



Southwestern Ontario Baseball Association

Creating a culture in which coaches, parents, fans, umpires,
and athletes work together to achieve our mission.

SWOBA BY-LAWS

Governance.

- (a) A local association (“Local”) that is in good standing with the SWOBA shall be allowed to have a representative on the SWOBA Select Committee.
- (b) Each Local representative shall have one (1) vote on all motions presented for consideration at each Committee meeting. A simple majority will pass a given motion. In the event of a tie, the President shall cast the deciding vote.
- (c) Any proposed amendments, additions, and/or deletions to these By-Laws require the written approval/consent of the SWOBA Board of Directors. For greater certainty, the SWOBA Committee is an advisory committee and cannot, without the support of the SWOBA Board of Directors, effect any amendment, addition, and/or deletion to these By-Laws.
- (d) The SWOBA Committee is responsible for discussing and making recommendations on:
 - (i) New rules for the Ontario Baseball Association (“OBA” or “Baseball Ontario”) play;
- (e) Any Local that has missed two (2) consecutive SWOBA Committee meetings without prior notice will be fined \$200.00. This fine may be appealed by written application to the SWOBA Board of Directors.
- (f) Any Local that has missed three (3) consecutive SWOBA Committee meetings may lose their voting privileges for a period of three (3) months
- (g) SWOBA Committee meetings can be held by electronic means including conference call and Skype, for example.
- (h) Agendas for SWOBA Committee meetings will be circulated by the SWOBA Registrar at least one week in advance of scheduled SWOBA Committee meetings.
- (i) The SWOBA calendar will be updated and maintained regularly to give all Locals and their representatives advanced notice of all meeting dates, times, and locations.
- (j) Any correspondence issued or received by the SWOBA should, at a minimum, copy the current SWOBA President and the respective SWOBA Committee Chair.

TEAM REGISTRATIONS

- (a) All team registrations shall be submitted on-line via the SWOBA website on or before May 1st of each season.
- (b) All teams are renewed by Baseball Ontario immediately after Labor Day.
- (c) It is the responsibility of the Local to renew their respective teams each year on the SWOBA website, including updating the coaches' information as required.

BOND FUND

- (a) All Locals registered in the SWOBA will be required to pay an assuredly bond (the "Bond") in the amount to be determined at the SWOBA Annual General Meeting ("SWOBA AGM") each season.
- (b) The amount of the Bond will be \$ 200.00 per Local.
- (c) This Bond shall be held by the SWOBA on account, to be utilized for the payment of fines, penalties, forfeitures, and/or expenses due.
- (d) Locals will replace any monies owed to the SWOBA no later than the SWOBA AGM immediately following the completion of the current year regular season in which the said expenses were incurred
- (e) Any Local that has failed to reimburse the SWOBA by the noted deadline will not have its teams approved for the coming season.
- (f) Locals who have not repaid any monies disbursed by the SWOBA shall lose all rights and privileges of membership until such time as said monies are repaid.

AFFILIATED TEAMS

- (a) An affiliated team is defined as any SWOBA local team that plays outside of the SWOBA sponsored league. For the purpose of this section, the SWOBA recognizes the Ontario Senior Baseball Association (OSBA) and Little League.
- (b) Teams playing in these leagues are responsible for paying all registration fees directly to the SWOBA Treasurer, and will be notified of these fees by the SWOBA VP Select.
- (c) The fees for affiliated teams wishing to participate in Baseball Ontario sponsored events and be rostered for participating in either the Elimination Tournament or the Baseball Ontario Provincial Championships shall be \$500.00.
- (d) These fees are to be reviewed and set annually by the SWOBA Board of Directors no later than January 31st of each season for the following baseball season.

SWOBA PLAYING RULES

- (a) SWOBA By-Laws (as applicable).
- (b) OBA Constitution (as applicable).
- (c) Coach Helmets
- (i) All pitching coaches on the diamond for 8U Minor Rookie and 9U Rookie games must wear approved protective helmets with or without ear flaps in all league and/or tournament games, whether local, provincial or international.

ii)Other coaches are encouraged by the SWOBA to wear protective head gear, but it is not a mandatory requirement.

REGULAR SEASON SCORING

(i)Final SWOBA league standings shall be based upon points:

two (2) points will be awarded for a win, and one (1) point for a tie.

(ii)In case of a tie in the standings (if and when applicable for post-regular season play or awards), the following tiebreakers will be used:

(1)Head to Head;

(2)Most Wins;

(3)Run Differential in games between the tied teams; and

(4)Coin Toss.

UMPIRES

(1.) Umpires presiding over SWOBA league play shall be a minimum of twelve (12) years of age. Umpires shall be equal to or greater in age than the division they are umpiring

(ii)The home team of a SWOBA sanctioned game will be responsible for providing two (2) Baseball Ontario carded umpires.

(iii)In the event where only one umpire is in attendance at such game (through no fault of the home team), the game will continue, and the result of the game will count for purposes of the SWOBA league standings

(iv)In the event that no carded umpires show up for a scheduled SWOBA league game, the game may be rescheduled and replayed at the site of the visiting team (unless otherwise agreed between the respective teams) at some point prior to the end of the current year SWOBA regular season. The makeup game associated costs (diamond and umpire costs) are to be borne by the offending Local. Any amounts not paid by the offending Local will be deducted from their Bond and forwarded on or before the end of the current year regular season in which the offense occurred. The offending Local must pay these amounts back into the Bond fund before they are eligible for the Qualifiers.

(v)Umpires presiding over SWOBA league play are expected to complete ELECTRONIC UMPIRE EJECTION FORMS on-line within 24 hours of any ejection (player, coach, parent, etc.) and forward completed forms to the SWOBA VP , SWOBA VP Select, Chair, Policies and Procedures and SWOBA umpire-in-chief.

EQUIPMENT

(i)Only approved baseballs listed in section P2-6 of the OBA Constitution shall be used for all SWOBA regular season games, tournaments, and Qualifier games.

(ii)The home team of each SWOBA regular season game must provide a minimum of two (2) new approved baseballs for each game.

(iii)Bat rules are as prescribed by Baseball Ontario.

UNIFORMS

Provided the teams are completely uniformed, the uniformity as laid down by the Official Playing Rules of Baseball shall be disregarded and no protest will be considered by the SWOBA after the game has been played. In all games played by a SWOBA team, all team members, including the manager (head coach), coaches, and players MUST be in COMPLETE AND MATCHING BASEBALL UNIFORM in order to participate in the game on the field. All other personnel must be appropriately dressed while in the bench area.

Note: Complete Baseball Uniform shall consist of:

Corresponding tops or jersey.

Corresponding (similar) baseball caps.

Baseball pants (NOT SHORTS, JEANS OR TRACK SUITS or Sandals).

Baseball socks and stirrup socks.

COMPLETION OF SCHEDULED GAMES AND FORFIETS

(a) All teams are expected and encouraged to complete at least 90% of their SWOBA scheduled regular season games by the Tuesday prior to the commencement of Qualifiers. If the SWOBA Board of Directors determines that too many teams are not achieving the proposed 90% game threshold, the SWOBA Board of Directors may move to reinstate penalties and sanctions against those teams which fail to achieve the minimum game threshold.

(b) Teams must reschedule all postponed SWOBA regular season games within 72 hours of the originally scheduled game and must inform the SWOBA Division Convener of the amended game date.

(i) If the teams involved cannot agree on a date, then the home team shall notify the SWOBA Division Convener, who will then set a date for the game, which will be binding on both teams.

(ii) If either team fails to show up for the rescheduled regular season game, it will be declared a forfeit and the victory will be awarded to the non-offending team. For greater certainty, this rule applies to all Qualifiers.

(c) If a team is aware in advance that they cannot field a team for a scheduled SWOBA regular season game, they must notify the other team and the SWOBA Division Convener a minimum of three (3) calendar days prior to the game date. If the SWOBA Division Convener is not satisfied with the reason specified for the postponement, the SWOBA Division Convener may order the game to be played as scheduled without appeal from either team.

(d) A forfeit will subject the offending team to a \$ 100.00 fine, payable to the SWOBA .

(e) If a SWOBA regular season game is declared a forfeit due to an injury, the forfeiting team shall not be fined.

f) When there is a forfeit, a Local may claim for reimbursement of costs up to \$100.00 (cover umpires/fields, etc.) from the forfeited team's Local. When the home team forfeits a game, the Local for such home team may NOT claim for reimbursement of any costs

(g) Coaches or managers that forfeit a SWOBA regular season game may be subject to further SWOBA disciplinary action

CONDUCT

- (a) Abusive behavior, language, and/or arguing by players, coaches, managers, and/or spectators will not be tolerated at any SWOBA related practice, game, tournament, Qualifier, or OBA Championship, and may result in the ejection of any such offending person.
- (b) Any player, coach, or manager that is ejected from a game (SWOBA or Baseball Ontario tournament) is automatically suspended from the team's next scheduled regardless of whether it is a SWOBA regular season, Tournament, Qualifier, or OBA Championship game.
- (i) Any ejections of a coach(s) or player(s) must be reported by the offending team within 24 hours of the occurrence to their respective SWOBA Division Convenor (and prior to the team's next game); copying the opposing team's head coach and the SWOBA Policies and Procedures Committee Chair. Any coach failing to report an ejection may be subject to a disciplinary review.
- (ii) A second ejection of any coach/manager/player carries an automatic suspension of three (3) games.
- (iii) Following a third ejection of any coach/manager/player in any single season, the ejected person will be automatically suspended indefinitely, pending a hearing of the SWOBA Policies and Procedures Committee.
- (iv) Suspensions shall apply to all games, including; SWOBA exhibition and regular season games, all tournaments, Qualifiers, Baseball Ontario Tournament games, and Baseball Ontario Provincial Championships. In all cases, the SWOBA will ask the OBA to uphold these suspensions. At that time the individual suspended may appeal to the OBA Technical Committee.
- (v) The coach/manager of the offending team shall be required to provide the SWOBA with a schedule of games to be covered by the suspension.
- (vi) Any coach, manager, or player participating in a game in which he is supposed to be serving a suspension shall automatically be suspended for the remainder of the season, including Qualifiers and Baseball Ontario Provincial Championships. Again, in these cases, the SWOBA will ask the OBA to uphold these suspensions. At that time the individual suspended may appeal to the OBA Technical Committee.
- (c) A coach is subject to a \$200.00 fine (payable immediately to the SWOBA) for the following:
- (i) A second ejection and each subsequent ejection;
 - (ii) Knowingly participating in a game in which he is suspended;
 - (iii) Knowingly allowing a suspended player to play during his suspension period: or
 - (iv) Making contact with an umpire for any reason at any time.
- (d) Any coach or manager making remarks to ball players of an opposing team with the purpose of hindering their play shall be warned by the umpire and may be removed from the game. On the second offense, the offending person will be ejected from the game by the umpire, and the umpire will file the required ejection report.
- (e) Any unsportsmanlike conduct by a player, manager, or coach that leads to ejection from a game may be subject to further suspension upon review by the SWOBA Policies and Procedures Committee.
- (f) **NO TOBACCO OR ALCOHOL PRODUCTS:** Players and coaches listed on the lineup card must refrain from smoking or using tobacco and/or consuming alcohol products during all

games in and around the ball diamond. Umpires will be asked to enforce this rule. The penalty for violation of this rule is an automatic ejection from the game.

(g) All player and coach ejections must be reported to the SWOBA VP Select of the offending Local, the respective SWOBA Division Convenor, the Chair of the Policies and Procedures Committee,

(h) Upon receipt of any umpire's report SWOBA Policies and Procedures Committee may elect to hold a hearing to determine if further disciplinary action is required. If the SWOBA Policies and Procedures Committee decides that a hearing is warranted, that hearing shall be scheduled no later than seven (7) days from receipt of the umpire's report. The results of any such hearing shall be communicated to all interested parties within three (3) business days following completion of the hearing

(I) SWOBA shall maintain the records of any disciplinary hearings for all coaches, players or managers that have had SWOBA hearings. Locals and interested third parties may contact the SWOBA Policies and Procedures Committee Chair to inquire about the status of any player, coach, or manager but may not inquire about any of the details that affect that status.

(II) (II) The SWOBA Policies and Procedures Committee shall be informed (within seven (7) business days) by the Local of any coaches, players, or managers that have had disciplinary hearings, and the results of those hearings (i.e. suspension, etc.), and not the full details of those hearings. This information shall remain in confidence on file with the SWOBA Policies and Procedures Committee Chair.

(k) In the event that an alleged offense by a coach or player is so serious so as to possibly jeopardize the safety of others, or has resulted in an investigation by a police force as defined by the Police Services Act, R.S.O. 1990 C.P.15, the SWOBA Policies and Procedures Committee may immediately remove the alleged offender from SWOBA activities, pending an investigation of the offense in accordance with this policy. The SWOBA may also ask Baseball Ontario to uphold any suspensions under this section.

(l) Coaches and/or managers are responsible for the conduct of their fans. Umpires shall not engage any spectator and will ask the appropriate coach/manager to deal with the situation. Failure on the part of a coach and/or manager to manage their respective spectators could subject the coach and/or manager to an ejection or fine of \$100.00, payable to the SWOBA (or both).

(m) All spectators must comply with the local park rules. Failure to comply with park rules may lead to a spectator being asked to leave the park per Section 12(a). Any spectator that engages in violent or abusive conduct may be asked to leave the park per Section 12(a). The umpire may choose to not put the ball in play until the offending fan(s) is/are removed.

(n) Any coach that willfully removes his team from the field forfeiting the game shall immediately be suspended indefinitely pending a review/hearing of the Policies and Procedures Committee. An appeal of the suspension may be filed immediately in writing to the SWOBA Policies and Procedures Committee Chair. These suspensions are not appealable to Baseball Ontario unless the SWOBA has asked Baseball Ontario to uphold the suspension.

INFRACTION

Disputing umpire's call
Re-entering field of play
Refusing to leave diamond
Refusing to leave immediate area
Making physical contact with umpire
Discriminatory slur
Threatening an umpire
Refusing to play

SUSPENSION

One game
Two games
Three games
Three games
Indefinite *
Indefinite *
Indefinite *
Indefinite *

REFUNDS

(a) Any team admitted to the SWOBA to be placed within a SWOBA division will only be entitled to a refund if the SWOBA Division VP, SWOBA Secretary Treasurer, and SWOBA are informed of their inability to participate prior to May 1st of each playing season.

PROTESTS

(a) A Protest Committee will be established in advance of the commencement of any tournament, Qualifier, and/or OBA Provincial Championship.

(b) The protest fee is \$100.00 cash and must be paid and delivered immediately to the SWOBA Division Convenor (or as he or she may otherwise direct) at the time the protest is lodged. Failure to pay the protest fee will negate the standing of the challenging coach/team to file a protest.

(c) The game ceases at the time of protest and the game may not continue until the protest is resolved, unless the protest fee is not paid immediately, in which case the game will resume without delay.

(d) The results of a protest will be discussed by a representative of the SWOBA with both coaches before the game commences.

(e) In time-limited games, the amount of time required to resolve the protest will not count against game length. The clock will stop at the point of protest and restart when the game commences.

(f) Protests after the game will not be allowed unless there is a protest on the play upon which the subject game ended.

(g) The protest procedure is as outlined in the OBA Constitution (Section 2.14 paragraphs (a) to (d)). (h) The representative of the SWOBA who addressed the protest will report all protests to the Protest Committee immediately. The Protest Committee will render a decision at the time the protest is lodged. The decision will then immediately be reported to the head coach of the protesting team. (i) All decisions of the Protest Committee are final and are not subject to an appeal.

FINES

(a) Unless otherwise provided in these By-Laws, all fines are payable prior to the commencement of the Qualifiers.

(b) Any team who has not paid their fines will be ineligible for the Qualifiers and any OBA Championships.

(c) All coach's fines must be paid and delivered to the SWOBA Treasurer prior to their next scheduled SWOBA regular season game or they are not eligible to coach.

Coaches Eligibility and Training

(a) All coaches shall be certified as per the Baseball Ontario and Baseball Canada guidelines. Individual Locals may request that their coaches be certified at a level that is higher than these guidelines but in no case, can the certification requirements be lower than the established guidelines.

(b) All coaches on a roster must have secured their minimum training/certification levels before the roster will be approved by the SWOBA Registrar. For greater certainty, rosters that include coaches who are uncertified will NOT be approved.

(c) Proof of coach training certification must be submitted with the roster before the roster can be approved by the SWOBA Registrar, and in any case no later than June 15th of each year.

(d) Completion in the "Respect in Sport" program is voluntary. The SWOBA will recognize the certificates for any coach who has completed this course outside of baseball.

(e) Registration of all coaches with the SWOBA Registrar is due by May 15th of every year.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

(a) All players shall qualify for their respective teams as per the OBA Constitution.

(b) The following player eligibility rules will apply within the SWOBA: (

i) Once signed, players may not change teams during the current playing season.

(ii) No player of 14U Minor Bantam age or lower may play or be called up more than one (1) division above his age group (e.g., a player in 10U Minor Mosquito may NOT move up to 12U Minor Peewee).

(Clarification: Players are only allowed to be called up a maximum of one (1) division only. A Minor Mosquito player playing on a mixed Minor/Major Mosquito team may not be called up to a 12U Minor Peewee team or a Mixed 13U Peewee Team)

(iii) When a Local field two (2) or more teams in the same division, no player may play for more than one team having the same classification, but a player is permitted to be called up by a higher classified team from a lower classified team within the same division. A player may be transferred to a second team of his Local but may not return to his original team after June 15th.

(v) Any player that participates in a Baseball Ontario recognized program, per OBA Constitution (P1.9), must play at least eight (8) SWOBA regular season games (in the same calendar year) to be eligible to play in the Qualifiers.

(1) If a player does not meet the minimum requirement of games played, the player may appeal their eligibility when extenuating circumstances exist. An appeal may be filed to the SWOBA Policies and Procedures Committee by no later than July 15th of the current regular season.

(2) Coaches are to provide the player(s) name/number to the SWOBA Division Convenor and

opposing team coach when submitting in the final game results in support of any such appeal.
(3)The Head Coach of the SWOBA team and SWOBA Division Convenor will be responsible for tracking the games played for each player subject to an appeal.

TEAM ROSTERS

- (a)Rosters shall be submitted by July 1 each year. Failure to submit the roster by this deadline may result in a delay of the roster being approved by the SWOBA.
- (b)Roster submissions should include the following:
 - (i)Birth Certificate or other legal documentation showing the birth date of any new player not previously registered with the SWOBA and Baseball Ontario.
 - (ii)All applicable releases.
 - (iii)Proof of completion of minimum levels of coach training/certification and NCCP# for any newly accredited coaches;
 - (iv)Supporting documentation when a request for Grandfathering is made;
 - (v)Email addresses for all those on the roster.
- (c)New coaches/players will be removed from the roster until such time as the required documentation is provided.
- (d)Coaches that do not meet the requirements for their division will be removed from the roster.
- (e)A coach that attends a Baseball Ontario sanctioned tournament without an approved SWOBA Roster will be fined \$200.00 (payable immediately to the SWOBA in accordance with these By-Laws) and suspended for one (1) game.
- (f)Roster changes may be made up to the Baseball Ontario deadline of July 1. No players may be added to the roster after this date.
- (g)Coaches providing false roster information will be immediately suspended indefinitely pending a hearing of the SWOBA Policies and Procedures Committee.

GAME REPORTING OF RESULTS AND STANDINGS

- (a)All SWOBA regular season game results must be submitted by email, copying the opposing teams' coach and notifying the SWOBA Division Convenor of all coach and player ejections.
- (b)All SWOBA regular season game results must be submitted within forty-eight (48) hours of completion of the subject game.
- (c)All teams must notify the SWOBA Division Convenor confirming the date of a rainout or rescheduled game.

SWOBA AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

- (a)Each season the SWOBA shall present Select awards for some or all (at the discretion of the SWOBA Board of Directors) of the following categories:
 - (i)Local of the Year;
 - (ii)Player of the Year;
 - (iii)Pitcher of the Year;

- (iv) Coach of the Year;
- (v) Volunteer of the Year; and
- (vii) Team of the Year (b) All nominations must be submitted electronically via the SWOBA website, by no later than October 1st of the current season.
- (c) Only nominations that are approved by the applicable Local president will be considered
- (d) Nominations submitted directly to Baseball Ontario will not be considered for SWOBA Awards.
- (e) Only the SWOBA award winners shall be approved for submission to Baseball Ontario as the SWOBA nominees to be considered for the annual Baseball Ontario Awards.
- (f) The SWOBA Awards of Excellence winners will be announced at the SWOBA AGM (typically in October of each year).