

2017 Bantam/Midget House League Inter-Lock  
Operation & Playing Rules  
Abbreviated Notes for Umpires

*These rules apply only to Bantam/Midget House League*

This document is a high-level summary of the playing and operation rules based on the decisions of the Joint Committee which oversees this division. This section is written for umpires to understand rule changes and assumes standard rule understanding and OBA training. Questions should be addressed to the local umpire-in-chief who can bring the questions to the Convenor for clarification.

#### Players

- 8 Required to Play Game. Game may start with 7 but must have 8 by end of first inning. Penalty: Forfeit. Teams have 15 minutes to field enough players to start.
- Any call up player should be designated on the line up. They may not pitch and must bat last on line up.
- Are added to bottom of line up when they arrive.

#### Equipment

- Metal cleats are permitted in both divisions.
- Chin straps are not required
- Bantam – Bats must be -5 or Wood
- Midget – Bats must be -3 or Wood
- Full uniform for Players is team shirt and pants.
- Full uniform for Coaches team or organization shirt. Shorts are permitted.

#### OBA Rules

- All 2017 Rule Changes from OBA are in effect (Warming up Pitchers, Sleeves, etc)
- Where local rules do not state, OBA Rules Apply (IE. Contact)
- Pitch count restrictions apply to all players
- DH and EH rules do not apply as all players bat
- Open Substitutions, Pitchers may not return to pitch

#### Game Length

- All games are 7 Innings
- Games end per normal baseball rules or by curfew or mercy rule
- Legal game is 4 innings.
- Incomplete Innings cause the score to revert back during regular season

#### Fair Play Rules

- These rules are handled amongst coaches and with their convenors. Umpires are not to be involved in fair play rule violations.
- Rosters are completed for all teams. All players must be signed to roster but disputes are also dealt with by coaches and not umpires.

### Conduct/Ejections/Forfeits

- Normal baseball rules apply to Forfeits and Protests.
- Coaches/Players/Spectators are to be positive and encouraging. Disruptive individuals shall be ejected.
- All ejections carry an automatic 1 game suspension. Reports on each ejection must be filed with your umpire supervisor immediately following the game.

### Mercy Rule

- OBA Mercy Rules Apply
- In Addition, Maximum Runs per inning shall be:
  - o Innings 1 & 2: 3 Runs
  - o Innings 3, 4 & 5: 5 Runs
  - o Innings 6 & 7: Unlimited
- The run limits per inning are non-negotiable. There is no 'last inning' to be declared.
- See Case Scenario for example

### General Playing Rules

- 2 Out for the Catcher is permitted only with 2 Out and Must be Last Out. If runner is not ready, continue game.
- There are no warnings on Balks

### Plate Meeting

- All games shall have a plate meeting per Official Baseball Rules
- Coaches shall bring line ups for umpires to tear and distribute
- Fair Play line ups shall be done prior to the plate meeting amongst coaches

## PLAY OFFS

*This section applies ONLY during Play Off Games.*

### Time Limits

- No new Inning after 2 Hours.

### Tied Game

- If tied after 7 Innings, Continue playing if time permits until a curfew is reached.
- Begin with runners at 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1 Out. (Immediate two names before current batter go to second and third in the proper order)
- **Approved Ruling: Drop dead pitch rules and darkness still apply. No New inning after 2 Hours is ignored in a tie.**

### Suspended Games

- Any game not considered a complete game shall be suspended.
- Suspension criteria follow official baseball rules.
- Any resumption of suspended games will come with special instructions from Supervisor.

### Protests

- Protests during play offs should be stopped and all details on the point in the game should be recorded – Score, Batter Count, # Out, Position of Runners, Inning, Top/Bottom, Umpire Names, Team Names, Date.

## Approved Rulings

### Players

*Approved Ruling: If both teams are unable to field the minimum number of players, the game will be rescheduled.*

*Approved Ruling: The inning ends when the third out is made.*

**Situation 1:** No new inning curfew is reached during the top of the 5<sup>th</sup> inning. Visitors take the lead by 6 runs going into the bottom of the 5<sup>th</sup>. Due to the inning run limit, it is not possible for the home team to tie or win. *Approved Ruling: The Home Team still bats in an effort to narrow the margin of the loss.*

**Situation 2:** No new inning curfew is reached during the top of the 5<sup>th</sup> inning. Visitors are trailing by 1 run going into the bottom of the 5<sup>th</sup>. Does the home team complete their at bat? *Approved Ruling: No. The game is over.*

**Situation 3:** A team only has 7 players present to start the game. The game starts on time and after the 3<sup>rd</sup> out is recorded in the bottom of the 1<sup>st</sup> inning, the 8<sup>th</sup> player appears over the hill enroute to the park. *Approved Ruling: The game is over as the player was not in the visual range of the field when the 3<sup>rd</sup> out was recorded ending the first inning.*

**Situation 4:** A game starts 10 minutes late due to a scheduling error. Is the end time extended? *Approved Ruling: Travel and weather are the only reasons for extending the time. Yes time is extended only if it does not violate a park permit or interfere with a later field time.*

**Situation 5:** The Score is 5-3 for the Home Team after 5 innings. In the 6<sup>th</sup> inning, the visitors score 3 to take the lead 6-5. The game is called in the bottom of the 6<sup>th</sup> due to curfew. What is the score result?

*Approved Ruling: (1) If Home Team Ties, Result is Tie Game*

*(2) If Home Team Takes Lead, Home Team Wins*

*(3) If no changes, score reverts back to 5<sup>th</sup> Inning.*

**Situation 6:** Player Baker does not wish to play the infield. Is the player able to play the entire game in the outfield? *Approved Ruling: Yes provided they sit their required number of innings.*

**Situation 7:** Player Charlie wishes to play a single position for the entire game. Are they permitted to do so? *Approved Ruling (1): Players may not play a single position. There is no restriction on infield/outfield, but they must move during the game. The pitcher and catcher have special limitations. A pitcher must play consecutive innings as a pitcher and may not return to pitch. A catcher may play a maximum of 4 innings as catcher but does not need to be consecutive. Changing the catcher should not occur between innings unless for injury.*

*Approved Ruling (2): Ruling related to players having to play the outfield for a minimum number of innings was deleted.*

*Approved Ruling (3): A player would meet the requirements to play 2 innings at first base, 2 innings at second base, 2 innings as pitcher in a 6 inning game (assuming no sitting requirements).*