



2015
Mosquito House League
RULE BOOK

"Sherwood Park Minor Baseball exists to foster and encourage the growth and development of the sport of baseball by teaching the value of sportsmanship, skills and competition".

April 4, 2015

RULES OF PLAY

In general, Baseball Alberta Community rules apply (www.baseballalberta.ca).

Game Times and Nights of Play

Nights of Play are Tuesday and Thursday. Schedules are available at www.spmba.ca

Games are to start by 6:30 pm. In May, no new inning to start after 8:00 pm. In June, no new inning to start after 8:30 pm.

All games are to a maximum of six innings, if time and weather permits. A game stopped due to weather will be considered complete if 3 innings have been finished. Keep warm-ups to a minimum to get innings in.

In case of a tie, each team gets one point.

All games must be played and deemed complete in order to count the result (teams may not play one game for double points or flip a coin to determine winner).

Any game where less than 7 players are at the diamond within 15 minutes past the designated start of the game will result in 7-0 forfeit (unless determined to be a scheduling error or team has communicated an acceptable situation to the host/home team); if 7 or 8 players are present, the game will still be played (pitching innings will still count in daily/weekly total); the opposing coach will have the option to loan that team a player(s) to play the game but that player(s) may not pitch.

Home team is responsible for contacting Umpire Director and other team in case a game is cancelled due to weather conditions. Coaches are responsible for arranging for the makeup of a rainout. Should a game not be rescheduled, each team gets one point, and the both teams are responsible to get game summary information into SPMBA for standings update. Note that once a rainout is called, the game should be rescheduled within one week and played as soon as possible. Consider looking at all diamonds (even outside the respective association) to play rainouts.

Note weather conditions can vary across the Edmonton and Strathcona area, so it is recommended to phone the other coach to see if fields are playable (vs using the SMPBA County Field Closure line).

Bases and Pitching Mound

Bases must either be permanent (or permanent / magnetic) bases **or** bases pegged down with two (2) spikes (due to safety).

Pitching mound set at 44 feet. Bases are to be set at 60 feet.

Bat Regulations

All bats must adhere to Baseball Alberta regulations - <http://www.baseballalberta.com/default.aspx?p=batregulations>

Max differential - none

Max diameter – 2 ¼

Max length - 32 inches

Dugout Assignments

Home team will occupy 3rd base dugout (except in case where a team is playing a double header and already occupies the opposing dugout).

Walks

Walks and intentional walks are not permitted. If a pitcher throws 4 balls, the coach from the hitting team will side toss to his hitter. Hitters can only reach base by way of hit or error. Current pitch count applies eg 4 balls, 1 strike, then coach side tosses 2 times. Note if player falls the ball, then he/she gets another toss.

- Side tosses only – if player misses, he/she is out
- No stealing if pass ball when coach pitches
- Coaches need to emphasize to kids to swing bat
- Umpires need to emphasize wider strike zone

Note coach can only toss from the side of plate due to safety reasons and not to interfere with the play. Coaches cannot pitch from the mound.

Other General Rules

A courtesy runner may be used for catchers when they are on base with 2 outs in an inning for all regular season league games.

Baseball Canada rules except where identified for the following:

- **Unlimited Substitution** – every player present will be placed on the line-up card in the batting order and will all bat in order; players are allowed to move in/out defensively without restrictions except that if the pitcher leaves the mound to play another defensive position, that pitcher may not return to the mound or catch in the same game (see fair play rule below); any player who becomes injured or must leave the game will be skipped in the batting line-up with no penalty.
- **All players who are present for a game and in uniform** (unless injured and unable to play or suspended for that game by the league or team) **must be listed on the batting order/line-up card** – *any coach who sits a player to gain a competitive advantage will be subject to discipline by Baseball Alberta.*
- **FAIR PLAY RULE** – **A player is not to sit more than 2 consecutive innings during the game, and no player shall sit more than 2 innings in a game until all players have sat at least 2 innings.**

- **Mercy Rule** is in effect (10 run differential when the losing team has completed their **4th** offensive inning/at bat)
- **Passed ball** – after ball crosses the plate, a player is allowed to steal. A player can run from third to home on a passed ball. No stealing on a passed ball if coach is pitching.
- **Maximum 7 Score Rule** – When a team has a lead of seven 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 (no stealing). If the runner reaches the next base, he is returned to his base and the ball is dead.
- **Maximum 5 Run/Half Inning Rule** – Once the 5th run of a half inning is scored the inning automatically stops no matter how many outs there are and the half inning is over.
- **Lead Offs** – no leading off.

PITCH COUNTS

General Rules

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

A pitcher can only pitch a **maximum of 2 innings** or a total **44** pitches per game (based on Baseball AB Medium pitch count)

LEVEL	# OF PITCHES	DAYS OF REST
Low	1-20	None
Medium Low	21-30	1 day
Medium	31-44	2 days

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.

Example:

1. Billy throws up to 30 pitches on Tuesday. He is allowed to pitch on Thursday; the pitch count starts at 0 on Thursday.
2. Johnny throws between 31 and 44 pitches on Tuesday. He cannot pitch on Thursday.
3. Sally throws between 0 and 44 pitches on Thursday. She can pitch again on Tuesday; the pitch count starts at 0 on Tuesday.

Note “days” start at midnight e.g. Tuesday at 12 midnight to Wednesday at 12 midnight is considered one day of rest.

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

Pitchers will be permitted to finish the batter if his or her maximum pitch limit has been reached for that calendar day. Note this may put the player into the next category and he/she may not be allowed to pitch on next night of play eg. Thursday.

The scorekeeper will inform the umpire of the pitch count when a count is nearing the end of a pitcher's daily limits. The umpire will then notify the team manager or coach of the offending team so that an opportunity for assignment correction may be immediately affected.

We do not keep track of pitch count from tournaments.

Overage

No overage boys allowed in this division, but girls will be allowed (held back one year).

SCORESHEETS

We will be using a league management program to keep house schedules, scores and standings on our SPMBBA website. Game summary sheets that are prefilled with game information (eg. date, diamond, home team, visiting team, umpires, coach, etc) will be available on our website for printing off prior to game. It is recommended to only print sheets for one week at a time due to potential changes eg umpire names.

Coaches will need to fill out any missing information. Game summary report must have team names (e.g. NEZ Team 7 Tigers), game number, date, score, pitchers name and number and his/her pitch count, umpire name and number, coaches name.

Game summary must be signed by both coaches and umpires. Both plate and base umpires need to print their name legibly and sign.

Coaches should not sign any blank game summary forms. Summary sheets that have been signed are considered final. There will be no disputing summary sheets that are signed by both team coaches and umpires.

It is the responsibility of both teams to keep score.

Both teams are responsible for submitting all game summaries. Fax to 1-866-618-7580 or email to office@spmba.ca or take a picture with a smart phone and email within 24 hours. This info is used for SPMBBA to pay umpires.

Standings will be placed on the SPMBBA website.

Pitch counts will be tracked and emailed by office@spmba.ca to all coaches with name of pitchers ineligible to pitch for next game. They will not be posted on the website.

PLAYOFFS

The format for playoffs will be simple – top 4 teams play off: 1 vs 2; 3 vs 4 on Tuesday of the last week of the schedule. There will be no games scheduled for the Thursday to allow for rain out possibility and to allow other teams not making the playoffs to have a team wind up. Medals will be provided – Gold, Silver, Bronze, and Participant.

CONTACTS

Any requests for booking/cancelling/changing diamonds, can be sent to diamonds@spmba.ca. Please cc hlmosquito@spmba.ca

April 2015				
	Association Contact List			
Contact	Title/Association	Email	Cell	Home
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OTHER

SPMBA has adopted an Alcohol and Tobacco Use Policy – please see www.spmba.ca for details.

Thank you for all your support and making the season fun for the kids.