

## **W.C.B.A. RIVER LEAGUE RULES OF PLAY -- 2019**

### **River League Requirements**

- River League Registration Fee is \$50 per team.
- All teams will be required to submit team rosters just like OBA/REP teams. Roster due back to your Divisional Convener by June 15<sup>th</sup> 2019.

### **Optional WCBA River League Coaching Program**

- Western Counties Coaching Clinic Reimbursement Program can allow each local affiliate to recoup the registration fee if River League coaches attend NCCP coaching clinics of the same season. (\$25 per course up to the maximum of the \$50 registration)

### **Rules- ALL DIVISIONS**

- Playing rules for all divisions in River League play will adhere to the OBA/Baseball Canada & Western Counties rules of play. A few amendments are made in this document for our River League.
- *All Players in all divisions are to be not only listed on the batting order but also are required to play a field position for a minimum of 2 innings out of the first 4 innings of the game.*

Some further safety Rules are listed below:

- **NO ROOKIE AGED PLAYERS CAN PITCH IN ANY DIVISION.**
- **ANY PLAYER OR TEAM PERSONNEL WARMING A PITCHER UP MUST WEAR A CATCHER'S MASK/HELMET**
- **BASERUNNING - ALL**
  - **Malicious Contact:**

Malicious contact is to be penalized whether committed by an offensive or defensive player. Contact shall be considered malicious if:

    - i. the contact is the result of intentional excessive force, and/or
    - ii. there is an intent to injure.
  - 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.
  - Runners are instructed to slide or attempt to avoid making contact with a fielder. A player who maliciously runs into another player is to be declared out (unless he/she has scored prior to committing the infraction) and is to be automatically ejected (whether or not declared out).

- If the defensive player blocked the base path clearly without possession of the ball, obstruction shall be called. The runner is safe and a delayed dead ball is called.

- **MERCY RULE**

- In all games, an 18-run mercy rule will apply after 3 innings or 15 runs after 4 innings. A 10-run mercy rule will also apply after 5 innings or any subsequent inning thereafter. If the home team leads after the top half of any such inning, the game shall be considered a mercy and the home team will not have to bat.
  - 18 runs after 3
  - 15 runs after 4
  - 10 runs after 5

- **INFIELD FLY RULE – Mosquito/Peewee/Bantam**

- The Infield Fly is a fair fly ball (not including a line drive or a bunt) which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort, when first and second, or first, second, and third bases are occupied before two are out. The pitcher, catcher, and any outfielder stationed in the infield on the play shall be considered infielders for the purpose of this rule.
- When it seems apparent that a batted ball will be an Infield Fly, the umpire shall immediately declare "Infield Fly" for the benefit of the runners.
  - Here are the key elements in understanding the **Infield Fly Rule**:
    - 1) There must be less than 2 outs;
    - 2) There must be runners on first and second OR first, second, and third;
    - 3) The fly ball cannot be a bunt or a line drive;
    - 4) An infielder must be able to catch the ball with ordinary effort.

## RIVER LEAGUE RULE AMENDMENTS (ALL DIVISIONS):

- For all divisions up to and including peewee a maximum of **Five (5)** runs per inning will be allowed
- The 7th inning, of a full 7 inning game, will be open ended.
- Time limit for all regular season games of 1 hour and 30 minutes from time of first pitch. New innings begin after the last out of an inning is made. \*\*\***Peewee and Bantam RL games will be 1 hour 45 minutes\*\*\***
- **Mercy Rule has been augmented on a trial bases to accommodate the shortened inning run max of 5**
  - 18 Runs After 4**
  - 12 Runs After 5**
- Mosquito Leagues will utilize a trial Throw Down Home Plate that measures bigger than the standard Homeplate. 21"
- Each centre is to provide the plate distributed by WCBA. More can be purchased or made

### **Overaged Players:**

- Except at Rookie a maximum of 3 overaged players can be permitted upon approval by the River League chair or committee to play at a lower level.
  - **These players cannot pitch or catch.**
- At Rookie **No** overaged players are permitted. Centers in desperate need to ensure they have numbers to form a team can be requested on a case by case basis.
- An overaged player is considered maximum of 1 year above the playing age of that level of play.

### **OBA/REP Affiliated Players (AP) In Same Division:**

- A local OBA/REP team in a same age division can sign a maximum of 3 River League players from the same division laterally.
- Teams must have the OBA boundary rights to the players. Or a valid release with Western Counties and OBA.
- These players must be made known and approved by the River League to avoid any conflict. They must be identified on the River league roster and on lineup cards at all games.
- AP players are only to be used occasionally in times of need to ensure centers can field teams. If it's reported and proven that a center has abused the AP process the AP player(s) and coach will be ineligible for postseason games or tournaments. The River League committee will meet to review each case reported.
- Priority is given to the RL team the player is rostered to.

### **OBA/REP Affiliated Players (AP) In Higher Division:**

An OBA team in a higher division can sign a maximum of 3 river league players from the division below them IF that center does not have an OBA rep team in that division below them.

- Teams must clearly indicate these players on the OBA rosters and also on the River League rosters at both playing levels.
- These players must be identified on the lineup card with an AP beside their name. These players will adhere to all pitching rules of their actual level of play.
- Locals must hold the playing rights to these players to roster them.
- Example local has a mosquito OBA team but not a rookie OBA team so they can call up from the RL rookie team.

### **River League Call Ups:**

River League teams can call up players from other River League divisions below their level of play only if they are rostered on their team's roster by the roster deadline. Example: RL Peewee can call up RL Mosquito players from the same center.

### **Umpires:**

- River League regular season game to 1 carded OBA umpire minimum
    - Exception is Peewee and Bantam. 2 carded umpires should be sought after.
  - Tournaments require 2 carded umpires.
  - Teams are encouraged to use 2 umpires for league play as it helps develop young umpires. 2 carded umpires can still be permitted.
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### **ROOKIE RIVER LEAGUE RULE AMENDMENTS (REGULAR SEASON AND TOURNAMENTS)**

- *In Rookie Ball no player will be allowed to score or advance on overthrows. The exception is an overthrow to 2<sup>nd</sup> base. In the event this happens, the runner may advance to third only.*
- *In Rookie, when the outfielder makes an attempt to throw to the infield, no runners will advance past the bag they are headed to. The umpire will determine which bag is in play.*

**\*\*\* These rules are to be discussed at each ground rule and enforced by the Plate Umpire\*\*\***

- Rookie playing rules can be found in the OBA rulebook. Players playing the pitching position in Rookie must wear a helmet with a protective cage.
- Pitching machine speed must be set to 38mph (or as close as possible for machines without a digital display) and cannot be altered at all. Height can be altered by rule.

### **MOSQUITO RIVER LEAGUE RULE AMENDMENTS (REGULAR SEASON AND TOURNAMENTS)**

- **\*\*\*NEW\*\*\*** Mosquito Leagues will utilize a trial Portable Home Plate that measures bigger than the standard Homeplate. (21 inches wide)
  - Each centre is to provide the plate distributed by WCBA. More can be purchased.
  - It is the intent to use this plate for the entire season but will be reviewed at the halfway mark. This plate will be mandatory for 2020
- In Mosquito no scoring from 3rd base on passed balls or overthrows to pitcher will be allowed. Advancing is permitted to all other bases on passed balls or overthrows.

In Mosquito, the only time a base runner can steal from 3rd base to home is if the catcher is throwing to any player other than the pitcher.

In Mosquito River League a ball returned to the pitcher from the catcher is dead....if the catcher is trying to pick off a runner to any bag, the ball becomes live

*Example:* Trying to pick off or throwing out a base runner by the pitcher or catcher a runner can advance to any base or home. Without a pickoff attempt by the pitcher or an attempt to throw out a runner at any base by the catcher no runner can advance home.

### **Game Length/Scoring Season and TOURNAMENT**

a) Games to be played to the earliest (1) 7 innings or (2) a time limit, whichever occurs first. The time limit is 1 hour and 30 minutes. No new innings can be started after the time limit has passed. This will include the quarter and semi finals of the tournament.

b) In tournaments, any game delayed due to weather, curfew, darkness or light failure at any point prior to completion, the game shall be resumed from the point of delay. Regular season games will end, and the winner declared by the score at the point the game is stopped. If tied, the game will be recorded as a tie.

c) Innings are capped at 5 runs per inning or 3 outs for the offensive team.

## Lineup Rules

- a) All players to be presented on the teams batting order prior to first pitch. Any late arrivals to be added to the bottom of the batting order, with the opposing team and umpires being notified of such changes.
- b) Any player being removed due to injury, illness or ejection, the player's spot in the batting order will be deleted. If a player has to be removed during an at bat for similar reasons, the next batter will take the removed player's position in the batting order and will assume the current count.
- c) There are unlimited defensive substitutions. ***Substitutions are permitted at any dead ball or stoppage of play.***
- d) All players on a teams' roster must bat.
- e) Overage players need to be presented with an asterisk (\*) on the lineup card and batting order. These players must be alternated in the batting order.

## Pitching Rules

- a) Rookie aged players cannot pitch.

## Pitch Count Limits

- a) A pitcher may not pitch more than the 70 pitches in a calendar day. If the pitch limit is reached while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch to the earlier of (1) the completion of that batter or (2) the end of the inning
- b) If pitcher throws more than 45 pitches in a calendar day, he/she cannot pitch the next day – the player must have 2 nights rest.
- c) If a team has multiple games in one calendar day, a pitcher who pitches more than 45 pitches will not be allowed to pitch in the games later in the day, or the next day.
- d) No pitcher is allowed to throw in 3 consecutive days.
- e) A player cannot play catcher and pitcher in the same game.

## **Base Running Rules**

- a) Base runners cannot leave the base until the ball leaves the pitchers hand. If an infraction occurs, the ball will be declared dead, runners will be sent back to their original base and 1 warning will be issued. Any further infractions will result in the runner being called out. (Each team will receive 1 warning)
- b) If runner is being removed for injury or ejection, the last player put out will act as the pinch runner.
- c) Courtesy runner will be allowed for the catcher, with 2 outs. The last player out will act as the pinch runner.
- d) There will be no stealing or taking home on overthrows to the pitcher or catcher. The exceptions will be pickoffs or “baseball” throws made to other bases. (example. If catcher tries to throw out baserunner at 2nd base, runner at 3rd base can try and take home)
- e) Batters can take 1st base on a dropped third strike, provided the base is not occupied. With 2 outs, batters can attempt to take 1st base, with subsequent runners moving up as well. If the batter takes one step towards their dugout without an attempt to take 1st base, the batter will automatically be out.

## **Fielding Rules**

- a) Any overthrown ball from the infield into an area declared “out of bounds”, 1 base will be awarded to all runners.

## **Mosquito Tournament Playing Rules**

- a) Prior to the game, during ground rules both coaches and umpires will conduct a coin flip that will determine the home and away teams. The team with the furthest travel distance to the park will “call” the coin flip.
  - b) Home team will keep the official score, while the away team will keep the official pitch count.
  - c) Championship game will be a 7 inning game, with no time limit. Mercy rules will apply.
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## **PEEWEE RIVER LEAGUE RULE AMENDMENTS (REGULAR SEASON AND TOURNAMENTS)**

- In Peewee, all rules are as outlined in the 2019 OBA Rulebook with the exception of Batting.
  - ALL RL Peewee teams WILL list all players in attendance on their line-up card.
- In Peewee, all rules are as outlined in the 2019 OBA Rulebook with the exception of the Amended RL Rules for ALL Divisions found at the beginning of this document.

### **Game Length/Scoring Season and TOURNAMENT**

- a) Games to be played to the earliest (1) 7 innings or (2) a time limit, whichever occurs first. The time limit is 1 hour and 45 minutes. No new innings can be started after the time limit has passed. This will include the quarter and semi finals of the tournament.
- b) Any game delayed due to weather, curfew, darkness or light failure at any point prior to completion, the game shall be resumed from the point of delay.
- c) Innings are capped at 5 runs per inning or 3 outs for the offensive team.

### **Lineup Rules**

- a) All players to be presented on the teams batting order prior to first pitch. Any late arrivals to be added to the bottom of the batting order, with the opposing team and umpires being notified of such changes.
- b) Any player being removed due to injury, illness or ejection, the player's spot in the batting order will be deleted. If a player has to be removed during an at bat for similar reasons, the next batter will take the removed player's position in the batting order and will assume the current count. ***In the event of an out, the batter then takes their regular turn at bat.***
- c) In Peewee RL there are unlimited defensive substitutions. ***Substitutions are permitted at any dead ball or stoppage of play.***
- d) As stated, ALL players on a teams' roster must bat.

### **Pitching Rules**

- Any player advancing to play in a higher series shall be restricted to the pitching rule of the series in which he/she is registered



### **Pitch Count Limits**

- a) A pitcher may not pitch more than the 80 pitches in a calendar day. If the pitch limit is reached while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch to the earlier of (1) the completion of that batter or (2) the end of the inning
- b) If pitcher throws more than 55 pitches in a calendar day, he/she cannot pitch the next day – the player must have 2 nights rest.
- c) If a team has multiple games in one calendar day, a pitcher who pitches more than 55 pitches will not be allowed to pitch in the games later in the day, or the next day.
- d) No pitcher is permitted to throw in 3 consecutive days.
- e) A player cannot play catcher and pitcher in the same game.

### **Base Running Rules**

- a) In Peewee RL Base Running Rules are as outlined in the 2019 OBA Rulebook
- b) If runner is being removed for injury or ejection, the last player put out will act as the pinch runner
- c) In Peewee RL, courtesy runner *WILL* be allowed for the catcher, with 2 outs. The last player put out will act as the pinch runner.
- e) Batters can take 1st base on a dropped third strike, provided the base is not occupied. With 2 outs, batters can attempt to take 1st base, with subsequent runners moving up as well. If the batter takes one step towards their dugout without an attempt to take 1st base, the batter will automatically be out.

### **Fielding Rules**

- a) Any overthrown ball from the infield into an area declared “out of bounds” 1 base will be awarded to all runners.
- b) A fielder may not enter the dugout or bench area to make a legal catch. Any such ball shall be declared dead

## **Peewee Tournament Playing Rules**

- a) Prior to the game, during ground rules both coaches and umpires will conduct a coin flip that will determine the home and away teams. The team with the furthest travel distance to the park will “call” the coin flip.
- b) Home team will keep the official score, while the away team will keep the official pitch count.
- c) Championship game will be a 7-inning game, with no time limit. Mercy rules will apply.

## **BANTAM RIVER LEAGUE RULE AMENDMENTS (REGULAR SEASON AND TOURNAMENTS)**

- In Bantam, all rules are as outlined in the 2019 OBA Rulebook with the exception of Batting.
  - ALL RL Bantam teams WILL list all players in attendance on their line-up card.
- In Bantam, all rules are as outlined in the 2019 OBA Rulebook with the exception of the Amended RL Rules for ALL Divisions found at the beginning of this document.

## **Game Length/Scoring Season and TOURNAMENT**

- a) Games to be played to the earliest (1) 7 innings or (2) a time limit, whichever occurs first. The time limit is 1 hour and 45 minutes. No new innings can be started after the time limit has passed. This will include the quarter and semi finals of the tournament.
- b) Any game delayed due to weather, curfew, darkness or light failure at any point prior to completion, the game shall be resumed from the point of delay.
- c) Innings are capped at 7 runs per inning or 3 outs for the offensive team.

## **Lineup Rules**

- a) All players to be presented on the teams batting order prior to first pitch. Any late arrivals to be added to the bottom of the batting order, with the opposing team and umpires being notified of such changes.
- b) Any player being removed due to injury, illness or ejection, the player’s spot in the batting order will be deleted. If a player is to be removed during an at bat for similar reasons, the next batter will take the removed player’s position in the batting order and will assume the current count. ***In the event of an out, the batter then takes their regular turn at bat.***

c) In Bantam RL there are unlimited defensive substitutions. ***Substitutions are permitted at any dead ball or stoppage of play.***

d) As stated, ALL players on a teams' roster must bat.

### **Pitching Rules**

- **Affiliates are encouraged to secure a diamond with a raised mound. Portable mounds are permissible. Where a mound is not available, both teams are to be made aware before the game begins. The pitching rubber will be 60' 6" from the plate.**
- **Mound is raised from a gradual slope to be 10 inches above the bases at the pitching rubber.**
- Any player advancing to play in a higher series shall be restricted to the pitching rule of the series in which he/she is registered

### **Pitch Count Limits**

a) A pitcher may not pitch more than the 90 pitches in a calendar day. If the pitch limit is reached while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch to the earlier of (1) the completion of that batter or (2) the end of the inning

b) If pitcher throws more than 65 pitches in a calendar day, he/she cannot pitch the next day – the player must have 2 nights rest.

c) If a team has multiple games in one calendar day, a pitcher who pitches more than 65 pitches will not be allowed to pitch in the games later in the day, or the next day.

d) No pitcher is allowed to throw in 3 consecutive days.

### **Base Running Rules**

a) In Bantam RL Base Running Rules are as outlined in the 2019 OBA Rulebook

b) If runner is being removed for injury or ejection, the last player put out will act as the pinch runner

c) In Bantam RL, courtesy runner *WILL* be allowed for the catcher, with 2 outs. The last player put out will act as the pinch runner.

e) Batters can take 1st base on a dropped third strike, provided the base is not

occupied. With 2 outs, batters can attempt to take 1st base, with subsequent runners moving up as well. If the batter takes one step towards their dugout without an attempt to take 1st base, the batter will automatically be out.

### **Fielding Rules**

a) Any overthrown ball from the infield into an area declared “out of bounds” 1 base will be awarded to all runners.

b) A fielder may not enter the dugout or bench area to make a legal catch. Any such ball shall be declared dead

### **Additional Bantam Tournament Playing Rules**

a) Prior to the game, during ground rules both coaches and umpires will conduct a coin flip that will determine the home and away teams. The team with the furthest travel distance to the park will “call” the coin flip.

b) Home team will keep the official score, while the away team will keep the official pitch count.

c) Championship game will be a 7-inning game, with no time limit. Mercy rules will apply.

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### **River League Championship Tournament Bids / Tournament Dates**

- Rookie - July
- Mosquito - Aug with games being played during the week.
- Peewee - Aug with games being played during the week
- Bantam – Aug with games being played throughout week if needed
- All tournaments should be OBA double knockout formats. We will divide the teams based on record, scores and division size then draw for pairings. A different format may be used by approval of the River League Committee
- Tournament Fees are \$300 to \$350 per team
- Centers/Teams who would like to host:

ROOKIE

MOSQUITO -- Corunna

PEEWEE –

BANTAM --

#### **Dates to Remember:**

- Rosters to Your Convener by June 15th, 2019.
- Scheduling Meeting May 8<sup>th</sup>, 730 pm Port Lambton Community Hall