

2015 Edition



Rule Book

Toronto Men's Baseball League

The Playing Rules

Adopted by the Rules Drafting Committee May 02, 2015

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Forward

It is our honour, as the Playing Rules Committee, to write a few words to introduce our league, incorporated since 2013. Those were the few words. Play ball.

Preamble

The purpose of this house league is to provide players with an opportunity to have fun within a context of developing/maintaining skills, team play, and competition. Common sense, courtesy, and good sportsmanship shall prevail at all times.

Playing Rules Committee

Patrick Chan, Chair

Ron Alymar

Daniel Kolaric

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Part I – Interpretation

Definitions

1. In these Playing Rules, unless otherwise defined,
“Commissioner” refers to the Commissioner of the TMBL and has all the powers of the League President;
the “General Manager” is a team’s off the field representative to the League;¹
a “Late Player” is a player who is not at the field when the umpire-in-chief declares the Official Start Time;
“League” means Toronto Men’s Baseball League;
“League-Approved Players” includes call-ups and auditioning players;
the “League Committee” includes the Commissioners and all General Managers;
a “League Representative” includes the Commissioner;
“majority” is greater than 50 percent;
“malicious contact” means the contact
 - (a) is the result of intentional excessive force;
 - (b) is intended to injure;
 - (c) is intended to dislodge the ball; or
 - (d) is neither the result of the runner sliding nor attempting to get around a fielder;
“Official Rules of Baseball” means the rules released by Major League Baseball,² as amended;
the “Official Start Time” is the time of the game’s first pitch;

¹ Also see Section 17.

² The rules are found online:

http://mlb.mlb.com/mlb/official_info/official_rules/official_rules.jsp.

“removed from game” may be voluntary or due to injury or ejection;
“scheduled game” includes regular season and playoff games as announced by the league but does not include exhibition games;
“scheduled playing day” shall be counted when all teams in the league have played at least one game;
a “spectator” includes parents, children, other relatives, friends, and visitors of players on their team; and
“supermajority” is greater than 66 percent.

Interpretation

2. These Playing Rules shall be interpreted in a way that is consistent with the preamble.

Official Baseball Rules apply

3. All Official Baseball Rules shall apply unless modified by these Playing Rules.

Comment: This includes rules governing statistics.

Ignored Official Rules of Baseball

- 3.1 The following *Official Rules of Baseball* shall be ignored:
 - (1) rules introduced in 2015 covering pace-of-play, including 6.02(d); and
 - (2) collisions at home plate (rule 7.13).

League bulletins

4. League Representatives may, at any time, post bulletins to the League website, and any such bulletin shall be adopted

as if it were part of these Playing Rules for the remainder of that season.

Gap rule

5. Where these Playing Rules changes a rule from the Official Rules of Baseball, any related changes are also included.

Comment: Umpires retain the power during a game to rule on any point not specifically covered in these rules.³ They are in charge as soon as the game beings.⁴

Residual League Representatives' powers

6. League Representatives have authority to rule on any point not specifically covered in these Playing Rules.

Suspension of a League Representative's powers

7. A League Representative should not act in that capacity during League Representative's own game.

League Representative's decisions are final

8. (1) A League Representative's decision is final.
(2) Despite subsection (1), a League Representative may rule differently from a previous decision.

³ See *Official Rules of Baseball*, rule 9.01(c).

⁴ See *Official Rules of Baseball*, rule 4.01(e)

Multiple votes

9. (1) Where a committee is required make a decision in these Playing Rules, a person is entitled to one (1) vote for each qualifying title held by that person.

Comment: For example, if an issue allows a General Manager, a Commissioner, and the Official Statistician to vote, and you hold all three titles, you may have up to three votes. You are also crazy for holding so many titles.

(2) A person with multiple votes may vote inconsistently with each vote.

Comment: For example, if you are eligible to vote twice for League MVP, you may choose to vote once for Manny and once for Mike.

(3) A person may abstain from voting on each or all of their votes.

Comment: For example, if you are eligible to vote twice for a suspension issue, you may choose to vote once to support the suspension while abstaining to vote a second time.

Part II – League administration

Altering the Playing Rules

10. These Playing Rules may be modified by a majority vote by the members of the Playing Rules drafting committee.

Official communication

11. The following are the only official channels for distributing league information, in descending order of priority:
 - (a) via e-mail by the Commissioner or a person designated by the Commissioner;
 - (b) via the league website at <http://www.tmbll.org>;
 - (c) via Twitter (@tmbllupdates); or
 - (d) verbally, by the Commissioner.

Conduct

12. The drafting committee shall publish a bulletin with rules for player conduct.

Changing rosters

13. (1) A team may trade players with another team, subject to the Commissioner's approval.

<p>Comment: The Commissioner may take into account the preferences of the players involved in the trade.</p>

(2) The Commissioner may trade players without the consent of the teams or players involved.

Comment: In this league we strive for parity. The commissioner may trade players mid-season if teams struggle. Don't be surprised if you change teams at some point in the season.

(3) The Commissioner may, in the Commissioner's absolute discretion, add additional players to teams which have persistent attendance issues until the issue has been resolved.

Comment: The Commissioner will generally add additional players in absence of compelling reasons to the contrary.

(4) The Commissioner may hold try-outs and, based on skill level assessed, withhold membership invitations.

Injured player designation

14. (1) A player shall be deemed injured at a League Representative's discretion.

Comment: It is reasonable for a League Representative withhold designation in absence of documentation. A medical, or doctor's, note stating the injury's duration is generally sufficient documentation.

(2) A player may be deemed injured upon agreement between the Managers of the affected teams.

Comment: League Representatives and Managers should attempt to give injured players the benefit of doubt where reasonable.

Appearances

15. A player is credited with an appearance for qualifying for the Playoffs if
- (a) the player completes at least one (1) at bat; and, if uninjured, the player plays a defensive position for at least one (1) half-inning.
 - (b) in absence of medical documentation, the player is physically present at the player's scheduled game at game time.

Comment: It is the player's responsibility to notify the Official Scorer of the appearance.

Suspensions, expulsions

16. (1) All players ejected during the regular season or playoffs shall be subject to a suspension review in a manner specified by the Commissioner.
- (2) Any individual ejected, suspended, or banned from the league is not permitted to be within ten feet of the dugout area or on the playing field, and shall not in any form communicate with the players in the dugout, from one-half (0.5) hour before the game until fifteen (15) minutes after the game is completed.
- (3) If a player is in violation of subsection (2), the umpire may have the player's team forfeit the game.

Comment: Also see section 34.

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Part III – Team administration

Off-field roles

- 17.** (1) Each team shall appoint a General Manager.

Comment: Only people interested in accepting a General Manager's responsibilities shall agree to be named a General Manager.

(2) The Commissioner may appoint a General Manager where a team is unable, or unwilling, to appoint one.

(3) The General Manager, or a Commissioner, may name additional Assistant General Managers to share a General Manager's duties.

Comment: Michael Scott may name an Assistant to the General Manager.

(4) A General Manager's duties include, but are not limited to,

- (a) ensuring the team's compliance with these rules;
- (b) contacting team members;
- (c) co-ordinating game attendance, equipment, car pooling, etc.; and
- (d) representing the team's interests before the league.

Removing a General Manager

- 18.** A General Manager shall be indefinitely removed if
- (a) a majority of the team votes to dismiss the General Manager;

- (b) a Commissioner dismisses the General Manager, unless overruled by a supermajority of the affected team; or
- (c) all **League Representatives** vote to dismiss the General Manager.

Suspending a General Manager

- 19.** A General Manager shall be suspended for one (1) game for violation of the Fair Playing Time rule.

Comment: Also see section 50.

Practices

- 20.** A General Manager may schedule a practice, subject to the discretion of the Commissioner.

Comment: The Commissioner may have to seek approval from the York Baseball Association.

On-field roles

- 21.** (1) Each General Manager is also a Manager unless otherwise specifically appointed.

Comment: The Manager is the team's on-field representative⁵, ensures the team's compliance with these Playing Rules⁶, and may name additional coaches.⁷

⁵ See *Official Rules of Baseball*, rule 2.00 "The Manager".

⁶ See *Official Rules of Baseball*, rule 2.00 "The Manager" (b).

⁷ See *Official Rules of Baseball*, rule 2.00 "The Manager" (b).

A Manager's duties include, but are not limited to, (a) creating batting orders and defensive alignments before each game; (b) making a pitching change; (c) discussing a decision with an umpire; and (d) post-game clean-up of their team's bench (see section 27).

The Manager is the only player who is permitted to discuss a rule interpretation and application with the umpire.⁸ Also see section 62.

(2) If a Manager is appointed during the umpire's pregame conference, the team shall notify

- (a) the umpire-in-chief;
- (b) the opposing Manager; and
- (c) the Official Scorekeeper.

Comment: Only individuals, other than the General Manager, interested in accepting a Manager's responsibilities shall agree to be named a Manager.

Team warnings assigned to the Manager

22. A warning given to the team shall be given to the Manager.

⁸ See *Official Rules of Baseball*, rule 9.02(b).

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Part IV – All games generally

Controlling visitors

23. (1) Players shall be responsible for the behavior of their spectators.
- (2) If a spectator is acting in an abusive or offensive manner, an umpire may ask the team Manager to either ask the person to be quiet or leave.

Comment: Umpires may eject unruly spectators if the unacceptable behaviour continues.⁹

[Removed.]

24. [Removed.]

[Removed.]

25. [Removed.]

Home team's responsibilities

26. (1) Each home team is responsible for installing bases prior to the start of that team's game.
- (2) The home team playing the last game of the day is responsible for
- (a) putting the bases away.

⁹ See *Official Rules of Baseball*, rule 9.01(e).

Team responsibilities

27. Each team shall ensure the bench and spectators' areas are cleaned up and tidy, and the playing field in good condition, before leaving the field.

Pre-game warm-up

28. (1) The visiting team is entitled to use the playing field for warm-up before the home team is entitled to use the field, provided
- (a) it does not conflict with subsection (2), and
 - (b) the field is unoccupied by a prior game.
- (2) The home team is entitled to use the playing field for warm-up twenty (20) minutes before the game starts, provided
- (a) the field is unoccupied by a prior game.

Comment: Due to time constraints, it is this League's policy to prioritize the home team's practice time.

- (3) All teams shall stop warming up on the infield five (5) minutes prior to game time.

Game starting conditions

29. (1) Managers shall exchange information listed in Form 1 with the opposing Manager and with the plate umpire.

Comment: Once the batting order is handed to the scorekeeper, the umpire-in-chief is in charge of the game.¹⁰

- (1.1) The lineups must contain

¹⁰ See *Official Rules of Baseball*, rule 4.01(e).

(a) the name of the starting pitcher;¹¹ and

(b) the jersey number of all players.

(1.2) A manager may be suspended one game for not submitting a lineup at least five (5) minutes before the scheduled start time.

(2) The umpire shall declare the Official Start Time.

Base coaches

29.1 Base coaches, in order to get to their respective positions, shall not

(a) call time; or

(b) cut across the playing field.

Grace period

30. An official game shall start no later than fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled game time.

Game length

31. (1) A regulation game consists of seven (7) innings.

Comment: [Removed.]¹²

(2) A game may become official upon consent of both teams.

(3) [Removed.]

(4) [Removed.]

¹¹ See *Official Baseball Rules*, r. 3.05(a).

¹² [Removed.]

- (5) The Commissioner may decide whether and how to resume a suspended game.

Comment: For example, a game may be resumed by playing the remainder of the suspended game immediately after the next completed game between the affected teams.

- (6) If a game is called, it is a regulation game if
- (a) four innings have been completed;
 - (b) the home team has scored more runs in three or three and a fraction innings than the visiting team has scored in four complete innings; or
 - (3) the home team scores one or more runs in its half of the fourth inning to tie the score.

Curfew

- 31.1.** (1) No new inning shall start after two (2) hours and twenty (20) minutes after the official start time.
- (2) A regulation game shall end after two (2) hours and forty-five (45) minutes after the official start time, and stats and records will revert back to the last complete inning.

[Removed.]

- 32.** [Removed]

Inclement weather

- 33.** (1) Before the game starts, the home team's General Manager may request a Commissioner to cancel the game due to weather.

Comment: The Commissioner needs to be notified about cancellations to minimize league expenses.

All players shall assume a game will continue as scheduled unless notified by a Commissioner.

(2) The Commissioner may call or suspend the any game on account of weather or the conditions of the playing field.

Comment: An umpire may also call, suspend, or resume a game due to weather.¹³ Only Commissioners may call or suspend games scheduled for later in the day. Games should not be cancelled unless weather conditions are obviously severe and likely to continue into the evening.

Forfeiture

- 34.** (1) Each member of forfeiting team shall be required to pay a fine if prescribed by a bulletin.
- (2) If a team forfeits a game, the Commissioners shall review the situation to determine the appropriate penalties, if any.
- (3) A team may forfeit a game if
- (a) the team fails to follow the rule on Fair Playing Time;

Comment: Also see section 50.

- (b) the team fails to have sufficient players for a Scheduled Game;

Comment: Also see subsection 13(3) and section 44.

- (c) a player acts in a manner contrary to section 16.

¹³ See *Official Rules of Baseball*, 4.01(e).

Protests

- 35.** (1) A team playing under protest shall file their protest in writing to the Commissioner within 48 hours of the of the game's Official Start Time.

Comment: A team may only play under protest of an umpire's interpretation of a rule.¹⁴ A team must declare they are playing a game under protest at the time of the umpire's decision.¹⁵

- (2) The League Committee may discuss the dispute together and resolve the dispute by majority vote.

¹⁴ See *Official Rules of Baseball*, 4.19.

¹⁵ See *Official Rules of Baseball*, 4.19.

Part V – Playing field

First base bag

36. (1) Prior to the batter-runner becoming a runner, the first base bag shall include the orange portion of the safety bag.

Comment: The batter-runner becomes a runner as soon as batter-runner touches first base. Therefore, on all subsequent plays, runner must return to the white portion of the bag. This includes a failed attempt at second base on the same play which the batter-runner reaches first base.

- (2) For greater certainty, the batter-runner and all fielders may use may use both white and orange portions of the bag to make plays, prior to the batter-runner becoming a runner.

Comment: The spirit of this section is safety. We all have work/school to get to on Monday. Do your best to avoid a collision and/or spiking an opposing player. Umpires will judge each situation as it arises.

- (3) After the batter becomes a runner, the first base bag shall exclude the orange portion of the safety bag.

- (4) It is the fielder's responsibility to avoid colliding with the batter-runner on throws crossing the runner's path.

- (5) If a fielder collides with the batter under subsection (4), and the batter-runner did not deliberately attempt contact with the fielder, the umpire shall deem the fielder as obstructing the batter-runner.

Comment: All batter-runners shall be awarded the base if, in the umpire's opinion, they would have reached had the collision not

occurred. The batter-runner shall be awarded at least second base. The ball is dead.¹⁶

Repositioning the playing field

- 37.** If the field is laid out incorrectly it shall be rectified at the end of the complete inning in which the error was first brought to an umpire's attention.

¹⁶ See *Official Rules of Baseball*, rule 7.06(a).

Part VI – Playing equipment

Proper baseball attire required

38. (1) A player shall only be permitted to play in a game while wearing proper baseball attire and without improper baseball attire.

(2) Proper baseball attire includes

(a) a jock;

Comment: For insurance purposes. And for the children. Will someone think of the children?

(b) the team's jersey, tucked in;

(c) baseball cap;

(d) baseball pants; and

(e) shoes with metal or plastic cleats.

(3) Improper baseball attire includes

(a) jeans; and

(b) shorts.

(4) All catchers shall wear

(a) a chest protector; and

(b) shin guards

while fielding their position.

Comment: The catchers shall also wear a catcher's protective helmet while fielding their position.¹⁷

(5) Players warming up a pitcher on the field between innings or in the bullpen shall wear

(a) a catcher's protective helmet.

¹⁷ See *Official Rules of Baseball*, rule 1.16(d).

Helmets

39. (1) All players shall wear a double ear-flap helmet while
- (a) at bat;
 - (b) on deck;
 - (c) running the bases; or
 - (d) acting as a base coach.
- (2) The helmet designated by the league as the coach's helmet shall only be used by base coaches.

Comment: Each team has one coach's helmet. Please use the opposing team's coach's helmet when you are coaching on their side of the field.

- (3) If a player's helmet is intentionally removed by the player while still on the playing field, whether the ball is in play or not, the player may be called out by an umpire, unless time has previously been called.

Bats

40. (1) If you see one flying around inside the equipment room, please notify Animal Control.
- (2) If you see a Joey, please get his autograph for the League.

Bat specifications

41. All bats shall
- (1) be made of wood or half-composite wood.

Comment: Full composite bats are not allowed.

(2) not exceed a weight drop of -3.

Comment: Batters using illegal bats shall be called out and ejected from the game.¹⁸ No runners shall advance and any outs recorded shall stand.¹⁹ Also see section 16.

Bat use

- 42.** (1) League bats may be used by any player.
(2) Personal bats may be used by any player only with its owner's approval.

Comment: Personal bats shall meet the conditions in section 41.

Cell phone use

- 42.1** Use of mobile devices is prohibited while on the playing field.

Comment: Use of mobile devices elsewhere, including dugouts, are strongly discouraged.

Jewellery

- 42.2** (1) Jewellery such as rings, bracelets, and watches, but not including medical devices such as Medic-alert bracelets, shall generally be prohibited for the safety of the player and others.

¹⁸ See *Official Rules of Baseball*, rule 6.06(d).

¹⁹ See *Official Rules of Baseball*, rule 6.06(d).

(2) Players are strongly discouraged from wearing necklaces, as they may injure other players, but players wearing a necklace must tuck into the shirt at all times.

(3) An umpire may give a batter a warning for wearing any prohibited jewelry to the plate, and may call the batter out if the offense occurs again.

Part VII – Game roster

Roster

- 43.** A team may only compete with League-Approved Players on their roster.

Comment: Players should arrive at least thirty (30) minutes before game time. This allows for players to warm up and their Manager to make adjustments to their and defensive alignments for absent players. Please use the small field to warm up if a game is still ongoing.

Minimum number of players

- 44.** (1) No team shall play a regulation game with less than eight (8) defensive players except when agreed by the respective Managers.

Comment: Additional regular season exceptions are listed in section 65 and playoff exceptions are listed in sections 69 and 70.

(2) No team shall play a regulation game with less than seven (7) defensive players.

(3) A team with seven (7) or eight (8) players may borrow a player from the opposing team for defensive purposes, with that team's consent.

Comment: If the opposing team lends a team its eighth (8th) player, the team may play a regulation game.

(4) If a team is unable to field the minimum number of players by fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled game time, it forfeits the game.

Comment: Also see section 34.

(5) If neither team is able to field the minimum number of players by fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled game time,

(a) both teams forfeit the game; or

(b) at the Commissioner's discretion, play a regulation game.

(6) Where a Late Player arriving would turn a forfeiting team into a team eligible for a regulation game, the affected Managers may agree to ignore subsection (1) provided the Late Player meets the requirements in section 46.

Comment: The League would like to play as many games as possible so every effort should be made to play. Just don't be late.

Call-ups

45. (1) Teams may contact the Commissioner for additional League-Approved Players if they anticipate less than nine (9) players attending their next game.

(2) Unless approved by a Commissioner prior to the game, League-Approved Players shall

(a) bat at the bottom of the line-up; and

(b) play either first base or right field, or be benched.

Late Players

46. (1) Late Players may play in the game, provided,

(a) the Official Scorekeeper is notified of the player's arrival; and

(b) the Late Player's team is still going through its first time through the batting order.

(2) The Late Player shall be inserted at the bottom of the batting order, in order of arrival.

Continuous batting order

47. *Ontario Baseball Association*, section P2.8(b) is adopted except for Late Players.

Comment: The text is as follows:

"All players present for a game shall be included in the batting line-up."

(*Baseball Ontario Association Inc.*,

<http://www.baseballontario.com/filestore/htmleditattachedfiles/2014constitution2014-03-25t16-29-50v001_by_292.pdf>, section P2.8(b).)

Ejected or injured batters

47.1 *Ontario Baseball Association*, section P2.8(c) is adopted

Comment: The text is as follows:

"(1) If a player is removed from the game due to injury, illness or official ejection, the player's spot in the batting order shall be deleted.

(2) In the event a batter must be removed due to injury, official ejection, or has to leave for any reason during the time at bat, the next batter in the batting order shall come to bat assuming the balls and strikes count at the time the batter is removed.

(3) If the batter becomes an out, such batter shall then take his/her regular turn at bat."

(*Baseball Ontario Association Inc.*,

<http://www.baseballontario.com/filestore/htmleditattachedfiles/2014constitution2014-03-25t16-29-50v001_by_292.pdf>, section P2.8(c))

On-field offensive players

48. (1) The following offensive players may be on the playing field:

- (a) the batter;
- (b) runners;
- (c) the on-deck hitter; and

Comment: The on-deck hitter shall pay attention to location of the ball at all times.

- (d) base coaches.

Comment: Base coaches are not to cross, or call time to cross, the field to get to their respective on-field positions.

Defensive substitutions

49. A player once removed defensively from a game may re-enter that game, subject to section 50, unless otherwise specified.

Fair playing time

50. (1) All players present, including late and early departing players, shall play in each game for a minimum of

- (a) eighteen (18) defensive outs, if ten (10) players are present;
- (b) fifteen (15) defensive outs, if eleven (11) to twelve (12) players are present; or
- (c) twelve (12) defensive outs, if thirteen (13) or more players are present.

- (2) If an inning ends by mercy, all players on the field receive credit for the remaining outs.

Comment: A league representative may deny this credit if a manager makes a defensive change intended to violate the spirit of the mandatory play rule. If the credit is denied, the league representative shall notify the umpire-in-chief and the offending manager prior to play resuming.

(2.1) If the game is called early, minimum play is reduced by

(a) three (3) outs, if the game is called after

(i) six innings; or

(ii) five innings with thirteen (13) or more players present;

(b) six (6) outs, if the game is called after

(i) four innings with eleven (11) or more players present; or

(ii) five innings with twelve (12) or fewer players present; or

(c) nine (9) outs, if the game is called after

(i) four innings with ten (10) players present.

Comment: The following table summarizes the minimum defensive outs per player based on the number of innings played.

Table 1: Minimum defensive outs

Players present	Innings in game			
	4	5	6	7
10	9	12	15	18
11	9	9	12	15
12	9	9	12	15
13	6	9	9	12
14	6	9	9	12
15	6	9	9	12

Table 2: [Removed]

(2.2) If a game goes into extra innings, all players shall play a minimum of three (3) defensive outs every two (2) innings.

(3) If a player is late to the game, the player's minimum play is reduced by three (3) outs for each inning, or part thereof, the player is late.

(3.1) When a player leaves the game early, the player meets the minimum play requirement if the requirement could be been met if the player played the rest of the game.

(4) To protect players from possible coercion, no player will be allowed to "self-bench" for the good of the team, unless the player is injured.

(5) If any player feels they are, or have been, unfairly or excessively benched, they shall bring it to a League Representative's attention as soon as possible.

Comment: There is zero tolerance for excessive benching. All complaints are taken seriously and shall be promptly investigated.

Use of injured player

- 51.** (1) An injured player shall only play as an extra hitter or a first baseman.
- (2) An injured player may use a courtesy runner after
- (a) the player reaches base; and
 - (b) time has been called.
- (3) Subsections (1) and (2) may be altered
- (a) by the League Representative; or
 - (b) upon agreement of affected Managers.
- (4) If a player is injured during the game, the player may continue to play the remainder of the game provided the player follows this section.

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Part VIII – Pitchers

Warm-up pitches

52. (1) A returning pitcher shall be permitted to pitch up to six (6) preparatory pitches to his catcher during which play shall be suspended.

Comment: A new pitcher may have eight (8) preparatory pitches.²⁰

(2) A pitcher's preparatory pitches shall not consume more than two (2) minutes of time, unless a sudden emergency causes a pitcher to be summoned into the game without any opportunity to warm up.

²⁰ See *Official Rules of Baseball*, rule 8.03.

Pitcher's maximum outs

53. A pitching change shall occur after the pitcher records at least nine (9) outs.

Comment: A pitcher may continue to pitch as long as the ninth (9th) out is not recorded. Therefore, a pitcher may record maximum of eleven (11) outs in a game.

Approved ruling: Pitcher has already secured eight (8) outs. If the batter subsequently hits into a double or a triple play, pitcher is still credited with recording the extra outs. A pitching change shall then occur. A pitcher does not have to be removed in anticipation of recording those "extra" outs.

Comment: A pitcher may pitch for more than three innings provided the pitcher does not record more than nine (9) outs.

Approved ruling: A pitcher allows the half-inning's run limit to score without recording an out in the pitcher's first inning of work. For the purposes of this rule, a pitcher has recorded zero (0) outs. A pitching change is not required until the pitcher records nine (9) more outs.

Pitcher may not re-enter the game as a pitcher

54. (1) A pitcher once removed from the position shall not re-enter that game as a pitcher, subject to subsection (2).
(2) A pitcher may re-enter the game as a pitcher after the seventh (7th) inning, provided the pitcher has not exceeded the pitcher's maximum number of outs recorded for that game.
(3) For greater certainty, pinch-running for a new pitcher is not removing the pitcher.

Pitching change due to hit batter

55. (1) The opposing team may, at the time pitcher hits a second (2nd) batter in the same inning, remove the pitcher from pitching for the remainder of the game.

Comment: An umpire may eject a pitcher at any time for deliberately attempting to hit a batter.²¹ A player so ejected shall undergo a suspension review (also see section 16).

(2) A pitcher shall, at the time the player hits a third (3rd) batter in the same game, be removed from pitching for the remainder of the game.

(3) A pitcher removed under this section shall not re-enter that game as a pitcher, despite subsection 54(2).

Comment: The player may otherwise continue to play in the game.

²¹ See *Official Rules of Baseball*, rule 8.02(d)
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Part IX – Runners

[Removed.]

56. [Removed.]

Malicious contact

57. (1) Any runner is out and shall be ejected from the game for initiating malicious contact, even if the fielder loses possession of the ball.

Comment: The umpire shall determine whether contact was avoidable or unavoidable. If the fielder blocks the base path, the runner may make contact, slide into or collide with the fielder as long as the runner is making a legitimate attempt to reach the base/plate.

Sliding or attempting to get around a fielder is not malicious contact.

When sliding, keep your spikes down and away from fielders. A slide shall be deemed appropriate if a runner's buttocks, legs, or body should hit the ground before contact with the fielder.

Approved ruling: The failure by the runner to make an effort to touch the base, the runner's lowering of the shoulder, or the runner's pushing through with hands, elbows, or arms, would support a determination that the runner intended to initiate contact.

(2) The ball is dead and all other runners shall return to the last base legally occupied by them at the time of the malicious contact.

[Removed.]

58. [Removed.]

[Removed.]

59. [Removed.]

[Removed.]

60. [Removed.]²²

Courtesy runners

61. (1) A courtesy runner may be used when,
- (a) a runner sustains an injury and is unable to run;

Comment: A batter-runner must make it to first base without the team's assistance before a courtesy runner may be used.

- (b) a runner is removed from the game;
- (c) a runner, in the next half inning, will be a new relief pitcher; or
- (d) with one out, the runner, in the next half inning, will be
 - (i) the catcher; or
 - (ii) [removed].

(1.1) A courtesy runner must be used when

- (a) with two outs, the runner, in the next half inning, will be
 - (i) the catcher; or
 - (ii) [removed].

(2) The courtesy runner shall be the player who,

²² [Removed.]

(a) was most recently out and is not currently a runner; or

Approved ruling: The lineup is Abel, Brandon, and Casey. Abel is on first base with one out. Brandon strikes out. Casey, the team's catcher, hits into a fielder's choice, forcing Abel at second base. Abel is the proper courtesy runner available for Casey.

(b) the **previous** batter in batting order.

Approved ruling: The lineup is Abel, Brandon, Casey, Dave, Evan, Frank, Greg, and Harold. Casey is the catcher. At the beginning of the half-inning only Abel and Brandon get out. All other runners score. The second time through the order, in the same inning, Casey reaches first base with Abel on third and Brandon on second. Harold is the proper courtesy runner available for Casey.

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Part X – Umpires

Disagreements with umpires

62. (1) All appeals shall be conducted in a polite, non-confrontational manner.

Comment: Only Managers are permitted to appeal an umpire's interpretation of the rules.²³ Judgment calls are final,²⁴ and can never be appealed. Umpires are in charge as soon as the game begins.²⁵ Respect our umpires even when disagreeing with their decisions. Our umpires are all high level umpires who know the game inside out. If there is a disputed call, the Manager of the team may approach the umpire and have a discussion with him in a polite manner.

- (2) Yelling from the dugout to challenge an umpire is prohibited.

Comment: An umpire retains the ability, and has full support of the league, to eject a player for offenses in addition to those listed in these Playing Rules.²⁶ Also see Bulletin No. 4 – Player Conduct.

- (3) If a player, who is not a Manager, challenges an umpire's ruling, the umpire may immediately eject that player from the game.

²³ See *Official Rules of Baseball*, rule 9.02(b).

²⁴ See *Official Rules of Baseball*, rule 9.02(a).

²⁵ See *Official Rules of Baseball*, rule 4.01(e).

²⁶ See *Official Rules of Baseball*, rules 4.06 (unfair distractions), 4.07 (effect of ejections), 9.01 (player conduct), 9.02 (judgement calls), and 9.05 (general conduct)).

Comment: If the General Manager appointed a Manager, the General Manager shall not challenge the umpire for the remainder of the game and may therefore be ejected under this rule.

Playing rules

- 63.** (1) The umpire remains in charge of enforcing any rule from the *Official Rules of Baseball* not modified by these Playing Rules.
- (2) The Umpire-in-Chief may consult the Commissioner for an interpretation of a disputed rule in these Playing Rules.
- (3) The Commissioner may, at any time during the game, overrule an umpire's interpretation of these Playing Rules.

Part XI – Regular season

Application

64. The sections in Part XI only apply to regular season games.

Mercy after six (6) runs

- 64.1 (1) A half-inning shall end after the play which scores the sixth (6th) run is complete.

Comment: The offensive team may continue to score as long as the play which produces the sixth (6) is not over. A team may therefore score a maximum of nine (9) runs in a half-inning.

(2) The play producing the sixth (6th) run shall be complete when,

(a) home plate is tagged; or

Comment: Any appeal plays will require a “fourth out”.²⁷

(b) the pitcher takes his position.

Unlimited scoring

- 64.2 Mercy no longer applies

(1) after the fifth (5th) inning is complete;

(2) for any inning beginning one (1) hour and 45 minutes after the Official Start Time;

(3) if the visiting team is batting one (1) hour and 45 minutes after the Official Start Time; or

(4) if both teams agree to unlimited scoring for the remainder of the game.

²⁷ See *Official Rules of Baseball*, rule 7.10(d).

Eligible substitute players

- 65.** Despite section 44, a team with less than eight (8) players may, upon agreement of the affected Managers and the Commissioner,
- (a) play with League-Approved Players; or
 - (b) play with friends.

Game scheduling frequency

- 66.** (1) The league shall aim to schedule at least one game a week for the duration of the regular season, subject to field availability.
- (2) Despite subsection (1), games will generally avoid scheduling games on the following weekends, except as needed for make-up games:
- (a) Canada Day;
 - (b) Civic Day; and
 - (c) Labour Day.

Final standings

- 67.** (1) The final regular season standings shall determine the initial playoff seeding.
- (2) If teams are tied for a position in the standings, the higher seeded team shall be, in descending priority
- (a) the team with the better win-loss record in games between the tied teams;
 - (b) the team with the better run differential in games between the tied teams;

(c) the team with the better run differential in all regular season games.

(3) In the event that the teams are still tied, the higher seeded team shall be either

(a) the winner of a tiebreaker game; or

(b) the winner of a coin toss,

as chosen the Commissioner.

Part XII – Playoffs

Application

- 68.** The sections in Part XII only apply to playoff games.

Playoff roster

- 69.** (1) A player qualifies for a team's playoff roster if the player has
- (a) appeared in at least five (5) regular season games; or
 - (b) received the consent of the team's General Manager.
- (2) Despite subsection (1), players added to address persistent attendance issues²⁸ are automatically on that team's playoff roster.
- (3) A player may be considered as appearing in a game if the player is absent from a game due to a medical illness.

Approved ruling: The league must receive any requested documentation prior to deeming a player eligible for the playoffs.

Eligible players

- 70.** A team may only use players from its playoff roster in playoff games.

[Removed.]

- 71.** [Removed.]

²⁸ See section 13I.A.1.a)(3)

Insufficient players

- 72.** If both teams have insufficient attendance for a playoff game,
- (a) the team with more players present at the start of the game shall be the winner of that game; or
 - (b) the winner shall be determined by a coin toss.

[Removed.]

- 73.** [Removed.]

[Removed.]

- 74.** [Removed.]

[Removed.]

- 75.** [Removed.]

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Part XIII – Statistics, awards, standings

Time to review

- 76.** All players will have forty-eight (48) hours after the statistics are posted to the league website to inquire about potential issues with stats, after which no changes shall be made to the statistical record.

Disagreements with scorekeeper

- 77.** (1) A player may respectfully inform the Official Scorekeeper of the disagreement with the statistical ruling of the play.
(2) A player shall not raise the same issue with the Official Scorekeeper again.
(3) The Official Statistician shall review the disagreement and reach a decision.
(4) Violation of subsection (1) or (2) may result in a suspension.

Awards voting committee

- 78.** (1) The Voting Committee shall include:
- (a) All Commissioners;
 - (b) each Official Scorekeeper;
 - (c) each Umpire Supervisor; and
 - (d) any other person nominated by the Commissioner.

Comment: The Commissioner will normally nominate players who have observed a majority of league games.

(2) The Voting Committee shall determine the recipient of the following awards:

Comment: Co-winners are possible.

(a) league Pitcher of the Year;

Comment: The award is determined by the committee's vote. However, for reference, the League recommends awarding each pitcher points according to the following table:

Table 3: League Pitcher of the Year Reference Formula

Points	4	3	2	1	-1	-2
Statistical categories	IP	SHO	W, S	K	BB, HBP, ER, H, WP	L, BS

(b) league Reliever of the Year;

(c) league MVP; and

(d) league Golden Glove.

Comment: The following awards are determined based on statistical merit: highest batting average, league Golden Bat.

Playoff MVP

79. The Playoff MVP is determined by the General Manager and Assistant General Managers of the championship team and the Commissioners.

Golden Bat

80. (1) The Golden Bat shall be awarded to the batter with the highest number of points based on a statistical formula.
(2) Each batter shall be awarded points according to the following table:

Table 4: Golden Bat Points

Points	4	3	2	1	0.5	-1
Statistical categories	HR	3B	2B	1B, RBI	BB, SacB, SacF, HBP	K

Minimum qualifications

- 81.** The following are the minimum requirements for each award/recognition:
- (a) Pitcher of the Year – two (2) IP per team game originally scheduled;
 - (b) Reliever of the Year – half (0.5) appearances per team game originally scheduled plus one (1) appearance and a maximum of one-third (.1) IP less than the qualification for Pitcher of the Year;
 - (c) Any batting award – three (3) PA per team game originally scheduled;
 - (a) Career batting record holder – the lower of 35 PA per season multiplied by the number of seasons the league has been in existence, less half a season or 150 PA; and
 - (b) Career pitching record holder – the lower of 20 IP per season multiplied by the number of seasons the league has been in existence, less half a season or 100 IP.

Defensive indifference

- 82.** Stealing second (2nd) base with a runner on third (3rd) base is defensive indifference.

Comment: This is not a stolen base unless a throw to second (2nd) base is attempted.²⁹

Shutouts

- 83.** Where a pitcher pitches at least three (3) IP in a game and allows zero (0) runs, the pitcher shall be credited with a shutout (SHO).

²⁹ See *Official Rules of Baseball*, rule 10.07(g).

Toronto Men's Baseball League

Form 1 – Manager's pre-game checklist

Adopted by the Rules Drafting Committee May 08, 2015

More than 20 minutes before the game

- ☐ Home team ensures that the bases correctly are installed³⁰
- ☐ Visiting team may use the playing field if the previous game is complete³¹

20 minutes before the game

- ☐ Home team may use the playing field if the previous game is complete³²

5 minutes before the game

- ☐ Batting order presented to the Umpire, who shall hand the order to the Official Scorekeeper
- ☐ All players are wearing proper jerseys, baseball pants, jocks, and cleats
- ☐ A Manager is appointed, if desired
- ☐ Confirm ground rules, if necessary

³⁰ See subsection 26(1).

³¹ See subsection 28(1).

³² See subsection 28(2).

Suggested ground rules³³

- ☐ Right field mesh - the batter becomes a runner when any fair ball which, before touching the ground, touches the mesh not part of the fence, in which case the batter and the runners shall be entitled to advance two bases.
- ☐ If a batted ball, in the umpire's discretion, hits a light standard above the top of the outfield fence-line, the batter shall be awarded with a homerun.
- ☐ Any ball trapped in the outfield fence netting is a ground-rule double.
- ☐ A ball is out of play if it lands outside the imaginary line extending from the in-jogged pole of the infield fence to the foul pole.

³³ See *Official Rules of Baseball*, rule 3.13.

Toronto Men's Baseball League

Bulletin No. 1 – League Directors and Officials

Adopted by the Rules Drafting Committee May 08, 2015

The Toronto Men's Baseball League (formerly Toronto Bauxite Baseball League) welcomes back John Viktorin, Michael Kolaric, Chris Novielli, and Patrick Chan and welcomes Dave Skopiowsky as Directors for the 2015-16 seasons.

Board of Directors

John Viktorin, President, is an original TBBL member and returns for his tenth year as Director. John is also a former Assistant General Manager. On the field, he was an All-Star Game MVP (2012). He may be reached at john (at) engagecanada.com.

Patrick Chan, Vice-President, has been a director since 2013 and a TMBL member since 2009. He's a former league MVP (2010), and Home Run Derby winner (2011-tie). Patrick is not as awesome as Chris.

Michael Kolaric, Treasurer and Commissioner of TMBL, is also an original TBBL member and has been a Director since the league's establishment in 2005. Mike was a former General Manager for the Sox. His list of accomplishments are numerous, including championship titles (2006-08, 2011), regular season MVPs (2006-tie, 2008-09, 2011-tie), playoff MVP (2006), Golden Bat awards (2008-09, 2011, established in 2008), a batting title (2011-tie), a Gold Glove award (2006), and winner of the Home Run Derby (2008-10, established in

2008). He may be reached at tbb1 (at) hotmail.com or whitesox_1987 (at) hotmail.com.

Dave Skopiwsky, Secretary, joined the league in its second year and is a first-year director. He oversees the playing surface and league equipment. He's taken home the MVP (2014), All-Star MVP (2010), and Most Improved Player (2008) being dangerous both on the mound (Pitcher of the Year, 2014), and off (Batting Average Champion, 2008).

Chris Novielli, Director, has been a director since 2013 after joining the league in 2010. He is the General Manager of the Brewers, and was awarded his team's MVP in 2013, Golden Bat award in 2011 and 2013, and the Pitcher of the Year in 2013. Chris is awesome.

Officials of Baseball Operations

The Commissioner of TMBL is appointed by the Board of Directors and oversees game play, field conditions, and player conduct and is the highest ranking League Representative. League Representatives help keep the game moving and are ranked according to the following table:

Table 5: TMBL Commissioner and League Representatives

Commissioner of TMBL	League Representatives
Michael Kolaric	Daniel Kolaric
	Chris Novielli
	Dave Skopiwsky
	Patrick Chan

TMBL baseball is made possible by the hard work of employees and generous volunteers. The following figure summarizes those who contribute to making baseball possible in 2015.

Table 6: 2013 League Officials

Statistician	Official Scorekeepers
Daniel Kolaric	Michael Kolaric Chris Novielli
Umpiring	Members
Ron Alymar	John Walzak
Rules	Members
Patrick Chan	Ron Alymar Daniel Kolaric Michael Kolaric Chris Novielli John Viktorin John Walzak
Players	
See Team Executives	
Player Conduct	Members
[Vacant.]	Patrick Chan Chris Novielli
Groundskeeping	
Dave Skopiowsky	

Table 7: 2013 Team Executives

Team	General Manager	Assistant General Manager
Sox	Vince Novielli	Daniel Kolaric
Reds	Max Bianco	Jonathan Mickelson
Aces	Patrick Chan	Andy Rodriguez
Tigers	Cito Vaughan	Peter Wehrspann
		Aiden McClory
Brewers	Chris Novielli	Daniel Dodds
Cubs	Steve Gin	Lorenzo Bonanno
		Kyle Labine
Expos	Lee Savaglio	Greg Haivarlis
		Tom Kuo
Pirates	Lauchlan Rogers	Will Gale

Toronto Men's Baseball League

Bulletin No. 2 – Strictly Enforced Rules

Adopted by the Rules Drafting Committee May 08, 2015

Please read this bulletin - these rules will be strictly enforced. They are not listed in order of importance.

In order to continue providing a fun and safe environment to learn and play the game, the league has crafted playing rules acquired through its experience. We recognize that baseball is itself a complicated game and most people would rather be doing things other than read the official rules, much less our rules. Therefore, this bulletin will highlight the most important rules the league considers critical to our on-field product.

These rules, combined with a basic knowledge of baseball and general sportsmanship, should provide everyone with an entertaining and competitive experience.

Safety

1. **Bulletin No. 4 – Player Conduct** – Do not attempt to injure other players. Alcohol is prohibited.
2. **Section 36** – The entire safety bag is first base prior to a batter-runner becoming a runner. After the batter-runner becomes a runner, only the white portion of the bag is first base.

3. **Sections 57** – A runner is not allowed to intentionally collide with the catcher; the catcher is not allowed to block home plate.

General

4. **Section 38** – All players must wear proper baseball attire – tucked-in jersey, cap, baseball pants, jock, and cleats.
5. **Sections 30 and 31** – Games must start no later than fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled game time; curfew will be the following times:

Table 8: Game end times³⁴

Start time	Open inning after (1h45m)	No new inning after (2h20m)	Game end (2h45m)
10:00 am	11:45am	12:20 pm	12:45 pm
1:00 pm	2:45 pm	3:20 pm	3:45 pm
4:00 pm	5:45 pm	6:20 pm	6:45 pm
7:00 pm	8:45 pm	9:20 pm	9:45 pm

Playing time

6. **Sections 19, and 50** – All players are to have equal defensive playing time.

Mercy

7. **Section 64.1** – Mercy applies after the team scores its 6th run of the inning in innings 1 through 5; the offensive team may keep scoring prior to the defensive touching home plate while in control of the ball.

³⁴ Times shall be adjusted according to the game's Official Start Time.

Pitching

8. **Section 53** – A pitching change must occur after recording the pitcher's 9th out in the game.
9. **Section 55** – The offensive team may remove an opposing pitcher from pitching after the pitcher hits a second hitter in the same game; a pitcher shall be removed as a pitcher after the pitcher hits a third hitter in the same game.

Hitting

10. **Section 41** – All teams shall use wooden or half-composite wood bats not exceeding a weight drop of -3.

Toronto Men's Baseball League

Bulletin No. 3 – Detailed Playing Rule Changes

Adopted by the Rules Drafting Committee July 04, 2013

2013 Season

Effective May 16, 2013

- Innings missed by a Late Player are not credited towards the player's rest innings^{34.1}
- Clarified that only Commissioners may cancel the remainder of the day's games due to weather^{34.2}
- Official game shortened to four (4) innings^{34.3}
- Clarified unsportsmanlike conduct includes making a travesty of the game^{34.4}
- Minor grammatical revisions

Effective May 16, 2013

- Major revision, reconsolidation and reformatting
- General revisions for grammar, consistent language, etc.
- Player conduct expanded with additional conduct and penalties

^{34.1} See section 50(3).

^{34.2} See section 33(2).

^{34.3} See section 31(6).

^{34.4} See Bulletin No. 4 – Player Conduct, section 1.

- Organizational roles renamed (Executive is now Commissioner)

2012 Season

Effective July 24, 2012

- Unintentional collision at first base with the batter-runner by the fielder is obstruction³⁵
- The entire safety bag is first base prior to the batter-runner becoming a runner³⁶
- Captain role replaced by Manager³⁷
- Changed how plays at home plate are handled³⁸
- Organizational roles renamed (Convenors are now Executives; Coaches are now General Managers)
- Changed the makeup of the Voting Committee³⁹

Effective June 21, 2012

- Full balk rule enforced
- Drop-dead time updated⁴⁰
- Captain role created⁴¹

³⁵ See section 36(4).

³⁶ See section 36(1).

³⁷ See section 21(2).

³⁸ See section 57.

³⁹ See section 78.

⁴⁰ See section 31.

⁴¹ No longer applicable.

- Clarified the effect of teams with persistent attendance issues⁴²
- Clarified how injured players are treated⁴³
- Changed the Golden Bat formula⁴⁴

⁴² See section 13(3).

⁴³ See sections 14 and 51.

⁴⁴ See section 80.

Toronto Men's Baseball League

Bulletin No. 4 – Player Conduct

Adopted by the Rules Drafting Committee July 04, 2013

Definitions

1. In this Bulletin,

“Physical Altercations” include, but not limited to, fighting and those actions directed towards league officials, Commissioners, umpires, scorekeepers, managers, coaches, or players.

“Prohibited Behavior” includes Physical Altercations, the Use of Drugs, the use of alcohol, or Unsportsmanlike Conduct, in the field or at the park.

Comment: Our permit is void if we are caught drinking on the premises. The league may be banned from playing on any Toronto park.

“Restricted Behavior” includes swearing, and smoking

- (a) on the playing field;
- (b) in the dugout area; or
- (c) within five (5) feet of the dugout.

Comment: Children are around the field regularly and some TMBL players act as coaches to local kids. We hope to represent the league in a positive light.

Comment: If you must smoke, please use the bleachers or the hills behind the bleachers.

“Unsportsmanlike Conduct” includes the use of discriminatory language, intimidation, or unnecessary roughness, and also includes deliberately

throwing any object in a violent manner or making a travesty of the game.

“Use of Drugs” does not include medication used to treat a medically-recognized condition.

Violations, generally

2. A Commissioner may suspend any player for one (1) game for any Playing Rule violation.

Notification encouraged

3. Players are encouraged to notify the league of any events or players that a player feels are dangerous, unsportsmanlike or removing their enjoyment of the league.

Penalty for Prohibited Behavior

4. Any player found doing a Prohibited Behavior, or with three or more ejections, may be:
 - (1) at the discretion of any Umpire, be ejected from the game;
 - (2) at the discretion of the Commissioner, be suspended for one or more games, to a maximum of the remainder of the season plus a full season; or
 - (3) at the discretion of the Commissioner, immediately expelled from the league.

Penalty for Restricted Behavior

5. A player found doing a Restricted Behavior shall be ejected after one (1) warning by an umpire.

Verbal interference

6. (1) The umpire(s) shall warn any opposing player/player-coach who makes remarks to opposing players with the purpose of hindering their play or diverting their attention.
(2) On the second (2nd) offense the offending player shall be ejected from the game.
(3) A second (2nd) ejection for this offense in the same season shall lead to a two (2) game suspension.
(4) A third (3rd) ejection for this offense shall lead to an increased penalty to be determined by the Commissioners.

Appeals

7. (1) A Commissioner's decision may be appealed to the League Committee.
(2) A League Committee's decision may be appealed to the Board of Directors provided at least one (1) Director supports a review of the decision.
(3) A Board of Directors decision is final.

Toronto Men's Baseball League

Bulletin No. 5 – Official Baseball Rules highlights

Adopted by the Rules Drafting Committee May 16, 2013

We have umpires with substantial resumes from the Ontario Baseball Association.

The following rules are already incorporated into the *Official Rules of Baseball*⁴⁵ and are therefore League rules. However, the League would like to remind you of the following:

- Pitchers may no longer fake a throw to third base;⁴⁶
- Phantom tags are considered interference;⁴⁷
- Managers are permitted a maximum of three (3) mound visits per pitcher, or two (2) mound visits per pitcher in one inning, after which the pitcher must be replaced;⁴⁸
- Base stealing and lead offs are permitted;
- The infield fly rule applies; and
- Base coaches shall wear helmets.

⁴⁵ See http://mlb.mlb.com/mlb/downloads/y2013/official_baseball_rules.pdf.

⁴⁶ See *Official Rules of Baseball*, rule 8.05(b).

⁴⁷ See *Official Rules of Baseball*, rule 2.00(Interference)(b).

⁴⁸ See *Official Rules of Baseball*, rule 8.06.

Toronto Men's Baseball League

Bulletin No. 6 – Approved umpires

Adopted by the Rules Drafting Committee May 08, 2015

The Commissioner recognizes the following individuals as qualified League umpires for the 2015 season:

- Ron Alymar; and
- John Walzak.

Toronto Men's Baseball League

Bulletin No. 7 – Balk primer

Adopted by the Rules Drafting Committee May 16, 2013

This bulletin should be taken as a reference. It does not necessarily inform how the umpire may interpret the rule.

A balk is an illegal move by the pitcher which results in a delayed dead ball. The most common way to balk is, when the pitcher is in the set position, without committing to a pitch, stepping off the rubber, or attempting a pickoff play,

- moves a hand, shoulder, or knee; or
- separates the hands.

A balk may also be called if the pitcher fails to come to a complete stop before delivering a pitch in the set position.

The following table are the balk rules from the Official Baseball Rules.

Table 9: Balk References in the Official Baseball Rules

Rule	Comment
4.03(a)	Pitchers cannot deliver a pitch with the catcher outside the catcher's box
5.09(c)	Penalty – ball's dead; runners advance one base for free when a balk's called
7.04(a)	Penalty – ball's dead; runners advance one base for free when a balk's called (no idea why they repeat this rule here)
7.07	"If, with a runner on third base and trying to score by means of a squeeze play or a steal, the catcher or any other fielder steps on, or in front of home base without possession of the ball, or touches the batter or his bat,

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

8.01(c) Pitchers throwing to a base must step towards that base

8.02(a)(6) Where a pitcher doctored a ball and the opposing manager does not accept the play, a balk’s awarded

8.05 There’s a lot here; please read it yourself? It’s basically all things to prevent the pitcher from tricking the batter or runners, and includes the newly illegal fake-third-to-first move.

Toronto Men's Baseball League

Bulletin No. 8 – Fines

Adopted by the Rules Drafting Committee May 16, 2013

There are no fines in effect.

Toronto Men's Baseball League

Bulletin No. 9 – Decision Making Summary

Adopted by the Rules Drafting Committee May 08, 2015

The table below summarizes the decision-making abilities of various groups and individuals.

I need...	To...	Comments
All Commissioners	Remove a General Manager	See section 18(c)
Any League Representative	Pose bulletins adopted as Playing Rules	See section 4
	Designate a player as injured	See section 14(1)
	Interpret the Playing Rules	See section 6, 62(2)
	Approve of weather-related cancellations	See section 33(1), (2)
	Review adequacy of defensive playing time	See section 50(5)
	Approve of injury-related playing time	See section 51(3)
The Commissioner	Block trades	See section 13(1)
	Make trades relating to league parity	See section 13(2)
	Add players to address attendance issues	See section 13(3)

	Remove a General Manager, unless overruled by a supermajority of the affected team	See section 18(b)
	Arrange for Call-ups	See section 45(1)
	Conduct a tiebreaker	See section 67(3)
A majority of the League Committee ⁴⁹	Review suspensions	See section 16(1), Bulletin No. 4 – Player Conduct
	Review protests	See section 35(2)
A majority of the Playing Rules Drafting Committee	Modify Playing Rules	See section 10
Official Scorekeeper	Review statistical rulings	See section 77(3)
Voting Committee	Determine year end awards; league Pitcher of the Year; league Reliever of the Year; league MVP; league Golden Glove	See section 78(2)

⁴⁹ All Commissioners and General and Assistant Managers.

Toronto Men's Baseball League

Bulletin No. 10 – Frequently Asked Questions

Adopted by the Rules Drafting Committee May 16, 2013

Q: How frequently are the rules updated?

Rules are continuously reviewed.

Q: I disagree with how the Playing Rules are written.

A: E-mail the Commissioner with your concerns. Any suggestions received before week three of the regular season may be incorporated by game five of the same season.

Toronto Men's Baseball League

Bulletin No. 11 – Double Elimination Hybrid Playoffs

Adopted by the Rules Drafting Committee May 08, 2015

1. Qualifying Final (Games 1 and 2)
 - (1). Game 1: Division winner with better record hosts 2nd wild card
 - (2) Game 2: Remaining division winner hosts 1st wild card
 - (3) Winning teams advance to **Upper Bracket Championship** (Game 5)
 - (4) Losing teams continue to the **Lower Bracket Quarter-finals** (Games 6, 7)
2. Elimination Final (Games 3 and 4)
 - (1) Game 3: 4th wild card hosts 5th wild card
 - (2) Game 4: 3rd wild card hosts 6th wild card
 - (3) Winning teams advancing to the **Lower Bracket Quarter-finals** (Games 6, 7)
 - (4) Losing teams continue to the **Crossover** (Game 12)
3. Upper Bracket Championship (Game 5)
 - (1) Winning team from Game 1 hosts winning team from Game 2
 - (2) Winning team advances to the **TMBL Championship Finals** (Games 10, 13, 14*) as the Upper Bracket Champion
 - (3) Losing team continues to the **Lower Bracket Finals** (Game 9) as the Upper Bracket Runner-up

4. Lower Bracket Quarter-finals (Games 6 and 7)
 - (1) Games 6, 7: Losing teams from Games 2 and 1 host winning teams from Games 3 and 4, respectively
 - (2) Winning teams advance to **Lower Bracket Semi-finals** (Game 8)
 - (3) Losing teams continue to the **Crossover Game** (Game 11)
5. Lower Bracket Semi-finals (Game 8)
 - (1) Game 8: Winning team from Game 6 hosts winning team from Game 7
 - (2) Winning team advances to the **Lower Bracket Finals** (Game 9) as Lower Bracket Challenger
 - (3) Losing team finishes fourth in playoffs
6. Crossover (Games 11 and 12)
 - (1) Games 11, 12: Losing team from Games 6 and 3 hosts losing team from Games 7 and 4, respectively
 - (2) Winning teams finish fifth and seventh in playoffs, respectively
 - (3) Losing teams finish sixth and eighth in playoffs, respectively
7. Lower Bracket Finals (Game 9)
 - (1) Game 9: Upper Bracket Runner-up hosts Lower Bracket Challenger
 - (2) Winning team advances to **TMBL Championship Finals** (Games 10, 13, 14*) as Lower Bracket Champion
 - (3) Losing team finishes third in playoffs
8. TMBL Championship Finals (Games 10, 13, 14*)

(1) Game 10, 13, 14: Upper Bracket Champion hosts Lower Bracket Champion in all odd-numbered games in best-of-three series

(2) Winning team declared TMBL Champion

(3) Losing team finishes second in playoffs

* if necessary

Toronto Men's Baseball League

Bulletin No. 12 – Field Permit

Adopted by the Rules Drafting Committee May 08, 2015

Smythe Park

Selected passage reproduced from our permit:

There is a zero tolerance for alcohol in City of Toronto facilities and parklands. Any unauthorized use of alcohol in city facilities will result in the immediate cancellation of the permit(s).

Toronto Men's Baseball League

Bulletin No. 13 – Conduct Guidelines

Adopted by the Rules Drafting Committee May 08, 2015

Players shall

- not complain about judgement calls within earshot of the umpires.

Scorekeepers shall

- not advise umpires of the scores unless it is the last inning.