

**BANTAM/MIDGET HOUSE LEAGE
INTERLOCK DIVISION
OPERATIONS & PLAYING RULES**

2017

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PHILOSOPHY

One of the common interests that the surrounding cities share is baseball. By joining together, the group becomes stronger, improve their communication, share the workload associated with running the league and a provide a better baseball experience to all involved.

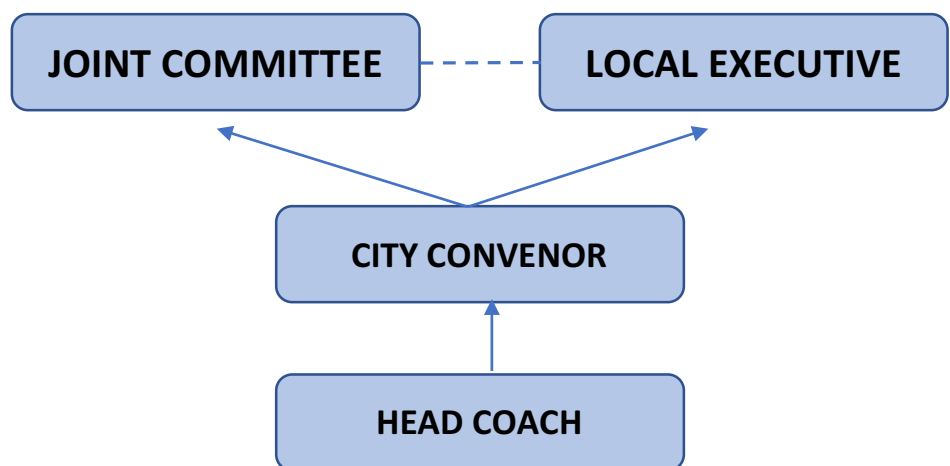
JOINT COMMITTEE

For 2017, the participating cities have agreed on a committee to oversee the Bantam/Midget Division. The committee will be responsible for all organization, administration, rules and issues for the division.

Communication will flow from the committee to the individual convenor for each city. The Convenor will then inform the coaches of any necessary information. Coaches are to bring questions/concerns to their respective convenor.

Scheduling is handled by the Committee through the appointment of a Scheduler/Administrator.

FIGURE 1 - JOINT COMMITTEE STRUCTURE



SCHEDULING

The Joint Committee has retained the use of the BOMBA Parks Scheduler for the 2017 Season. All scheduling inquiries can be made to your Convenor or to the BOMBA Parks Scheduler at parks.bomba@gmail.com.

Game Reports:

All game reports should be submitted within 24 hours of the game. Relevant notes on the game should be included in the space provided. Any concerns should be raised to the local convenor. All scores and score reporting should be made through the BOMBA Website at www.baseballburlington.com.

PARTICIPATION

In 2017, the joint House League Division includes:

	<u>Bantam</u>	<u>Midget</u>
Brookville	1 Team	--
Burlington	8 Teams	3 Teams
Halton Hills	4 Teams	1 Team
Oakville	1 Teams	--
Milton	3 Teams	2 Team
Waterdown	4 Teams	1 Team

LEAGUE STRUCTURE

In order to save travel time, the Bantam Division will be split into a North and South Division. There is no cross over in games. A joint play off structure is outlined under Play Offs. Midget will function as one group with teams travelling to all centers for games.

<u>Bantam North (8 Teams)</u>	<u>Bantam South (13 Teams)</u>
Brookville	Burlington
Halton Hills	Oakville
Milton	Waterdown

2017 IMPORTANT DATES

May 1	Field Open in Most Centers
May 8	Regular Season Starts
May 24	All Star Game (Hosted in Burlington)
May 26-30	Exam Break
July 10-17	Play Offs Start (Approximately)
August 12	Championship Game (Hosted in Burlington)

ALL STAR GAME

The All Star Game is an opportunity for the best players in the league to show case their abilities and represent their team/city in an Exhibition Game. All participants will receive a lunch and other items based on available sponsorship. The game is hosted by Burlington as part of their All Star Day Festivities. Each coach is responsible for selecting: Bantam - 2 players, Midget – 3 Players, by June 1 to represent their team at the All Star game. Names are to be provided to your convenor.

PLAY OFFS

The Play Off format and structure has changed for 2017 from previous seasons. All teams remain part of the Post Season and are seeded based on their regular season standings. See Appendix B for all Play Off information. Final scheduling will take place once final standings are confirmed. Teams are reminded to ensure they are ready to play on a variety of nights depending on weather. Once a team is eliminated from the play offs, their season ends and no further park time is authorized.

APPENDIX A - PLAYING RULES

Administrative Rules

Players

All teams should attempt to field 9 players. 8 players will constitute a minimum number for a legal game. A team may start the game with 7 players but must have 8 players by the end of the first inning. Penalty: Forfeit. *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.*

Any team unable to field their 9 players may call up (a) player(s) from the league below to complete their roster. A call up will be considered part of the team and must meet fair play requirements. A called up player may not pitch and must be placed at the bottom of the batting order. Any players arriving late to the game shall be added to the bottom of the batting order and permitted to play.

Bantam aged players will be 14 or 15 years. Female Bantam will be 14, 15 or 16 years old. Midget aged players will be 16, 17 or 18 years old.

Equipment & Uniforms

Helmets and athletic supports follow OBA Rules. Metal cleat shoes are permitted in both Bantam and Midget divisions.

Metal bats for Bantam must have a drop ratio of -5. Metal bats for Midget must not exceed a drop ratio of -3. Any bat which does not indicate the drop rating on the bat shall be deemed illegal. All wood bats are legal per official baseball rules.

Catchers equipment must consist of a chest protector, shin guards, face mask with throat protector and helmet. The use of a mask is required any time a pitcher is being warmed up or during a game. A single team warning will be issued for violation of this rule. Further violations will result in ejection.

Full uniform will include a team shirt and pants for players. Coaches will be required to wear a team or organization shirt and are permitted in shorts. Proper footwear is required by all participants.

Where a team is short on equipment, the opposing team should assist with sharing equipment to ensure.

Game Start/End

A game shall start at the time scheduled on the Website. Any team that can not field a team within 15 minutes of the scheduled start time shall forfeit the game. The host team is responsible for setting up the field and opening equipment. The opposing coach(s) should offer their assistance to ensure a timely start for the game.

A game will end when:

- a) A mercy rule is reached
- b) The Home Team is ahead in the bottom half of their inning when no new inning will occur.
- c) Drop dead time is reached
- d) The umpire deems the field unplayable (including darkness)
- e) One team is ahead after 7 innings or any complete inning thereafter

Any incomplete inning will cause the score to revert back to the last previously completed inning unless the Home Team has scored to tie or take the lead.

Scorekeeping

Each team will provide a scorekeeper. The Home Team represents the Official Score. Each team is also to provide a pitch counter.

Prior to the game commencing, coaches shall exchange line ups which include the fair play allocation as outlined in Appendix C and under the Fair Play Section of these rules. Any discrepancies should be discussed amongst the coaches prior to the game or at the time of discovery.

Fair Play

A line up shall be completed for each team prior to the game and exchanged with the opposing coach before the plate meeting. A line up example is provided in Appendix C. All players present on the team are required to play and sit an even number of innings by the end of the game. No player should sit more than 2 innings until all players have sat 2 innings on the bench. Any discrepancies should be brought to the attention of the opposing coach when discovered. If the situation cannot be readily remedied, the issue should be raised with the convenor after the game and not be sorted out through the umpire.

Tie Games

Any game which results in a tie after 7 innings, with time remaining in the curfew, shall continue until such a time a curfew is reached or a winner is declared.

Rain Outs

Coaches are to arrange for rescheduling of any game that is cancelled or rained out. The effort to reschedule falls on both coaches to make a time work to get the game in. All games must be scheduled through the Parks Scheduler. Any game that completes 4 innings shall be considered a complete game.

Rosters

All teams are required to complete a roster and submit it to their convenor by June 1. The roster is included in Appendix D. All players are required to have ID on them should their eligibility be called into question. Any player who's eligibility is challenged shall provide a visual inspection of their ID as well as a signature on the bottom of the game sheet. A photo or copy of the game sheet shall be sent over to the convenor who shall follow up with the Joint Committee for a ruling. Any team found to be using an illegal player shall forfeit that game and the coach will face a three (3) game suspension.

Conduct

The coaches are responsible for the conduct of their players and parents. All interactions with players, coaches, umpires and volunteers shall be above reproach. Code of Conduct policies are in place and any violation of this policy could mean suspension or the full removal from city facilities. Any complaints related to conduct should be forwarded in writing to the convenor. Alcohol is strictly prohibited in all parks, facilities and parking lots.

Forfeits/Ejections

Any coach or player that is ejected from a ball game for any reason shall sit an automatic one game suspension. This suspension is to be served at the next regular scheduled game and does not require notice from the convenor.

Any forfeited game shall result in a score of 7-0 being listed in game results. Any forfeit during a play-off game will result in the team's elimination from further play during the play-off season.

Protests

Protests may be made during the game in conjunction with the Official Rules. Protests related to player eligibility, uniforms/equipment and fair play regulations will not be considered. Any legitimate protests will be heard and ruled upon by the Joint Committee. Coaches are required to submit a full report of the incident to their convenor within 24 hours. Failure to do so will result in the protest being inadmissible.

Playing Rules

2017 Rule Changes

Masks Warming Up a Pitcher (OBA 2017) – Any player or personnel that warms up a pitcher without wearing a mask anywhere at the park is subject to a team warning on a first offence and automatic ejection on any further offenses.

Arm Sleeves (OBA 2017) – A pitcher may wear a full length arm sleeve on either or both arms provided it is a single solid colour and may not be white or grey or distracting. The restriction does not apply to other fielders when not pitching.

Jewelry (OBA 2017) – The jewelry restriction has been removed. Players are free to wear jewelry as long as it is not deemed distracting by the umpire.

Electronic Devices (OBA 2016) – Coaches, players and officials are not to use electronic devices on the field or while in direct visual range of a foul ball. This includes iPads, mobile phones, etc. A warning is issued and failure to comply will result in ejection.

Thunder Rule (OBA 2015) – When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors. The game shall be suspended for 30 minutes at the sound of Thunder. Time will reset at each sound of Thunder. Games are no longer suspended immediately for lightning unless there is deemed to be an immediate safety risk. (Lightning commonly referred to as 'heat lightning' is played through and play is no longer suspended.)

Mercy Rule (Joint Committee 2017) – All games shall follow the following mercy rule per inning:
Innings 1 & 2 – Maximum 3 Runs
Innings 3, 4 & 5 – Maximum 5 Runs
Innings 6 & 7 – Unlimited
These limits are not negotiable

Fair Play (Infield/Outfield Requirement) (Joint Committee 2017) – The previous requirements for fields to play minimum number of innings on the infield or the outfield have been removed.

Pinch Runner for Catcher (Joint Committee 2017) – Should a team wish to use a Runner for the Catcher, they may do so provided there is 2 Out. The Last Out shall be used as the pinch runner and must be ready to take their place on the bases. The game is not to be interrupted waiting for a pinch runner.

Regular Playing Rules

The playing rules are based on the Official Rules of Baseball with adaptations from Baseball Canada, Baseball Ontario, BOMBA's House League and the Joint Committee. Where necessary, interpretations and casebook examples are provided.

Substitutions

In all divisions, free substitutions exist. Teams should notify the umpire of any substitutions that involve injury, players leaving or pitching changes. The umpire is responsible for communicating with the opposing team.

Pre-Game

The Coach/Manager shall meet at Home Plate with the umpires 5 minutes before the scheduled start time to exchange line ups and discuss ground rules. The plate meeting is required before every game.

Game Basics

Base Distance:	90 feet
Pitching Distance:	60 feet 6 Inches
Pitching Limit:	90 – Bantam, 100-Midget
	Rules follow Baseball Ontario Limitations and Restrictions
Balks:	No Warnings

Approved Rulings

Situation 1: No new inning curfew is reached during the top of the 5th inning. Visitors take the lead by 6 runs going into the bottom of the 5th. 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 5th inning. Visitors are trailing by 1 run going into the bottom of the 5th. 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 3rd out is recorded in the bottom of the 1st inning, the 8th 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 3rd 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 6th inning, the visitors score 3 to take the lead 6-5. The game is called in the bottom of the 6th 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 5th 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).

APPENDIX B - PLAY OFFS

RULE MODIFICATIONS

Due to the nature of the play-offs, several amendments are required to ensure games are completed fairly and evenly.

Rain Dates: Any game which is not completed, due to rain or other reason, shall be resumed at the next available opportunity. Teams must remain ready to play as early as the following night, if necessary. Time notification for game modifications is reduced to 12 hours for all Play Off Games. No changes will be made inside this time window.

Approved Ruling: A game which is a legal game and is not tied nor suspended shall be a complete game.

Time Limits: All Play-Off Games have a 2 hour time limit for which no new inning may begin. If a game is tied after **2 Hours**, additional innings will be played until a winner is declared or a curfew is reached. To start the inning, the name in the line up which precedes the first batter will begin at second base, and the second last name will begin at third base. The inning shall begin with 1 out.

Approved Ruling: Drop dead pitch rules and darkness rules still apply

Forfeits: Forfeits are addressed in the normal playing rules. Any forfeit during a play-off game will result in the team's elimination from further play during the play-off season.

Suspended Games: Any game which is not completed shall become suspended unless the Home Team is ahead in their bottom half of the inning. A game is considered suspended if:

- 1) The Visiting Team has scored one or more runs to tie the game or take the lead in their half of the inning.
- 2) The Home Team has scored one or more runs to tie the game in their half of the inning.
- 3) The game is tied at the conclusion of play.
- 4) The game is suspended due to weather, light failure or any other reason per the official rules.

Resumption of Suspended Games: A suspended game is one that is stopped and resumed at a later point in time. The game is to resume from the exact moment that it stopped. All runners, batters, pitch counts, outs, and fielders are to remain the same. During the resumption of the suspended game, the location, time, date and umpires may change but the point at which the game stopped shall be resumed.

Approved Rulings: A pitcher may continue to pitch or may be substituted for. Players may be substituted for. New players are eligible if not present at the previous game. Previously players are not required to attend the make up game.

Case Item: A game is stopped in the bottom of the 5th inning due to darkness with a tied score of 9-9 and 1-1 count on the batter Johnny. There is 1 out and runner Bobby at second base. Questions: How does the game resume and what are the conditions:

Answer: Game resumes at the next available spot with a new umpire crew and possibly a new field. The game is in the bottom of the fifth tied 9-9. Johnny (or his substitute) is batting with a 1-1 Count and Bobby (or his substitute) at second base.

At the conclusion of the inning, if still tied, begin using the tie break formula in the top of the 6th because the game has exceeded the 2 hour time limit. R2, R3, 1 Out.

BANTAM DIVISION 2017

South Division

<u>Pool A</u>	<u>Pool B</u>	<u>Pool C</u>
1 st Place	2 nd Place	3 rd Place
4 th Place	5 th Place	6 th Place
7 th Place	8 th Place	9 th Place
10 th Place		

North Division

<u>Pool A</u>	<u>Pool B</u>
1 st Place	2 nd Place
3 rd Place	4 th Place
5 th Place	6 th Place
7 th Place	8 th Place

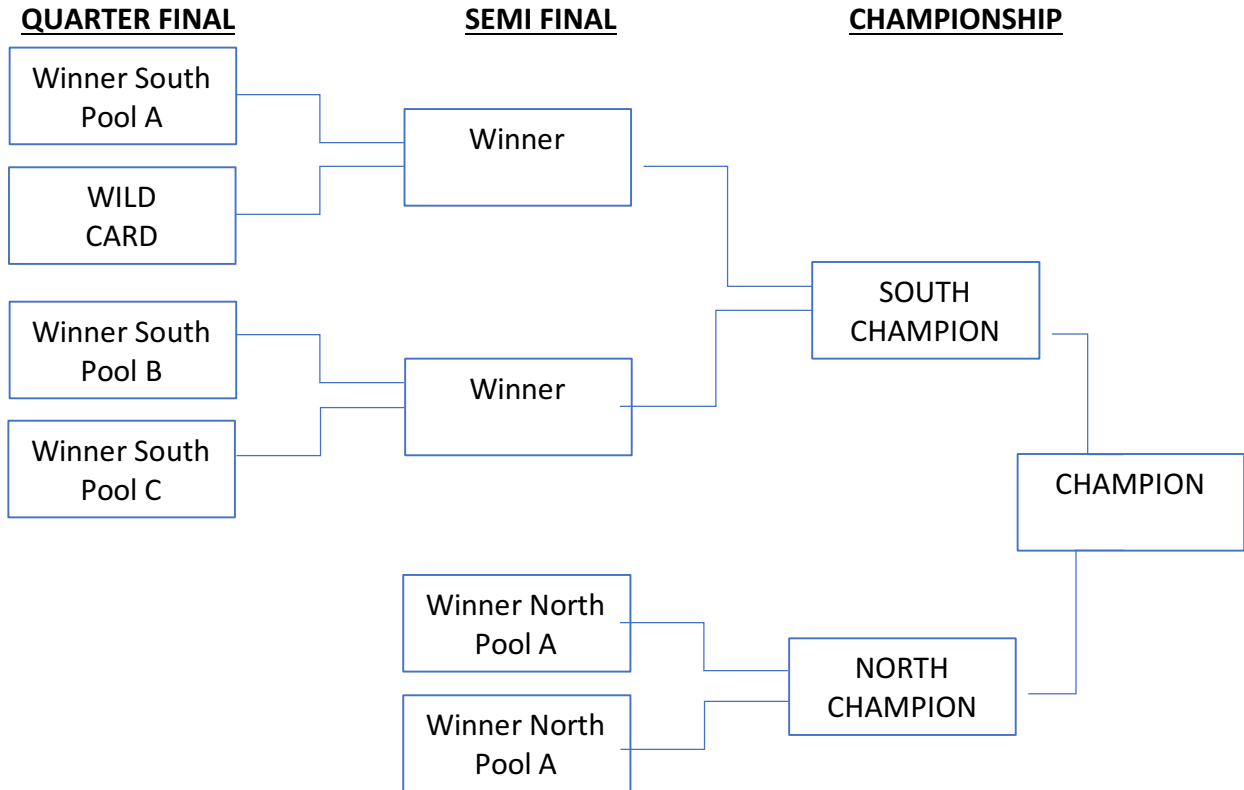
- Teams are ranked in their places based on the standings at the end of the Regular Season.
- Incomplete games are ignored and any shortage of games played are ignored.
- Tie Break Formats are per the BOMBA Guidelines. (Appendix F)
- All Teams will play Round Robin style games within their Pool Only. (Min. 2 Games)
- The Top Team in Each Pool will advance to the Championship Bracket. Teams not finishing in the top position will have their season end.

CHAMPIONSHIP BRACKET

- Due to an un-even number of teams to compete in the Championship Bracket, a “Wild Card” team is to be used.
- The Wild Card may come from any Division or Pool.
- The Wild Card is determined by the Least Number of Runs Allowed Per Inning Played Calculated as an Average. The team with the lowest average will be declared the Wild Card. (See Examples Below)

GAME #	RESULT	RUNS FOR	RUNS AGAINST	# INNINGS
1	WIN	5	3	6
2	LOSS	8	12	5
3	LOSS	5	10	7
	TOTALS	18	25	18

Team #1 AVERAGE: 25 RUNS / 18 INNINGS = 1.3888 Runs/Inning
 If Team B Allowed 1.2 Runs/Inning, Team B would Win with Lower #.



- North Pool Winners advance to Semi-Finals
- North & South Champions Play for Championship Title

GENERAL SCHEDULING PARAMETERS

- Round Robin Games will be played during regular weekly time slots.
- All Field assignments are solely at the discretion of the Scheduler.
- Quarter Finals will be played within a week of Championship Day*.
- Semi-Final will be played morning of Championship Day*.
- Finals will be played under Lights on Championship Day.
- All Championship Day games are hosted in Burlington
- Quarter Final Games to be hosted by team with lower Average Run total as calculated for Wild Card format. *

*Subject to field availability and Weather Permitting. Forecasted rain through Championship Week End may cause game times to advance.

*** ALL TEAMS MUST REMAIN PREPARED TO PLAY ONCE THE PLAY OFFS BEGIN. GAMES THAT ARE DELAYED DUE TO WEATHER OR SUSPENDED WILL BE RESUMED AT THE NEXT AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITY.**

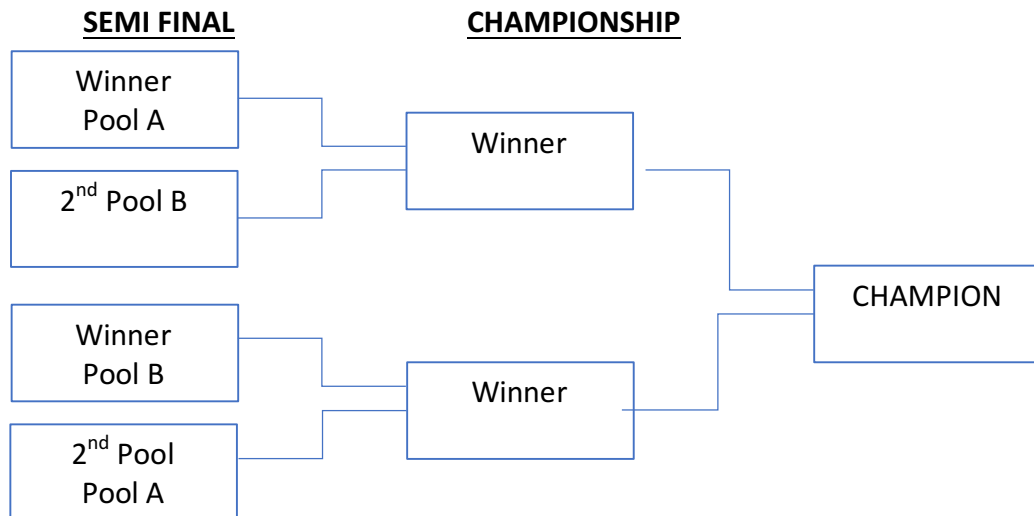
MIDGET DIVISION 2017

Pool A	Pool B
1 st Place	2 nd Place
3 rd Place	4 th Place
5 th Place	6 th Place
	7 th Place

- Teams are ranked in their places based on the standings at the end of the Regular Season.
- Incomplete games are ignored and any shortage of games played are ignored.
- Tie Break Formats are per the BOMBA Guidelines which are published with the schedule.
- All Teams will play Round Robin style games within their Pool Only. (Min. 2 Games)
- The Top Two Teams in Each Pool will advance to the Championship Bracket. Teams not finishing in the top two positions will have their season end.

CHAMPIONSHIP BRACKET

- Winners of each Pool will play the Second Place finisher of the opposite pool.



GENERAL SCHEDULING PARAMETERS

- Round Robin Games will be played during regular weekly time slots.
- All Field assignments are solely at the discretion of the Scheduler.
- Semi Finals will be played within a week of Championship Day*.
- Finals will be played under Lights on Championship Day.
- All Championship Day games are hosted in Burlington

*Subject to field availability and Weather Permitting. Forecasted rain through Championship Week End may cause game times to advance.

APPENDIX D – TIE BREAK CRITERIA

Games and scores are ranked based on the data provided the coaches. All coaches must ensure the date is reported correctly and look for errors throughout the season. No corrections outside 2 weeks will be accepted.

The following criteria shall be used for Seeding Purposes:

- 1) Total Points – 2 Win, 1 Tie
- 2) Head to Head Play
- 3) Least number of Defensive Runs Allowed (Total)
- 4) Most number of Offensive Runs Scored
- 5) Lowest +/- Number (Number Runs Scored less Number Runs Allowed)
- 6) Coin Flip

This Criteria is only Used for determining the placement of Teams to begin the play offs.