

**KASSAA BOYS BASEBALL
PLAYING REGULATIONS
(DRAFT MAY 13th, 2011)**

1. Play Dates:

The KASSAA Boys Baseball season will be contested between the last week of April and the first week of June such that the championship game will occur no later than the first Friday of June.

Mid-way through the season a qualifying tournament will be contested to determine the KASSAA representative to the EOSSAA tournament. The format of this tournament is a single-elimination draw with teams drawn into position in the bracket at a pre-season coaches meeting. The first round games in the tournament will also count as regular season games.

2. Expenses:

An entry fee shall be charged which shall be sufficient to cover the operating costs of the league [umpires, field rental, championship medals, etc.]. This fee shall be determined by the baseball convenor in consultation with the KASSAA executive. Any school that does not meet its entry commitment after it has declared an entry into the league may be sanctioned as per the KASSAA Constitution.

3. Eligibility:

(a) To represent a school in any activity co-ordinated by KASSAA, a student must:

- (i) be eligible for competition under the Constitution, By-Laws and Standing Rules (Playing Regulations) of the Association to which his school belongs;
- (ii) be certified as eligible by the Principal of the school;
- (iii) meet the following age requirement: the individual's birth certificate indicates that he has not reached his 19th birthday by January 1st prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held;
- (iv) be in Grades 9-12;
- (v) be eligible under the OFSAA Transfer Policy; (By-Law 5, Section 4(f)).
- (vi) be eligible for no more than five (5) consecutive years from date of entry into Grade 9 (By-Law 5, Section 4(g));

(b) No competitor is eligible for KASSAA Baseball if he has signed with a major league baseball team. Any team that includes said player on their eligibility sheet will forfeit all games in which the player's name appears on the game sheet.

4. Rules:

The Official Rules of Baseball [Midget Age Group] shall govern play in the KASSAA League with the following exceptions:

(a) All games will be seven (7) innings except when a team is leading by 10 or more runs after five (5) innings or four and a half (4 ½) innings if the home team is ahead. Then the mercy rule will apply and the game is ended.

(b) When time permits, and in all elimination and playoff games that are tied after seven innings have been played, tie games will be broken as follows: The teams will place a runner at second base at the start of each half inning (last player who made an out) and play extra innings until a winner is declared;

(c) With two outs, and the catcher on base, the last player making an out shall be substituted for the catcher

(d) A pitcher may not pitch more than four innings in a KASSAA game. If the pitcher is removed from the game [i.e. a substitute from the bench replaces the pitcher] prior to his fourth inning of work he may not return to the game as a pitcher. A single pitch in any inning constitutes having pitched an inning.

If a pitcher exchanges positions with a player in the field he may return to pitch provided he has not already pitched in four innings.

(e) An extra hitter may be used. The extra hitter is not a designated hitter (i.e. he does not bat for the pitcher). The extra hitter may only bat in the tenth spot in a team's offensive line up. If the extra hitter is forced to enter the game as a fielder the spot in the line up held by the fielder being replaced is collapsed and the team loses the tenth spot in the batting order for the duration of the game. It is expected that the extra hitter will only replace a fielder in cases of injury or unusual circumstance.

(f) Players in the starting line up of a team may be removed and subsequently substituted back into their original spot in the offensive line up without penalty. Once a bench player has been removed from a game he or she cannot return.

(g) 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 from the game.

(h) Any individual ejected from a game shall be automatically ineligible to participate in his team's next game as per the KASSAA Constitution.

(i) All bats used must conform to the Ontario Baseball Association rule that a bat cannot weigh more than three ounces less than the length of the bat. (For example, a 33-inch long bat cannot weigh less than 30 ounces.) The bat cannot have a diameter at its thickest part of more than 2 5/8 inches.

(j) Only baseballs approved by Baseball Canada for use by Midget age and up (16 and over) shall be used in High School competition.

Metal bats will no longer be permitted for use after the 2011 season. Solid wood or wood composite only will be allowed.

Shoes with metal cleats or rubber moulded cleats are permitted.

(k) Catchers must wear a helmet and mask with adequate throat protection at all times. Note: This includes practice and warm-ups. Coaches must wear at least a mask in all practice and warm-up situations.

(l) Coaches on the field of play must wear a protective helmet. This helmet does not need to include ear flaps (i.e. may be a traditional style catcher's helmet worn forward).

(m) The use of all tobacco products, including smokeless tobacco by all on-field participants (players, coaches, managers, trainers, umpires, etc.) is prohibited at all times and is subject to automatic ejection from the game.

(n) No visible jewellery is allowed.

5. Uniforms:

(a) All competitors are expected to dress in uniforms that are neat, clean and which maintain the integrity of the school's/Association's name, colours and logos. All uniforms must have numbers on the back of the uniform shirt. No sport club insignia on uniforms shall be permitted. A sport club is defined as a community, provincially or nationally based organization whose primary purpose is participation in organized competition in single or multi sport programs. Sponsorship recognition is permitted to be visible but must conform with the placement guidelines outlined in By-Law 6, Section 2(h) of the OFSAA Constitution. Coaches must be uniformly dressed in team colours.

(b) All players and coaches must, where possible, wear their official team cap.

(c) Student-athletes must remain fully clothed in the appropriate team uniform throughout the game while on the field of play. The field of play includes dugouts, warm-up areas, etc.

6. Supervision: (Reference By-Law 6, Section 1)

A teacher is defined as a member of the Ontario College of Teachers or a holder of an Ontario Teacher's Certificate or equivalent.

(a) For team sports ("A team consists of all athletes from the same school who qualify for Federation competition as a unit..." {reference OFSAA Constitution By-Law 5, Section 3}), a teacher or equivalent (i.e. educational assistant or caretaker) from the same school, or a retired teacher, as approved by the principal of the school, must accompany and be responsible for the team.

(b) Supervising adults are responsible for the behaviour of participants for the duration of the KASSAA season.

(c) All coaches are expected to adhere to the Code of Ethics for Coaches in the KASSAA Constitution. Coaches are also expected to adhere to the 'Return to Play' guidelines.

7. Medical:

Where possible, qualified first-aid personnel and equipment shall be available at game sites; teacher-coaches are encouraged to become basic first-aid certified. Coaches shall provide all consumable medical supplies (e.g. tape, band aids) for their athletes.

8. Other

The KASSAA Constitution will govern all other areas of concern (i.e. playoff procedure, league standings, etc.)