) An athlete must be a registered player of the PBA that the athlete represents at a Championship.

(iv) Students attending school in another province may represent their province of residence or the province where they are attending school. The student must state in writing which province they intend to play for at Baseball Canada Championships by June 1. This is subject to the approval of the PBA where they intend to play, and Baseball Canada. Once such declaration has been made by the student and accepted by the PBA and Baseball Canada, the student will not be eligible to play for any team in the provincial playdowns of the province that they did not declare to play for at the Baseball Canada Championships.

(v) A female athlete may participate in a female Championship for a province that they do not reside in, with permission of both provinces involved and Baseball Canada.

(vi) If NL, NS, NB, PEI, AB, SK or MB do not attend the 13U National Championship, an athlete from the province not attending, may play for another province listed above. Permission to play is required from both provinces involved and Baseball Canada.

(vii) A Men's, Women's, or 22U player must be a member of the PBA they represent, and a resident of that province as of July 1st. The only exception to this requirement is when a province does not send a team to the Men's, Women's, or 22U Championship. In that case, players from the province not sending a team, can play for another province, if they have played in an inter-provincial league with that province during the season. 22U players may play for a Men's team from their own Province at Nationals, even if that team plays for another Province at Nationals due to the Inter-Provincial league rule that already exists.

d) Age Requirements

<u>Championship</u>	<u>Age Requirement</u>
Men's Women's	Open classification
22U	22 years old and younger who do not reach their 23rd birthday during the current calendar year.
19U Women's	19 years old and younger who do not reach their 20 th birthday during the current calendar year. (NL, NS, NB, SK, MB, ON2, QC2, and BC2 may bring three players who do not reach their 21 st birthday during the current calendar year, PEI may bring four).
Canada Cup	17 years old and younger who do not reach their 18th birthday during the current calendar year. (NL, NS, NB, PEI, AB, SK & MB may use two players who do not reach their 19 th birthday during the current calendar year) The second-lowest-ranked team may use an additional overage player for a total of three. The lowest-ranked team may use two additional overage players for a total of four.
18U	18 years old and younger who do not reach their 19th birthday during the current calendar year. All teams may use 3 overage players, and the bottom 3 seeded teams in Pool B may use 5 overage players. If the host province is in the bottom 3 teams, then the host team is also allowed 5 overaged players. An overage player is a maximum of 1 year older.
16U Girls	16 years old and younger who do not reach their 17 th birthday during the current calendar year. (NL, NS, NB, PEI, SK, MB, ON2, QC2, and BC2 may bring three players who do not reach their 18 th birthday during the current calendar year). AB is no longer permitted overage players beginning in 2026.
Ray Carter Cup (15U Boys)	15 years old and younger who do not reach their 16th birthday during the current calendar year. (The bottom 3 seeded teams in Pool B may use 2 overage players. If the host province is in the bottom 3 teams, then the host team is also allowed 2 overaged players. An overage player is a maximum of 1 year older.
13U	13 years old and younger who do not reach their 14th birthday during the current calendar year. (The bottom 3 seeded teams in Pool B may use 2 overage players. If the host province is in the bottom 3 teams, then the host team is also allowed 2 overaged players. An overage player is maximum 1 year older.
All Male Events	Female players can play in male events one calendar year older than the male ages stated above.

Section 1.3 – Eligibility Rules - Coaches

a) Coaching Certification

Only coaches meeting the following requirements will be eligible to coach at the Baseball Canada Championships.

<u>Championship</u>	<u>Coaching Certification</u>
Men's	All coaches must have the Coach Initiation e-Learning Module
Women's 22U 19U Women's 18U	1 Coach is Certified 16+ Other Coaches are Trained 16+ At 19U Women's and Women's, each team shall have at least one female on their coaching staff
Canada Cup	When 4 coaches are on staff: 1 Comp-Dev Certified 2 Comp-Dev Trained 1 16+ Certified (eligible for one year only) When 3 are on staff: 1 Comp-Dev Certified 1 Comp-Dev Trained 1 16+ Coach Certified (eligible for one year only)
16U Girls 15U Boys (Ray Carter Cup)	1 Coach is Certified 15U Other Coaches are Trained 15U At 16U Girls, each team shall have at least one female on their coaching staff
13U	1 Coach is Certified 13U Other Coaches are Trained 13U

All staff attending any national championship will have to complete a Safe Sport e-Learning module (Respect in Sport or CAC Safe Sport Training) and comply with any Safe Sport requirements their Provincial body requires.

Names of coaches, along with their respective NCCP numbers, must be included on the roster. All coaches must be able to prove certification during the Championship. Team staff without proper certification will be removed from the roster.

b) Development Coaches

A province can identify a coach as a ‘development coach’. These coaches can only be a ‘development coach’ for one year. A ‘development coach’ must be a certified 16+ coach. If the coach was to return for a 2nd year to the Canada Cup, they would need to meet the Comp-Dev coaching requirements.

c) Coaching Age Requirements

Coaches 14 or 15 years of age may only coach at 13U Championships.

d) Coach Roster Restrictions

A coach can only appear on one roster per event. This is for coaching staff only and does not apply to chef or trainer. Up to three (or four at the expense of the team) coaches may be rostered.

e) Female Coach Requirement

At women's and girls' events, each team shall have at least one female on their coaching staff.

Section 1.4 – Eligibility Rules – Chef de Mission

a) Appointment

A chef de mission is mandatory and should be assigned by the PBA. A chef should not be a coach or a manager. The chef de mission must be rostered however they may be virtual and are not required to be on-site during the Championship.

b) Role

A chef de mission's role is to perform administrative tasks and to serve as the liaison with the Baseball Canada Technical Officer. If on site, Chefs should tour all rooms upon check-in and inform the accommodation site/host of any damage. Upon check-out, the chef should perform a room tour along with accommodation/host reps to confirm each room's status. If not on site, this room check responsibility should be delegated to a member of the coaching staff.

Section 1.5 – Rosters

a) Roster Submission

(i) The final team rosters shall be approved by the PBA and submitted to Baseball Canada nine days before the first scheduled game of the Championship.

Exception: Rosters for the 13U National Atlantic and 13U National Western Championships are due three days before the first scheduled game of the Championship.

(ii) PBAs shall advise Baseball Canada if any individuals on a roster have suspensions to serve at the start of a championship.

(iii) Rosters must include all required information requested on the official roster form provided by Baseball Canada.

(iv) The roster, issued in electronic form by the PBA, shall be the only document required as proof of eligibility to represent the PBA at a Baseball Canada Championship.

b) Roster Changes

(i) Players

No modifications to the rosters submitted by the PBA will be allowed at the Pre-Championship meeting, except for the following situations:

- A player is injured and cannot participate in the championship as attested by medical proof.
- A player is changed following a submission by the PBA to the Baseball Canada Technical Officer prior to the team's first game.

(ii) Coaches

After verification of certification by Baseball Canada, a coach is allowed to be added to a roster at the written request of a PBA.

c) Ineligible Player on Roster

(i) If an ineligible player is identified on a roster during the championship, all games in which the player participated become forfeits, and the ineligible player shall be removed from the roster immediately.

(ii) If an ineligible player is identified on a roster within 30 days after the event, the matter shall be referred to the Championships Committee for action.

d) Insufficient Coaches on Roster

A game will be declared a forfeit when a team does not have an eligible coach participating in the game.

e) Roster Distribution

Team rosters, fully completed, shall be distributed to each team prior to the start of the Championship and as far in advance of the Pre-Championship meeting as possible.

f) Roster Challenges

Any challenge concerning the eligibility of any player must be raised at the Pre-Championship meeting.

g) Roster Size

<u>Championship</u>	<u>Maximum Roster Size</u>
Men's	21
22U Canada Cup	20
Women's 19U Women's 18U 16U Girls 15U Boys (Ray Carter Cup) 13U	18

h) Publicity

Together with rosters, teams shall supply as much publicity data to the Host Committee as possible. This may include uniform numbers, pictures, and statistics.

Section 1.6 - Championship Schedules

a) Schedule Approval Process

Step 1 – The Baseball Canada office shall consult with the Host Committee on the local requests and conditions, such as lights, primary field, etc.

Step 2 – The Baseball Canada office shall prepare a draft schedule, based on the parameters set out in this document. That schedule shall be sent to the Host Committee for feedback.

Step 3 – Once feedback from the Host Committee has been considered, the Baseball Canada office shall forward the draft schedule to the Championship Committee for their review. Any changes made because of feedback from the Championship Committee shall be discussed with the Host Committee.

Step 4 – The schedule shall be sent to each PBA for their review. In their review of the schedule, PBAs should identify any aspects of the schedule that are not in compliance with the parameters set out in this document.

Step 5 – Once feedback is received from the PBAs, the Baseball Canada office shall consult with the Host Committee and Championships Committee regarding any changes.

Step 6 – The schedule becomes final and is posted on the Baseball Canada website.

The Baseball Canada office shall have final approval on all schedules and reserves the right to adjust the schedule at any time.

b) On-Site Changes to the Schedule

During a championship, the Baseball Canada Technical Officer has the authority, in consultation with the Host Committee and the Baseball Canada office, to make changes to the schedule as necessitated by circumstances such as weather or other conditions.

c) Championship Length

All Baseball Canada Championships will be scheduled from Thursday (Wednesday for Canada Cup) to Sunday with Monday reserved as the rain day. It is required that all teams remain available to play on Monday. Teams may not leave after the completion of their round-robin games, until receiving approval from the Baseball Canada Technical Officer.

The 13U National Atlantic event will end on Sunday and will not have a Monday rain day.

d) Start Times

A game will not start after 10:00 pm during any 13U, 15U Ray Carter Cup, or 16U Girls Baseball Canada Championship unless required to complete the event.

e) Determination of Home & Visitor

(i) Round-Robin:

The home team will always be determined by Baseball Canada when the schedule is created.

In pools of four teams, each team will have one or two home games. The host team will only have one home game.

In pools of five teams, each team will have two home and two away games.

In pools of six teams, each team will have two or three home games. The host team will only have two home games.

In the case of a seven-team Championship, each team will have three home and three away games.

(ii) Tiebreaker Games:

The team placed higher in the standings, using the tiebreaker criteria, will have the choice of home or visitor team.

(iii) Medal Round or Placement Games:

(does not apply to: Canada Cup, 15U Ray Carter Cup, and 16U Girls)

When teams from the same pool play, the team who placed higher in the round-robin standings shall have the choice of home team.

When teams from the opposite pools play, the team with the higher placement in their pool's standings shall have the choice of home or visitor team unless they had previously met in a medal round game (in which case the winning team of the previous meeting shall have the choice of home or visitor). If the teams have the same placement, the choice of home or visitor team is determined by a coin toss. The coin toss shall occur at a time to be determined by the Baseball Canada Technical Officer.

For example, if 1A plays 2B, the choice of home or visitor goes to 1A. If 3A plays 3B, choice of home is determined by a coin toss.

(iv) Medal Round or Placement Games:

(only applies to the Baseball Canada Cup 15U Boys, 16U Girls, and 18U)

When teams from opposite pools play, the choice of home team shall be determined by a coin toss except that 1st Place in Pool A shall always have choice of home team. Coin tosses shall occur at a time to be determined by the Baseball Canada Technical Officer.

If the teams have previously met in a medal round game, the winning team of the previous meeting shall have the choice of home or visitor.

f) Medal Round Games Not Played

If a Championship ends without the completion of semifinal games, no medals will be awarded.

If the gold medal game cannot be completed, both teams will receive a set of gold medals. If the bronze medal game cannot be completed, both teams will receive a set of bronze medals.

Section 2 - Championship Standards

Section 2.1 - Team Conduct

Team discipline is the responsibility of the individual teams and their team staff who shall be held responsible for the maintenance of discipline and proper team or individual conduct. Any breach of discipline, whether on or off the playing field, shall be dealt with by the Host Committee and the Baseball Canada Technical Officer.

Section 2.2 - Team Dress

Teams shall be dressed in matching uniforms of an acceptable standard. All uniforms, including those of coaches, shall match and be numbered. When coaching the bases, the uniform game jersey must be worn. If a team jacket is worn, it must include the team's official logo and be consistent with the team's uniform color and apparel. If both coaches opt to wear a jacket, the jackets must be uniform. At all other times, coaches are allowed to wear a team-issued jacket. No duplicate numbers shall be permitted unless extenuating circumstances exist (i.e. lost baggage, torn uniforms, etc). Teams must declare their team uniform colors at the Pre-Championship meeting. If they have only one set of uniforms, this must be stated. Religious headgear that is consistent with Baseball Canada safety and recognized uniform code requirement is permitted.

Section 2.3 - Personnel in Playing Areas

Only authorized personnel will be permitted to occupy the player's benches or dugout areas. Only rostered players, coaches, one trainer, and one bat child in uniform are considered authorized personnel.

Section 2.4 - Tobacco

The use of vape (e-cigarettes) products and all tobacco products, including smokeless tobacco, by on-field participants (players, coaches, managers, umpires, etc.) shall be prohibited at all competitions sanctioned by Baseball Canada. Any offenders caught using tobacco products will be ejected from the game.

Section 2.5 - Travesty of the Game

The travesty of the game rule will be enforced by the Baseball Canada Technical Officer and the umpires at the Championships. The consequence of a violation of the rule is an ejection, first to the manager and then to the player(s) involved in the travesty. Travesty of the game is defined as an attempt to intentionally lengthen or shorten a game or manipulate the score of the game by any means that has players not "playing to win". This would include batters or runners deliberately attempting to make outs, pitchers obviously trying to miss the strike zone, and fielders obviously trying to make errors.

Section 2.6 – Anthem Standoffs

In the case of a National Anthem standoff between the two teams, the umpire-in-chief is to warn the head coach of the offending team(s) that should any player or team personnel not return to the dugout area immediately after the playing of the National Anthem, the head coach and offending person(s) will be ejected immediately. Any umpire shall eject any player, coach or team personnel after the warning is issued.

Section 2.7 - Other

- (i) Teams must submit starting lineups to the official scorekeeper a minimum of 30 minutes prior to a game.
- (ii) Teams must attend the pre-championship meeting.
- (iii) Teams must attend opening and closing ceremonies. Teams may miss closing ceremonies with written permission from the Baseball Canada Representative.
- (iv) Teams must advise the host of any change to their travel itinerary.

Section 3 – Championship Procedures

Section 3.1 - Pre-Championship Meeting:

- (i) The time and location of the Pre-Championship meeting shall be communicated to teams.
- (ii) The Chairperson of the Host Committee, the Baseball Canada Technical Officer, the Baseball Canada Official Scorekeeper(s) and the lead Baseball Canada Supervisor of Umpires, must attend this meeting. The Baseball Canada Technical Officer shall chair the meeting.
- (iii) Each team shall send at least one representative, who shall have the authority to speak on behalf of their team and make decisions concerning their team, which shall be binding. At the meeting, announcements and directions will be made affecting aspects of the Championship. Non-attendance at the meeting shall not be an excuse for non-compliance. The Host Committee may, for reasonable cause, limit the number of representatives from each team, provided that at least two are permitted to attend.
- (iv) The Pre-Championship meeting agenda will be drafted by the Baseball Canada Technical Officer, in consultation with the Host Committee, and made available to all teams.
- (v) At a convenient time prior to the Pre-Championship meeting described in section i-iv, the umpiring staff, the Supervisor of Umpires, the Chairman of the Host Committee, and the Baseball Canada Representative shall meet. The discussions will include ground rules, umpiring crews, and any other items the umpiring crews may wish to discuss for the purpose of clarifying rules or procedures.

Section 3.2 - Power of Decision

Prior to the start of a Championship, the Executive Committee of Baseball Canada shall have the power to make decisions on any point not specifically covered in the Rules & Regulations.

During the Championship the Baseball Canada Technical Officer, in consultation with the Baseball Canada office, shall have the power to make decisions on any point not specifically covered in the Rules & Regulations.

Section 3.3 – Field Dimensions

The following modified field dimensions apply to Championships:

Dimension	<u>13U</u>	<u>15U Boys (Ray Carter Cup) & 16U Girls</u>
Base paths	70 feet	80 feet
Pitching distance	48 feet, raised 6 inches (up to 8in accepted)	54 feet, raised 8 inches (up to 10in accepted)
Backstop (recommended)	35-45 feet	40-50 feet
Fence	200-225 feet (LF/RF) 225-260 feet (CF)	245-270 (LF/RF) 280-300 (CF)
Coaches' Boxes	8x12 feet, not closer than 10 feet from base paths	8x16 feet, not closer than 10 feet from base paths

19U Women's and Women's to use full dimension infield but modified outfield fence distance

Section 3.4 - Dugouts

The home team will use the third base dugout while the visiting team will use the first base dugout. The host team may choose the dugout of their choice, which must be declared at the Pre-Championship meeting.

Section 3.5 - Tiebreaker Games

The schedule for each Championship will confirm whether a tiebreaker game or tiebreaker rules will be used to break a tie in round-robin standings.

If a tiebreaker game is required at the 13U, Ray Carter Cup, or 16U Girls event, a 3 inning game will be played in place of a full game.

If the game requires extra innings, the extra innings procedures for the division (outlined in section 5.10) shall be applied.

Section 3.6 - Tiebreaker Rules

a) Mercy Rule

In a mercy rule game, offensive and defensive innings will be credited as follows:

Winning Team - Seven defensive innings; offensive innings as played.

Losing Team - Defensive innings as played; seven offensive innings.

b) Forfeits

If a team forfeits a game, the final score will be 7-0. The winning team will get credit for seven defensive innings and zero offensive innings. The losing team will get credit for zero defensive and seven offensive innings.

c) Extra Innings

Only the runs scored and allowed in the first seven innings will be counted when calculating tiebreaker priorities below. The runs scored in extra innings do not count.

For example, if BC and Saskatchewan are tied 5-5 after seven innings and Saskatchewan wins 9-8 in ten innings, both teams are credited with five runs allowed in seven defensive innings and five runs scored in seven offensive innings.

d) Fractional Innings

When calculating the number of defensive and offensive innings that are to be credited to each team under the tiebreaker priorities, innings will be calculated on a fractional basis.

For example, if a game ended with one out in the bottom of the seventh, the visiting team would be credited with 6 1/3 defensive innings.

e) Tiebreaker Priorities

When a multiple tie occurs and is only partially resolved, the placement of the remaining tied teams will be resolved by continuing with the next tie-breaking priority until all priorities have been exhausted. Then, and only then, will the remaining tied teams return to priority number one and proceed through the order again.

Should ties occur between the provinces, round-robin standings will be decided according to the following priorities:

1. The team with the best win-loss record in the game(s) between the tied teams will place higher in the standings.
2. If the tie persists, the placement of teams will be determined by the ratio of the number of runs against per defensive inning in games between the original tied teams.
3. If the tie persists, the placement of teams will be determined by the ratio of the number of runs scored per offensive inning in games between the original tied teams.
4. If the tie persists, the team with the best win-loss record in games played versus the highest placed team not in the tie, followed by comparison against the next highest placed team, etc. will place higher in the standings.
5. If the tie persists, the placement of teams will be determined by the ratio of the number of runs against per defensive innings in all games.
6. If the tie persists, the placement of teams will be determined by the ratio of the number of offensive runs scored per offensive innings in all games.

f) Deadlock

If the tiebreaker priorities above cannot resolve the placement of tied teams, the tie will be broken in a one-inning game using the extra-inning game procedure. If three or more teams are deadlocked, a bracket will be created, and teams will be placed in the bracket by a random draw.

Section 3.7 - Time Between Games

If a team is scheduled to play two games back-to-back, they will be entitled to a rest period of one hour following the completion of the first game. However, upon agreement with the head coach, the Baseball Canada Technical Officer may reduce this rest period.

Section 3.8 - Arrival Time

Teams shall arrive at their playing field at least forty-five minutes prior to the designated starting time of their game.

Section 3.9 - Infield/Outfield Warmups

The home team shall have access to the entire field 25 minutes prior to the designated start time for 10 minutes.

The visiting team shall have access to the entire field 15 minutes prior to the designated start time for 10 minutes.

The Baseball Canada Technical Officer may cancel infield/outfield warmups due to weather or other delays in the schedule.

Section 3.10 - Start Times

Scheduled starting time means the time indicated on the Championship schedule created prior to the start of play. Designated starting time means the time determined by the Baseball Canada Technical Officer in the event of delays because of inclement weather, lengthy preceding game(s), or other factors. When a previous game concludes less than 45 minutes before the start of another scheduled game, the Technical Officer will communicate the designated start time to both teams.

Section 3.11 - Lineups

The starting line-up, including a list of all available substitutes, shall be given to the official scorer at least thirty minutes prior to the start of the game. The list shall include the surname of each player, coach, and manager, with their usual first and last name and uniform number. The uniform number is to be listed to the left of each name and the playing position of the starting players is to be listed to the right of each name.

Section 3.12 - Communication of Pitcher Between Teams

45 minutes prior to the scheduled start time, team managers will indicate to each other if they plan to start a left-handed, right-handed, or ambidextrous pitcher.

Section 3.13 – Post-Game Procedures

At the conclusion of play, the teams shall line up in the home plate area for the traditional handshakes. Following the handshakes, upon the request of the Host Committee, which shall be given prior to the game, the teams shall line up on their respective baselines for the presentation of awards. Following any post-game ceremonies, teams shall vacate the dugouts in a timely manner to not delay any following games.

Section 3.14 - Protest Procedures:

a) Composition

The Protest Committee for each game shall include three individuals. The Baseball Canada Technical Officer will approve the Protest Committee for the Championship and will communicate this information to teams at the Pre-Championship meeting.

The Baseball Canada Technical Officer shall be the chairperson of the Protest Committee.

b) Procedure

When an incident occurs, the protesting team must inform the umpires that they are lodging a protest before the next pitch, play, or attempted play is made. No protest may be made on a judgment call.

To be heard, the protest must be accompanied by a cash deposit of \$100. If the protesting team wins the protest, the cash deposit will be reimbursed.

The umpires shall suspend play and inform the manager of the opposing team and their umpire supervisor that a protest has been lodged.

The Protest Committee, the head coaches of each team, the umpires, and the chef de missions (if desired) shall go to a private area away from the teams, spectators, and other persons.

The Protest Committee shall hear and question in the following order:

- the game umpires, shall explain the play and their decision
- the protesting Head Coach shall state their protest
- the opposing Head Coach (if necessary) shall provide their perspective

The Protest Committee shall have the power to exclude any of these individuals while talking to any of the others.

c) Decision

The Protest Committee shall then discuss the protest in private. Before ruling on the protest, the Protest Committee may confer with any person whom they believe may help assist them reach a decision.

The Protest Committee shall rule on the protest and the chairperson will inform the teams of the decision.

The umpires shall put the decision into effect and order the resumption of play from the point of suspension. No further argument or comment on the protest shall be entertained. The decision of the Protest Committee shall be final. There shall be no appeal to any other body.

Section 3.15 - Discipline Process

a) Application

This discipline process will be used by the Baseball Canada Technical Officer to investigate ejections or misconduct to determine whether supplemental discipline is required.

The Baseball Canada Technical Officer may review:

- i) All ejections to coaches and players.
- ii) Any on-field incidents that did not result in ejections, based on personal observation, witness reports, or video.
- iii) Any off-field incident.
- iv) Any spectator conduct issues.

b) Process

The review of misconduct shall include a hearing for the individual accused of misconduct (respondent) that is chaired by the Baseball Canada Technical Officer. If the respondent is a youth athlete, a coach, chef, or parent must be included in the hearing. The Baseball Canada Technical Officer will inform the team's Chef of the time and location of the hearing, which will be scheduled before the team's next game.

The hearing will begin with the respondent being given an opportunity to read the umpire's ejection report or in the case of an incident not involving an ejection, be told of their alleged violation. The respondent will then provide the Baseball Canada Technical Officer with their perspective on the incident. In the case of a routine ejection, the Baseball Canada Technical Officer has the discretion to waive the hearing process. An athlete or coach who refuses to attend a scheduled hearing may be placed in a state of

indefinite suspension until the hearing is completed. The Baseball Canada Technical Officer may seek witness reports and consider video evidence. The Baseball Canada Technical Officer will inform the chef of the decision, which is final and cannot be appealed.

In consultation with the Host Committee, the Baseball Canada Technical Officer may remove a spectator from the Championship site and determine whether the spectator is able to return for future games.

c) Discipline Beyond a Championship

Any incident that may require further disciplinary action beyond the conclusion of the Championship will be forwarded to the appropriate PBA for their review.

d) Automatic or Minimum Sanctions

The following offenses will result in an automatic suspension to be determined by the Baseball Canada Technical Officer:

- Contact with an umpire
- Intent to injure; three (3) games
- If incidental contact occurs and the athlete is ejected, a one (1) game suspension may apply in lieu of a three (3) game suspension
- Throwing at a batter; one (1) game
- An ejection that occurs after a game; one (1) game
- A second ejection during the Championship; one (1) game
- A third ejection during the Championship; three (3) games
- Manager two (2) games when their team fails to show up for a game

e) Fines for Team or Individual Conduct

The Baseball Canada Technical Officer may issue fines for individual, and team conduct consistent with the table found in Section 3.16 of this document. Prior to imposing a fine, the Baseball Canada Technical Officer may issue one warning to allow the team a chance to solve the problem.

Section 3.16 – Financial Consequences

a) Fine Table

<u>Violation</u>	<u>Fine</u>
Withdrawing from a championship after February 28th	\$1 000
Withdrawing from a championship after June 15	\$2 000
Withdrawing from a championship within two weeks of the event	\$4 000
Withdrawing from the Canada Cup within two weeks of the event	\$5 000
Withdrawing from official host transportation use after confirming use at least 45 days from the start of the event	At cost incurred to host
Withdrawing from official host accommodations after confirming use at least 45 days from the start of the event	At cost incurred to host
Failure to submit a roster by the prescribed deadline	\$500
Adding team staff to a roster after the submission deadline	\$50 (max \$100/team)
Missing information on roster	
Change to jersey number after the roster submission deadline	\$50
Ineligible player identified on a roster during a championship	\$500
Ineligible player identified on a roster within 30 days of a championship	\$1 000
Failure to submit starting lineup 30 minutes prior to a game	\$100
Failure to attend opening or closing ceremonies	\$100
Failure to attend the pre-championship meeting	\$100
Failure to advise the host of changes to the travel itinerary	\$100
Individual misconduct	\$200
Team misconduct	\$500
Damage to hotel rooms or other property	At cost
Game Forfeit	\$1 000
Leaving an event without permission without completing schedule	\$5 000
Umpires – Failure to adhere to dress code	\$100
Pitch count violation	\$100

b) Issuing Fines

Fines may be issued by the on-site Baseball Canada Technical Officer or by the Baseball Canada office. Fines issued by the Baseball Canada office will be communicated via email directly to the PBA.

Fines issued by the on-site Baseball Canada Technical Officer will be communicated by email to the team's chef de mission. The Baseball Canada Technical Officer will forward a copy of the email to the Baseball Canada office, who will forward the email to the PBA.

c) Appealing Fines

Appeals of fines issued at a Championship must be made within seven days of the conclusion of the championship. Appeals of other fines must be made within seven days of the fine being issued.

Appeals must be made by email to the Baseball Canada office. It is the responsibility of the appellant to provide all materials which it deems necessary to the appeal. Once the

appeal has been made, Baseball Canada will communicate its ruling within 14 days.

Section 4 – Safety Rules

Section 4.1 - Protective Headgear

All players shall wear a double ear-flap helmet while in the on-deck circle, at bat, and on the base paths in all age categories. The double earflap helmet is required in these situations regardless of whether the activity is a practice or a game situation. This includes the batting cages.

Bat children must always wear a protective double earflap helmet, including when in the dugout.

Any player acting as a base coach must wear a double ear flap helmet, excluding the Men's, Women's, 19U Women's, and 22U divisions.

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 direction of the manufacturer. Batting helmets do not require facemasks, chin straps, or chin extensions but this rule does not prohibit their use.

Section 4.2 - Protection for Catchers

In a game situation, any player acting as a catcher must wear a complete set of catcher's gear, including a helmet, a mask with a throat protector, a chest protector, a jockstrap with a cup for men and a Jill strap for women, shin guards, and a catcher's glove.

In bullpen and warm-up situations, the equipment listed above is recommended. At a minimum, catchers, in all age categories, are required to wear a mask, with a throat protector, when they are squatting, or when a pitcher is throwing off the mound. Any individual, including a position player or coach, who is acting in the capacity of a catcher, is subject to this rule.

Extension masks are acceptable as throat protection, provided that the throat area is adequately covered in conjunction with the chest protector.

Section 4.3 - Metal Spikes

Metal spikes are not permitted at the 13U Championship.

Section 4.4 – Safety Rules Governing the Pitcher (this applies to Men's or Women's if the pitcher's age is identified in the grids below)

a) Eligibility

Any player on the team is eligible to pitch, and there are no restrictions on the number of pitchers a team may use in a game.

If a pitcher is ineligible to pitch due to pitch count rules (see sections below), this ineligibility starts immediately and continues for the remainder of the calendar day.

If a game continues past 12:01am, those pitches are counted as if they were thrown prior to midnight.

Each required day's rest shall be defined as starting at 12:01am and ending at 11:59 pm of the next calendar day.

For example, if a 13U pitcher threw 60 pitches on Thursday and requires two day's rest, the pitcher is ineligible to pitch for the remainder of Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

b) Rest Requirements

11U	13U Boys 14U Girls	15U Boys 16U Girls	18U 19U Women Canada Cup	22U 22U Women	Day's Rest
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

c) Multiple Appearances in a Day

Pitchers shall be permitted to have two appearances on the same calendar day. If a pitcher does not exceed the minimum rest threshold in their first appearance, the pitcher is eligible for a second appearance that day. The cumulative pitches of both appearances will determine the number of rest days to begin the next day.

For example, a 13U pitcher, with the minimum rest threshold of 30 pitches, who throws 20 pitches in game 1 on Thursday is eligible to pitch in game 2. If the pitcher then throws 20 pitches again in game 2 they will require one day of rest.

Pitchers cannot pitch in three games during the same calendar day.

d) Two-Day Maximum Pitch Limits

Pitchers will not be permitted to throw more than the number of pitches shown in the table below, over any two-day period.

<u>Division</u>	<u>Maximum 2 Day Total</u>
11U	75
13U Boys / 14U Girls	85
15U Boys 16U Girls	95
18U Men / 19U Women Canada Cup	105
22U Men / 22U Women	115

For example, a 13U pitcher who throws 20 pitches on Thursday is eligible to pitch on Friday but is limited to a maximum of 65 pitches ($85 - 20 = 65$)

e) Pitching on Three Consecutive Days

Pitchers may pitch on three consecutive days if the pitcher's combined total pitches during the first two days do not exceed the limits in the table below.

<u>Division</u>	<u>Limit</u>
11U	25
13U Boys / 14U Girls	30
15U Boys 16U Girls	35
18U Men / 19U Women Canada Cup	40
22U Men / 22U Women	45

Example 1: An 11U pitcher throws 15 pitches on Thursday and 20 pitches in their first game on Friday, the pitcher is ineligible to pitch in a second game on Friday and is not eligible to pitch on Saturday.

Example 2: An 11U pitcher throws 10 pitches on Thursday, 10 pitches on Friday, and 20 pitches in their first game on Saturday, the pitcher is ineligible to pitch in a second game Saturday and is not eligible to pitch on Sunday.

If a pitcher is eligible to pitch on a third consecutive day, the pitcher is limited to the number of pitches shown in the table below, combined, over the course of those three days.

<u>Division</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
11U	75
13U Boys / 14U Girls	85
15U Boys 16U Girls	95
18U Men / 19U Women Canada Cup	105
22U Men / 22U Women	115

Example 3: A 13U pitcher throws 20 pitches on Thursday and 10 pitches on Friday. The pitcher is eligible to pitch on Saturday but is limited to a maximum of 55 pitches. (85-20-10=55).

Note: This rule applies to pitchers who throw on three consecutive days only. There is no maximum three-day pitch limit.

Example 4: A 13U pitcher throws 30 pitches on Thursday and 0 pitches on Friday, the pitcher is eligible to pitch to a maximum of 85 pitches on Saturday as this is not three consecutive days.

f) Four Consecutive Days

A pitcher cannot pitch on four consecutive days

g) Four-Day Maximum Pitch Limits

Pitchers will not be permitted to throw more than the number of pitches shown in the table below, over any four consecutive day period.

<u>Division</u>	<u>Maximum 4 Day Total</u>
11U	105
13U Boys / 14U Girls	120
15U Boys 16U Girls	135
18U Men / 19U Women Canada Cup	150
22U Men / 22U Women	165

Any rest required under this rule is immediate.

For example, a 13U pitcher who throws 45 pitches on Thursday, and 10 pitches on Saturday is eligible to pitch on Sunday but is limited to a maximum of 65 pitches ($120 - 45 - 10 = 65$).

h) Balks

If during an at-bat the pitcher balks in his delivery and continues with his delivery and the pitch crosses the foul line, a pitch shall be charged against the pitch count.

i) Ambidextrous Pitchers

Pitches thrown by an ambidextrous pitcher are counted regardless of which arm or combination of arms, the pitches are thrown with.

j) Playing in Different Age Divisions

A pitcher playing in a higher age division, shall be governed by the pitching rules of their actual age division. Alternatively, a player playing in a younger division (an overage player), shall be governed by the younger age division.

For example, a 13U-aged pitcher playing in the 15U division is subject to the 13U pitching rules, and a 22U-aged woman pitcher playing in the 19U Women's division is subject to the 19U rules.

This section applies to the Men's and Women's Championships, which do not otherwise have pitching rules.

k) Pitching & Catching

Once a player assumes the position of pitcher, they cannot catch for the remainder of the day.

l) Completing a Batter

When a pitcher reaches the maximum number of pitches allowed for a rest threshold, **the pitcher is permitted to exceed the rest threshold in order to complete the at-bat whether the coach signals to the umpire it will be the last batter or not**

- **If the coach signals to the umpire that it will be the last batter, the pitch count will then revert to the exceeded threshold which will be recorded on the pitch count log.**
- **If the coach does not signal to the umpire that it will be the last batter, the pitch count will not revert to the exceeded threshold and the actual number of pitches thrown will be recorded in the pitch count log.**

If the pitcher has exceeded the maximum number of pitches allowed for a rest threshold after finishing a batter, the coach has not signaled to the umpire that it was the last batter, and the coach allows the pitcher to throw a pitch to a new batter, that is a pitch count violation.

This rule applies to the following;

- 1) **The pitcher reaches the minimum daily rest threshold.** For example, a 13U pitcher has thrown 27 pitches and has started an at-bat. The coach signals to the umpire that it will be the last batter before the pitcher exceeds the minimum daily threshold (30 pitches). The pitcher throws 33 pitches, but 30 will be recorded on the pitch count log.
- 2) **The pitcher reaches the maximum daily rest threshold.** For example, a 13U pitcher has thrown 83 pitches and has started an at-bat. The coach signals to the umpire that it will be the last batter before the pitcher exceeds the maximum daily threshold (85 pitches). The pitcher throws 87 pitches but 85 will be recorded on the pitch count log.
- 3) **The pitcher reaches the threshold to pitch on 3 consecutive days.** For example, a 13U pitcher throws 15 pitches on Day 1 and on Day 2 throws 12 pitches before starting another at-bat. The coach signals to the umpire that it will be the last batter before the pitcher exceeds the minimum daily rest threshold (30 pitches). The pitcher finishes with 17 pitches to finish the batter but 15 will be recorded on the pitch count log.

- 4) **The pitcher reaches the threshold in two appearances on the same day.** For example, a 13U pitcher throws 27 pitches in Game 1 before starting an at-bat. The coach signals to the umpire that it will be the last batter before the pitcher exceeds the minimum daily threshold (30 pitches). The pitcher finishes with 33 pitches and 30 pitches are recorded in the pitch count log. The pitcher is eligible to pitch in Game 2 on that day.
- 5) **The pitcher reaches the four-day maximum pitch limit.** For example, a 13U pitcher throws 45 pitches on Thursday, 20 pitches on Saturday, and is eligible to throw 55 pitches on Sunday. On Sunday, the pitcher throws 52 pitches before starting an at-bat. The coach signals to the umpire that it is the last batter before the pitcher exceeds the four-day maximum pitch limit (120 pitches). The pitcher finishes with 57 pitches but 55 will be recorded on the pitch count log.

The umpire will advise the scorekeeper of the coach's last batter notification. Once the coach has made this declaration, the pitcher must be removed after the at-bat.

m) Intentional Walks

Only pitches thrown will be included in pitch count totals. Automatic balls during an intentional walk do not count towards pitch count totals.

For example, if with a 2-0 count, a team signals to the umpire that a batter will receive an intentional walk, only the two pitches thrown will be counted for pitch count.

n) Returning to Pitch

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 at another position.

Approved ruling: a pitcher who is pinch hit or pinch run for in an offensive inning, may not return as a pitcher when the team takes the field on defense.

o) Penalty

The penalty for any violation of any part of the pitch count rule is the ejection of the team's Head Coach or Manager, a **financial penalty**, and the Head Coach or Manager shall receive an automatic one-game suspension. Should a pitch count rule violation be discovered at the conclusion of a game, the Head Coach or Manager is suspended for one game.

Beginning in 2026, at the 19U Women's, Women's, Canada Cup, 18U, 22U, and Men's level, the violation of any part of the pitch count rule does not result in a forfeit of a game.

When a pitcher is about to become ineligible, all individuals, including scorekeepers and the opposing team coaches, must raise this point and prevent the pitcher from becoming ineligible by advising the pitcher's Head Coach or Manager.

p) Suspended Games

When a game is suspended, the scorekeepers will record all pitches thrown in the pitching log. Required rest will be applied immediately.

When a suspended game is resumed, pitches thrown at the completion of the suspended game will be recorded on the day they are thrown.

A pitcher who is ineligible to pitch on the day a game begins but is eligible on the day the game is completed, may pitch in the completion of the suspended game. A pitcher who is

eligible to pitch on the day a game begins but is not eligible to pitch on the day the game is completed, may not pitch in the completion of the suspended game.

A game is suspended when the Baseball Canada Technical Officer makes such a declaration and advises teams to leave the park.

A game is delayed when teams remain at the field, with the hope of continuing the game. Delays have no impact on pitching rules.

q) Second Trip

The manager or coach may make a 2nd visit to the mound while the same batter is at bat to remove the pitcher. If the manager or coach makes a 2nd trip to the same pitcher in the same inning will cause the pitcher's automatic removal from the pitching position.

Section 5 – Game Play Rules

Baseball Canada Championships shall be governed by the Official Rules of Baseball. This section summarizes modifications to the Official Rules of Baseball for Baseball Canada Championships.

Section 5.1 - Compression Sleeves

All players, including pitchers, are permitted to wear compression sleeves on one or both arms. If only wearing one sleeve, 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 or reflective material.

Section 5.2 - Designated Hitter

The designated hitter may be used in Women's, Men's, 22U, 18U, and the Baseball Canada Cup.

The designated hitter may be used in place of an extra hitter at Ray Carter Cup (15U Boys). When submitting a lineup card a team can opt to use an extra hitter, a designated hitter, or neither. They cannot make any changes to this decision after the lineup is submitted.

The *Ohtani Rule* is permitted, see MLB rule 5.11 b) for full wording.

Section 5.3 - Extra Hitter

The Extra Hitter may be used in the 13U, 16U Girls, and 19U Women's Championships.

The extra hitter may be used in place of a designated hitter at Ray Carter Cup (15U Boys). When submitting a lineup card a team can opt to use an extra hitter, a designated hitter, or neither. They cannot make any changes to this decision after the lineup is submitted.

An Extra-Hitter (EH) may be placed on the lineup card to get more athletes at-bats throughout the game. When using an EH, the team bats ten players. This rule is optional and does not have to be used by both teams. 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, while retaining their place in the batting order. For example, the SS could become the EH and the EH become the SS.

If a player is injured, and the team has no eligible substitutes available, the re-entry rule would apply. The team would continue to bat ten players. If the team had no other players available for selection, the game would proceed with 9 players, without forfeit, and without an automatic out. 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.

Section 5.4 - Courtesy/Designated Runners

No courtesy runner will be allowed for the catcher.

Section 5.5 - Length of Games

All games will be seven innings (6 ½ complete innings if the home team is ahead).

Section 5.6 - Suspended Games

If a game is suspended for any reason, including but not limited to curfew, darkness, power failure, or weather prior to completion, the game shall be resumed from the point of the suspension.

Section 5.7 - Mercy Rule

The ten-run mercy rule shall apply after the fifth inning or four and a half innings if the home team is ahead.

The fifteen-run mercy rule shall apply after the fourth inning or three and a half innings if the home team is ahead.

Section 5.8 - Between Inning Timing

The between-innings clock will be set at ninety (90) seconds and will be timed by the umpires, using a 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, regardless of where the out was recorded on the field. The pitcher will receive five preparatory pitches unless they are entering a game, in which case they will receive eight preparatory pitches. The pitcher may not exceed eight warm-up pitches within the time. The catcher will be instructed to 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. Penalty: Failure to do so will result in an automatic strike being called on the batter. For pitch count purposes, this automatic strike will not be added to the pitch count total. The umpires will use discretion when the catcher is at-bat or on base when the inning ends. The defensive team must be ready to play as time expires. Penalty: Failure to do so will result in an automatic ball being added to the count on the batter. For pitch count purposes, this automatic ball is not added to the pitch count total.

Section 5.9 - Contact Rule

All penalties and enforcement guidelines regarding collisions at home plate and slides at bases apply as outlined in rule 6.01(i-j) of the Official Rules of Baseball.

In addition, any offensive or defensive player who, in the umpire's judgment, makes malicious contact with another player shall be ejected. Contact shall be considered malicious if, in the umpire's judgment, it is the result of intentional excessive force or there is an intent to injure.

Section 5.10 - Extra Inning Game Procedure

All games require a winner. There are no tie games.

During tiebreaker games and medal round games at all Championships, traditional extra innings will be played, with no placed runner. **Note that beginning in 2026, Men's Championship will use the placed runner in round robin games that require extra innings.**

In all Championships, if a round-robin game is tied after the completion of seven innings, the following procedures will apply:

- i) Each team will begin the extra inning (and any subsequent extra innings) with a placed runner on second base only, and no outs.
- ii) The batting order of the extra inning, or any subsequent innings, will be determined by how the previous inning ended.

If the last regulation inning ended with the #6 hitter having the last plate appearance, then the extra inning begins with the #7 hitter at bat, and the #6 hitter at second base.

- iii) The traditional system of the visiting team hitting in the top of the inning and the home team hitting in the bottom of the inning will remain in effect until a winner is determined.

Section 5.11 - Re-entry Rule

(applies only to 13U, 15U Boys, 16U Girls and 19U Women's)

Any starting player may be substituted for and returned to the game, one time only. The starting player must return to their 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 the player has not previously assumed that position.

A substituted player may return to the game in the event of an injury or illness as determined by the game umpires. Such substitution will occur when all the team's players have already entered in the game and the team is not able to make a legal substitution or re-entry. The opposing coach shall make the selection of the replacement player who will not be eligible to pitch in that game. The substitute shall assume the place in the batting order of the injured player. This does not apply in the event of an ejection from the game. If a coach has entered all the team's players in the game and a player is subsequently ejected, the game shall be considered a forfeit if the team has no more substitutes or cannot make a legal re-entry.

Section 5.12 - Bat Rules

<u>Championship</u>	<u>Age</u>
Canada Cup	Only wood or bamboo bats. Composite not permitted.
Men's National Championships 22U National Championships	Only wood bats, bamboo bats, and wood composite bats will be allowed. Wood composite bats include wood bats with fiberglass sheathing and wood barreled bats with composite handles. Wood composite bats do not include any bat that has any metallic component.
18U National Championships Ray Carter Cup (15U National Championships)	-3 BBCOR bats are permitted
Women's National Championships 19U Women's National Championships 16U Girls National Championships	Maximum barrel - 2 3/4" with i) 1.15 BPF (Bat Performance Factor) or ii) USA Baseball Model Using up to a minus 5 length/weight differential is permitted.
13U National Championships	Maximum barrel - 2 3/4" with i) 1.15 BPF (Bat Performance Factor) or ii) USA Baseball Model Using up to a minus 10-length/weight differential is permitted.

In all divisions, 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-aged player participating in a 15U National Championship game is subject to the 15U National Championship bat rule. A 16U-aged girl playing in a 15U National Championship game is subject to the 15U National Championship bat rule.

Section 5.13 – Winning Pitcher Determination

Starting pitcher is credited with a win if they complete four full innings.

Section 5.14 – Technology and Communication

An exclusively one-way electronic communication device from the dugout for the purpose of relaying the pitch or play call is permitted. The use of an in-ear communication device shall be limited to the defensive position of the catcher.

Players while on offense or defense may use non-electronic communication assistants such as defensive positioning cards.

Section 5.15 Pitch Timers

Baseball Canada does not implement pitch timers at National Championships.

Section 6 – Championship Formats

# of Teams	Pools	Format	Playoffs
Less than 7	All teams are in one pool.	Single round-robin.	Gold: 2 nd vs 1 st Bronze: 4 th vs 3 rd 5 th Place: 6 th vs 5 th * * if six teams
7 teams	Pool A – 3 teams Pool B – 4 teams Pools formed by three-year point system. The Host team goes in the same pool as their province unless the host province is seed three, in which case the province goes in Pool A and the host in Pool B.	Pool A – Double round-robin. Pool B – Single round-robin.	Scenario A – All Pool A teams are 1-1. QF: 3A vs 2B SF: 1B vs 1A SF: W of 3A/2B vs 2A Gold: SF Winners Bronze: SF Losers 6th: 3B vs 4B Scenario B – Pool A finishes 2-0/1-1/0-2 SF: 1A vs 2B SF: 2A vs 1B Gold: SF Winner Bronze: SF Losers Place: 3B vs 4B (L=7 th) 5th: W 3B/4B vs 3A
8 or 9 Teams Does not apply to: National Atlantic National Western Canada Cup 18U 15U Ray Carter Cup	Pool A – 1, 4, 5, 8 Pool B – 2, 3, 6, 7 Pools formed based on previous year's results. The Host team will not be in the same Pool as their provincial team. In a 9-team event, the host shall be in the larger pool.	Single round-robin. OPTION A: If 4 teams finish 4-0, all 4 teams go directly to the semi-finals. No quarterfinals. If a team finishes 4th in their pool with a 3-1 record, they are ranked 3rd in the opposite pool. OPTION B: If 4 teams finish 4-0, all 4 teams go directly to the semi-finals. No quarterfinals. Teams are re-ranked 1-8, #1 and #2 advance to semi-finals, #7 and #8 are eliminated, seeds 3-6 play in quarterfinals	OPTION A QF1: 3A vs 2B QF2: 3B vs 2A Con: 3A/2B L vs 4B Con: 3B/2A L vs 4A 5th: Con Winners 7th: Con Losers OPTION B QF1: #6 vs #3 QF2: #5 vs #4 5 th : QF2 L vs QF1 L SF: QF1 W vs 1A (or #1) SF: QF2 W vs 1B (or #2) Gold: SF Winners Bronze: SF Losers No placement games at Men's

10 Teams Does not apply to: Canada Cup 18U 15U Ray Carter Cup	Pool A – 1, 4, 5, 8, 9 Pool B – 2, 3, 6, 7, 10 Pools formed based on previous year's results. The Host team will not be in the same Pool as their provincial team.	Single round-robin Tiebreaker game if three teams at 3-1 in the same Pool.	SF: 2B vs 1A SF: 2A vs 1B Gold: SF Winners Bronze: SF Losers 5th: 3A vs 3B 7th: 4A vs 4B 9th: 5A vs 5B No placement games at Men's
11 Teams Does not apply to: Canada Cup 18U 15U Ray Carter Cup	Pool A – 1, 4, 5, 8 Pool B – 2, 3, 6, 7 Pools formed based on previous year's results. The Host team will not be in the same Pool as their provincial team. The host shall be in the larger pool.	Single round-robin	QF: 3B vs 2A QF: 3A vs 2B SF: W 3B/2A vs 1B SF: W 3A/2B vs 1A Gold: SF Winners Bronze: SF Losers 5th: QF Losers 7th: 4A vs 4B 9th: 5A vs 5B No placement games at Men's
12 Teams (option) Does not apply to: Men's	Pool A – 1, 6, 7, 12 Pool B – 2, 5, 8, 11 Pool C – 3, 4, 9, 10 Pools formed by three-year point system. 1 st Place = 10 points 2 nd Place = 9 points (continued) The Host team will not be in the same Pool as their provincial team.	Single round-robin. Tiebreaker game if three pools are all 3-1.	<p>QFs: • first # = placing in pool • second # = ranking among teams in other pools with similar placing</p> <p>QF1: 3rd 2 vs. 1st 1 QF2: 3rd 1 vs. 1st 2 QF3: 2nd 3 vs. 1st 3 QF4: 2nd 2 vs. 2nd 1</p> <p>Consolation Semi-Finals: CSF1: 4th 3 vs 3rd 3 CSF2: 4th 2 vs 4th 1</p> <p>Re-ranking games: RR1: QF4 L vs QF1 L RR2: QF3 L vs QF2 L</p> <p>Semi-finals: SF1: QF4 W vs QF1 W SF2: QF3 W vs QF2 W</p> <p>Placement Games: Gold: SF Winners Bronze: SF Losers 5th: RR2 W vs RR1 W 7th: RR2 L vs RR1 L 9th: CSF2 W vs CSF1 W 11th: CSF1 L vs CSF2 L</p>
13U	2nd team from same province receives same ranking as first team.		

Canada Cup	Pool A – 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Pool B – 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 Pools formed by three-year point system. 1 st Place = 10 points 2 nd Place = 9 points (continued)	Single round-robin. Tiebreaker game if three teams in Pool B are 3-1.	Playoff: 1A vs 1B Playoff: 2A vs 3A QF: Highest playoff loser vs 2B QF: Lowest playoff loser vs 4A SF: Highest playoff winner vs lowest QF winner SF: Lowest playoff winner vs highest QF winner Gold: SF Winners Bronze: SF Loses 5 th : QF Losers Placement: 5A vs 5B Placement: 3B vs 4B 7 th : Placement winners 9 th : Placement losers
18U 16U Girls 15U Ray Carter Cup	Pool A – 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Pool B – 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 Pools formed by three-year point system. The Host team goes in the same pool as their province unless the host province is seed five, in which case the province goes in Pool A and the host in Pool B. Except for 16U Girls, where the Host team is always in Pool B.	Single round-robin. Tiebreaker game if three teams in Pool B are 3-1.	QF: 3A vs 2B SF: 3A/2B W vs 2A SF: 1A vs 1B Gold: SF Winners Bronze: SF Losers 5th: L 3A/2B vs 4A 7th: 5A vs 3B 9th: 4B vs 5B
Men's 22U	Pools formed by three-year point system. 2 nd team from same province receives same ranking as first team.	Single round-robin. No tiebreaker games.	Quarter Final Games

Note: When forming pools based on the three-year point system, ties will be broken using the last two year's results. If a team has never participated, 0 points is to be used. If a team has skipped a year or more, their last three years of attendance would be used.