**SMBA 2021 Bantam House League Rules**

These rules were established in keeping with the philosophy of SMBA that the principal aim for Bantam/Midget baseball is to have fun and teach good sportsmanship, as well as try to further the basic skills of baseball.

Basic Baseball Ontario (B.O.) regulations will be followed, with the following exceptions/clarifications as per the SMBA:

1. All players are to receive equal playing time.
2. All players are to be entered in the batting order. If a player shows up late they are to be added to the bottom of the batting order, no penalty is incurred for doing so.
3. Unlimited substitution for defense play.
4. Baseball pants are required.
5. Any person warming up the pitcher MUST wear a catcher’s mask.
6. Games must end by 1 hour 45 minutes after scheduled start time. This is a drop dead time as teams must vacate the diamond for next team to enter.
7. When first base is occupied by a runner, the defensive player at first base must wear a PPE mask if the runner is being closely guarded / held at the base.
8. 5 runs scored or 3 outs to complete an inning.
9. 11 run mercy rule after 5 innings.
10. Wood bats ONLY to be used as per the OBA, for ages Bantam and older.
11. **A pitcher may NOT PITCH in 3 consecutive innings. It does not matter if a pitcher only throws one pitch in an inning, it counts as an inning. Once the pitcher is removed, he/she may not pitch again that game.**
12. As per OBA Arm Care rules, a player is NOT allowed to pitch and catch in the same game.
13. Infield fly rule DOES apply.
14. Umpires decisions are final.
15. As per the Official Rules of Baseball, in Minor Bantam and above, any team member in uniform may act as a base coach. Where a player in Minor Bantam, Bantam, Minor Midget or Midget is acting as a base coach, the player must wear a helmet.

Remember: Games are about development. If a team is short players there is **NO forfeit**. Play the game using the kids that are there.

Calling up players from Peewee H/L is permitted if needed (no REP Players). No team may use call up players if said team already has at least ten (10) team players. Exception – A coach is told by some players that they will be away and this number places the team below ten (10). The coach calls up players from Peewee H/L .The team players, who said they would be away, show up at the game, and put the team over ten (10) players. The players called up can play a maximum of two innings in the field and must be entered in the last position in the batting order.

**COVID-19**

The following are rules put in place due to COVID-19 and MUST be followed:

1. All players, parents and guardians must Digitally Check in for all games and practices using the Sportsheadz App.
2. Each player should bring their own folding chair to all baseball events. We are not planning to use dugouts or benches.
3. Pylons or paint marks will be laid out for players. They will put their chair and all baseball equipment in this area.
4. Helmets and Bats are strongly recommended to be purchased for each player.
5. Hand sanitizer must be used by all participants every inning.
6. If equipment must be shared, it must be cleaned thoroughly before being used by another player.
7. When players are playing the Catcher or Pitcher positions, it is recommended they play multiple innings at these positions, to limit the amount of equipment cleaning required.
8. Masks must be worn when players and coaches are NOT on the playing field.
9. Masks are recommended to be worn while on the playing field.
10. Team treats are not allowed at all.
11. Washrooms will be available but are to be used at your own risk.
12. Please do not show up more than 20 minutes early for any scheduled event.
13. If playing second game of the night, players and parents cannot go to the diamond until everyone from the first game has left. Please wait in your vehicle.
14. Please leave the park ASAP after all games and practices are completed.
15. If benches are used, they must be thoroughly cleaned by the team that used them.

**BANTAM HOUSE LEAGUE TOURNAMENT RULES**

All Baseball Ontario rules and regulations will be followed, with the same exceptions/clarifications as per the SMBA Peewee House League rules above.

* Coin Toss to decide home team. Home team to provide an adult scorekeeper.
* 11 run mercy rule in effect after 5 complete innings.
* **During the entire tournament, a pitcher is only allowed to pitch a maximum of 6 innings. All other pitching rules still apply.**

The formula to determine Tie-Breakers is as follows:

• Total points - 2 points for a win; 1 point for a tie; 0 points for a loss

• Head to head (if played equally)

• Total runs against / number of defensive innings

• Total runs for / number of offensive innings

• Run differential as a percent -runs for / runs for + runs against

• Run differential - runs for minus runs against