



**YORK REGION ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
BOYS BASEBALL PLAYING REGULATIONS**



1. **Season of Play:** Spring Sport

2. **Division:** Varsity

3. **Eligibility:**

a) Age Division Categories

Varsity

School Year: **2025-26**

Year of Birth must be no earlier than: **2006**

Date of Entry to grade 9 must be no earlier than August of: **2021**

b) The team roster must be completed on-line prior to the commencement of the competition.

d) Each team to have no more than eighteen (18) players dressed to play.

League Alignment:

The league will be aligned in divisions based on level of play and geographic location. If an imbalance between zones occurs, the divisional convenors may review and realign divisions with twenty-four (24) hours of the preseason meeting.

4. **Schedule:**

League play will consist of playing all the schools within its own division.

Playoffs:

Two Zone League: Top four in each division cross-over for quarter finals

Three Zone League: Top 2 in each zone and two best wildcards make playoffs

2028 Division (N1 vs WCB), (E2 vs W2), (W1 vs N2), (E1 vs WCA)

2026 Division (E1 vs WCB), (W2 vs N2), (N1 vs E2), (W1 vs WCA)

2027 Division (W1 vs WCB), (E2 vs N2), (E1 vs W2), (N1 vs WCA)

Four Zone League: Top 2 in each zone

2028 Division (C1 vs N2), (E1 vs W2), (W1 vs E2), (N1 vs C2)

2026 Division (E1 vs C2), (N1 vs W2), (W1 vs N2), (C1 vs E2)

2027 Division (E2 vs N1), (C1 vs W2), (W1 vs C2), (N2 vs E1)

5. **OFSSA:**

Our Tier 1 league champion will represent our Association at the provincial championships. Our champion will be provided with the rules that govern this event.



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6. Governing Rules:

Major League Baseball rules will apply with some exceptions:

- a) Pitching..see OPHEA pitch count rules.
- b) All games to be 7 innings (subject to mercy rule – 10 run lead after 5 or more complete innings), or no new inning after 2 hours and 15 mins with the drop dead at 2 hours and 30 minutes.
- c) Points to be used for standings – 2 points for a win – 1 point for a tie – 0 points for a loss.
- d) Re-entry: With the exception of the pitcher, each starting player may reenter the game once. In the event of an injury and no available eligible player on the bench, a team may reenter a player who has previously withdrawn from the game – at the umpire’s discretion.
- e) Contact Rule: 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 already scored prior to committing the infraction) and is to be automatically ejected (whether or not declared safe). Contact shall be considered malicious if the contact is the result of intentional excessive force, and/or there is an intent to injure. Malicious contact is to be penalized whether committed by an offensive or defensive player. The Umpire shall determine whether contact was avoidable or unavoidable – whether the runner was trying to reach the base or attempting to dislodge the ball from the fielder. If the runner: a) could have avoided the fielder and reached the base, or b) attempted to dislodge the ball, the runner is out even if the fielder loses possession of the ball. The ball is dead and all other runners shall return to the last base legally occupied by them at the time of the contact. If the fielder blocks the base path, the runner may slide into or collide with the fielder as long as the runner is making a legitimate attempt to reach the base. If the collision is flagrant, the runner is called out and ejected. The ball is declared dead. If the defensive player blocks the base path clearly without possession of the ball, obstruction shall be called. The runner is safe and a delayed dead ball is signaled. If the runner collides flagrantly, he/she shall be declared safe due to obstruction but shall be ejected. The ball is dead.
- f) Designated Hitter:
 - i) A designated hitter may be used for the pitcher. OBA rules apply.
- g) Blood: Any blood seepage is to be bandaged and any fresh blood-soiled clothing replaced before the player is allowed to return to the game. The player is to be allowed to exit and reenter the game without penalty.
- h) Equipment:
 - i) Catchers mask no longer needs a throat protector in addition to the mask.
 - ii) Any player or coach warming up a pitcher must wear a mask.
 - iii) All batters and base runners must have a helmet with both ear flaps. First and third base coaches must wear a batting helmet (ear flaps are optional) when coaching on the field.
- i) Bats must be regulation size and be constructed of wood or wood composite material only. Bats must be in line with OBA regulations



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- j) All players must have matching team hats and jerseys and an athletic bottom. Teams can petition the convenor for extended uniform deadlines.
- k) Players and coaches may wear cleats with metal spikes.
- l) Each team is to provide two (2) new game balls for each game.
- m) Both teams will keep scorecards. The official scorecard will be kept by the home team. In case of a dispute, the divisional convenor will request the visiting team's scorecard.
- n) Zero Tolerance: No players or coaches may challenge an umpire's judgment (e.g., balls and strikes, out or safe on a base). Only clarification or interpretations of a rule may be requested. Sportsmanship dictates that all team members refrain from verbal or other abuse of athletes, coaches, umpires and spectators. Tobacco products may not be used by players, coaches or umpires in the vicinity of the diamonds.
- o) There should be two (2) umpires per game.
- p) Disqualification: Any player who is disqualified from competition (exhibition, tournament, league, playoff, etc.) in which he/she is representing a member school, shall be ruled out of the game/competition immediately and must not be allowed to compete for any school team in any sport until that player has attended a Board of Reference.
- q) The staff member coach must be present on the bench and it is strongly recommended that a second staff member be available for baseball (as outlined in the YRAA Constitution – Article XVI, Section I).
- r) Speed of Play:
 - i) Pitchers may not pitch to batters that have one foot out of the batter's box to receive signals.
 - ii) A catcher on base with two outs must be replaced by the last out. This change is not a game substitution.
 - iii) When there are no base runners, the on deck batter shall retrieve balls from the backstop. The appropriate team shall retrieve all balls fouled out of play.
- s) Tie Breaking Procedures:
 - i) End of Season:
 - a) head to head record;
 - b) least number of runs allowed – all teams;
 - c) most number of wins;
 - d) if a school date is available prior to the commencement of the playoffs, a tie breaking game shall be played;
 - e) a coin toss.
 - ii) Playoff Game:
 - a) the batting team will place the last out from the previous inning on second base before play commences in the top or bottom of each inning;
 - b) the inning shall begin with the runner on 2nd base and none out. Play will continue until a winner has been declared at the completion of an inning.

This procedure takes place at the end of regulation time or the completion of the required number of innings (whichever comes first). It must apply to all playoff games where the elimination of a team might occur.



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9. General Information:

- a) The coach of a team must supply each player of his team with a copy of the YRAA Playing Regulations at least 24 hours prior to the first game.
- b) The winning coach must keep game sheets on file until the completion of the season and make sheets available to the divisional convenor in the event of a discrepancy immediately after a game.
- c) Ejections (exhibition, tournament, league and playoff) are to be reported to the Athletic Coordinator by the end of the following school day.
- d) Coaches will present their lineup card to opposing coach and plate umpire before the start of the game. Coaches will notify the plate umpire and the opposing coach of any change in the lineup before it happens.
- e) Should the game have to be defaulted, the coach shall inform his/her divisional convenor and the coach of the other team. The divisional convenor shall then inform the Umpire-in-Chief. A default fee of \$100.00 per game will be applied to the defaulting team. A default score of 7-0 shall be scored for the winning team and a 0-7 score for the defaulting team.
- f) Coaches must bring disqualification reports to each game. It is the coaches' responsibility to ask officials to fill out these reports. These reports must be forwarded to the divisional convenor prior to any Board of Reference hearing for the players to be eligible to attend the Board of Reference. It is the coach's responsibility to supervise any player ejected from a game.
- g) Eligibility lists must be in the convenor's hand no later than 24 hours prior to the first league game. No team may receive points towards league standing until eligibility lists have been received.
- h) Except for rained out games, coaches may not alter the schedule. Rained out games are to be rescheduled by the home team (through the divisional convenor) on the first available date. The home team must communicate with the divisional convenor and the Umpire-in-Chief to arrange for the rescheduled game. In exceptional circumstance, the divisional convenor may arrange for the rescheduling of games.
- i) Coaches will assist in the procurement of park permits and with the maintenance of parks. (Please make sure your dugout and field area is clean before you allow your team to leave.)
- j) It is recommended that teams have first aid kits for every game.
- k) All league expenses (e.g., permits, OFSAA entry, umpire administrative fee) will be divided evenly by all teams.
- l) Teams must be available to play throughout the season. No play dates are honoured throughout the season, however, during playoffs, time constraints are very tight and must be adhered to (OFSAA). Proms, trips, etc. are not valid reasons to miss a playoff game.
- m) All schools are encouraged to enter at least one tournament, in addition to the regular league schedule. The convenor should have such tournament information each spring.



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- n) Home team for league games to be second team listed in the schedule. Home team is to provide bases and to line the diamond (if this service is not provided by the town). An unlined field shall not be cause for a protest by a coach.
- o) Game start times are firm. Be at the diamond early enough to allow for adequate warm up.

10. Supervision of Teams/Individuals:

- a) All teams or individuals must have on site supervision by a member of the teaching staff or retired teacher from the school that they represent.
- b) This teacher shall be responsible to the YRAA for the conduct of his/her team and shall be the only person involved in all exchanges with officials, opposing teacher/coaches and members of school staffs.
- c) A non-teacher (community volunteer, parent, etc.) is permitted to assist in the coaching of an individual or team provided that a teacher is present and responsible.
- d) The teacher must be present on the bench for all games for team sports or in the immediate vicinity for all other sports.
- e) Unless the staff member (as defined in Section 1 a) – above) of the competing school is present, the opposing teacher/coach and/or convenor shall not allow the game to begin or an individual to compete and the competition shall be forfeited.
- f) No teacher/coach shall officiate a game involving his/her team.
- g) It is the teacher/coaches' duty to ensure the accuracy of the information provided on the game sheets compared to the team's eligibility list.

11. Inclement Weather:

- a) In the event of inclement weather, games may be cancelled and rescheduled if:
 - i) the transportation company (bus) cancels the booking OR
 - ii) the school principal determines that the weather is unsafe for teams to travel OR
 - iii) the host school teacher/coach, in consultation with the Athletic Designate and/or school administration, determines the playing environment to be unsafe (eg standing water on fields, excessive ice).
 - iv) when lightning or thunder is seen or heard in the area, play shall be suspended and participants shall seek appropriate shelter as outlined in the current OPHEA safety document. Play may be resumed once thirty (30) minutes has passed since the last observation of lightning or the sound of thunder. The decision to suspend play shall be made by the game official and/or teacher/coaches of the teams involved in the competition.

Whenever possible, it is recommended that a decision to cancel a game due to inclement weather be made by 10:00a.m./1:00 p.m. the day of the game.

- b) Once this has happened the coach or AD of the school canceling shall:
 - i) notify the school(s) being played that they will not be able to play due to



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inclement weather;

- ii) contact the YRAA office that the game is being cancelled due to inclement weather;
- c) The YRAA office will:
 - i) keep a record of cancelled games in order to ensure that they are rescheduled notify the referee assignor that the games are cancelled and will be rescheduled so that unnecessary travel by officials can be avoided.

10. Costs:

The financial cost of the operation of the playoffs plus the assignor(s) fee(s) shall be shared equally by all schools participating in the league, regardless of classification (A, AA, AAA) on a per team basis.

11. Reporting Scores:

For league games coaches are to report scores through the Sports Admin System. Login as a coach, click on the 'Games' tab, find the game you want to enter the score for then click on the yellow 'Edit' button beside the game and then enter the score beside the corresponding team.

12. Awards:

For Tier 1 and Tier 2

The 1st and 2nd place teams will receive medallions (18 per team). A team trophy and team pennant will be presented to the top team in Tier 1.

June 2025