

## **Boys' Baseball**

**2016-2017**

### **1. SEASON OF PLAY**

Boys' = Spring Season

### **2. LEVELS OF COMPETITION**

Senior Level (Varsity) Boys

### **3. ELIGIBILITY**

1 boys' team per school; no A, AA, AAA classifications

A school/team must conduct a 'bona fide' high school program consisting of a minimum of nine (9) practices during a three (3) week period in the current school year and under the supervision of a teacher as certified by the school principal.

A school must participate in an Association-approved league if one is held ...or play a minimum of six (6) games.

No competitor is eligible for the OFSAA Baseball Championship if he has signed with a major league baseball team. Any high school team that includes said player on their eligibility sheet will forfeit all games in which the player's name appears on the game sheet.

The individual's birth certificate indicates that he has not reached his 19th birthday by January 1st. prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held.

### **4. ELIGIBILITY SHEETS**

Eligibility sheets are due to the zone Convener 48 hours prior to the first league game.

### **5. GAME TIME**

Games will start according to field availability and will be determined at the beginning of the season by the convener.

No new inning starts after 1 hour and 45 minutes.

If the game is tied at one hour and 45 minutes, the teams will play the international tie breaking rule; and if still tied;

At the 2 hour time limit, the umpires will check the official score book to see who was leading after the end of 4 innings. The team leading wins. This is sometimes applied in tournament play.

### **6. HOME SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Home teams must put away bases and replace rubber plugs properly after games.

## **7. PAYMENT OF OFFICIALS**

Both teams are responsible for payment of the umpires for all league and play-off games. The amount will be announced at the first meeting.

In the event a play-off game is played at a neutral site then the cost of umpires will also be shared equally between participating teams.

If a gate is charged at an NRHSAA league or play-off game then all expenses will be paid from the gate (umpires, minor officials, security, score keepers, etc.) and the remainder of the gate will be divided equally between the home and visiting team.

## **8. REPORTING SCORES**

The home team will report the scores to the Athletic Convener in charge EITHER that afternoon or the next morning.

## **9. OFFICIALS**

All umpires must be accredited by the Ontario Baseball Association.

## **10. Official Role Book**

The official rule book will be the "Official Rules of Baseball". Zone rules take precedent over official baseball rules.

## **11. GAME FORFEITURES**

The following policies are in place for game forfeitures:

- (1) Should a team forfeit a game with less than 48 hours' notice, all costs associated with the game shall be charged to the forfeiting school.
- (2) Should a team forfeit a game, the forfeiting team will be given a loss as a result of the forfeit.
- (3) Should a team forfeit two (2) games during regular season play, the team shall be removed from the league and all points earned in games played against that team shall be removed from league standings.
- (4) A team that forfeits a game during the regular season loses all rights with regards to tie breaking procedures. (ie if the team is tied for 3rd, the team will be relegated to 4th place).
- (5) A team that forfeits a playoff game shall also forfeit the right to play any further playoff games at the current or subsequent level of playoffs (ie when two teams qualify for SOSSA).

## **12. GENERAL RULES FOR LEAGUE PLAY**

1. All games will be 7 innings;
2. A designated hitter may be used for the pitcher;
3. Pitchers are limited to 12 outs per game;
4. With 2 outs; and the catcher on base, the last batter making an out shall be substituted for the catcher-runner;
5. A player who maliciously runs into another player is out ( unless he has scored prior to committing the infraction) and automatically EJECTED from the game;
6. An EJECTED individual from a game shall be first dealt with through the NRHSAA Constitution (ARTICLE XXIV); regardless of any discipline measures, that individual will AUTOMATICALLY be ineligible to participate in his/her next game;

7. Runners are prohibited from sliding head first into a base unless returning to a base (overrun or steal attempt). A player contravening this rule will be called out on the play.
8. Only solid wood or composite bats will be allowed.
9. Only baseballs approved by Baseball Canada for use by midget age and up (16 and over) shall be used in high school competition.
10. Shoes with metal cleats or rubber molded cleats are permitted;
11. Catchers must wear a helmet and mask with adequate throat protection at all times. This includes practice and warm ups;
12. Coaches must wear at least a mask in all practice and warm up situations;
13. The use of all tobacco products, including smokeless tobacco by all on-field participants (players, coaches, managers, trainers, umpires, etc.) is PROHIBITED at all times and is subject to an automatic EJECTION from the game;
14. No visible jewelry is allowed.
15. Metal bats are no longer permitted in high school baseball. All bats shall be wooden.
16. As of April 2015, the re-entry rule will be in effect. With the exception of the pitcher, each starting player may re-enter the game once. (A pitcher who once removed may not pitch again if removed from the field).
17. Teams may opt to utilize 10 batters in the starting line-up. The additional batter shall be deemed as the extra player (EP). The following rules for the EP shall apply:
  - i) The option to use the EP must be declared when handing in the line-up card prior to the start of the game.
  - ii) The EP may bat in any place in the batting order.
  - iii) The EP will be considered a defensive position and eligible for re-entry.
  - iv) If a team using the EP has any players ejected or injured and it results in the team having less than ten (10) players in the line-up the game shall continue with nine (9) players. The batting order will be shifted up to fill the void but otherwise remains the same.

**Note:** If the player starting in the EP is moved into a defensive position his place in the batting order does not change. The new EP will bat in the place of the player they replaced.

**Note:** A team may use either an EP or a designated hitter, but the team may not use both an EP and a designated hitter in the same game. For clarity, a team may also choose NOT to use either an EP or a designated hitter. (#17 as of April 2017)

**Note:** The use of the EP will only apply to NRHSAA league play and not to the playoffs and beyond.

### 13. UNIFORMS

- All competitors are expected to dress in uniforms that are neat and clean;
- The uniform may have the school's (and/association) name, colors and logo on them;
- All uniforms must have numbers on the back of the uniform shirt;
- NO sport club insignia on uniforms shall be permitted. ( A sport club is defined as a community, provincially or nationally based organization whose primary purpose is participation in organized competition in single or multi-sport programs);
- Sponsorship recognition is permitted to be visible but must conform with the OFSAA placement guidelines outlined in OFSAA By-law 6, Section 2(h));
- Coaches must be dressed in a team uniform and the uniform must be in team colors - no shorts;
- ON BASE COACHES MUST WEAR A HELMET- no specifications given; as of May 2008;
- All players and coaches must wear their official team cap;
- Injuries with visible blood must be treated and covered;
- Coaches shall provide all consumable medical supplies (e.g. tape, bandages) for their athletes.

#### 14. LEAGUE FORMAT FOR NRHSAA BOYS' BASEBALL

The format for league competition will be determined at the Baseball sport specific meeting. All schools participating are to send a representative to this meeting or otherwise forfeit all **rights for input in** the league and play-off format.

Any game / match not played will be recorded by the convener as a win for the school who did not forfeit. In team sports where standings are used to determine play-offs, the win/loss achieved against teams that drop out will be taken away (not added) to teams that are still yet to play them.

#### 15. TIE BREAKING PROCEDURES

The following method of determining play-off position will be used in all sports where a league schedule leads to a play-off:

- (1) Record between tied teams;
- (2) Record against teams higher in the standings (1 above, then 2 above, etc.);
- (3) Record against teams lower in the standings (1 below, then 2 below, etc.);
- (4) (a) Goals for and against will be used to break a tie when teams are tied to determine a playoff position.  
  
 (b) Play-off on a neutral field/court or a coin flip for home field if both coaches agree, if it is to determine the final play-off position.  
  
 (c) In the event of a four way tie, the convener, in consultation with the NRHSAA Executive and the schools involved, will determine a tie-breaking procedure.

#### 16. PLAY-OFF FORMAT FOR NRHSAA BOYS' BASEBALL

The zone 3 and 4 semi-final and final games will be played in a single day. Teams will play two semi-final games in the morning and a championship game in the afternoon."

The higher ranked team after league play is completed will be the home team.

All zone 3 and 4 play-off games will have a two-hour and 30 minute time curfew. Games can be called and be deemed official after 5 innings if the weather does not permit the completion of the game as per Official Baseball Rules."

#### 17. PLAY-OFF FORMAT FOR ZONE 3 AND 4 BOYS' BASEBALL (NRHSAA/NCAA)

If one association has one team only then the NCAA champion plays the NRHSAA champion for zone championship. Winner goes to SOSSA. If a second entry to SOSSA exists, then the second place finisher in the zone champions association may challenge the runner up in the zone final for the second entry into SOSSA. If a challenge game takes place then the runner up in the zone final will host the challenge game.

When both associations (NRHSAA and NCAA) each have two or more teams in a classification, then the zone play downs would feature the top two teams on each side qualify for the playoffs. There would be a crossover 1st from one association playing 2nd from the other association and vice versa in the semifinals, and the two winners would then play in the zone finals. If the zone has two entries to SOSSA, both the winner and runner up in the zone final would qualify for SOSSA (there would not be a challenge game). In the semi- finals, the 1st place team from each association will host the game. In the finals, the result of the "flip" and "rotation" will host the game. One caveat to this is if both finalists are from the same

association, and the rotation has the finals being hosted by the other association. In that case, the final will be hosted by the association to which both finalists belong.

**18. ZONE QUALIFICATION TO SOSSA**

1 champion from each zone will go to SOSSA.