

EOSSAA BOYS BASEBALL PLAYING REGULATIONS

1. **Date:**

The date of the EOSSAA baseball championship will occur no sooner than **ten** days and no later than **four** days prior to the OFSAA regional tournament.

2. **Location:**

The location of the championship shall be determined at the spring EOSSAA executive meeting based on bids to host from member associations.

3. **Classifications:**

As of *2010-11* there is a single OFSAA baseball championship. All member schools may contest this championship regardless of school classification.

4. **Championship Structure:**

There will be a maximum of **six** entries in the EOSSAA baseball championship [one from each member association: **KASSAA, LGSSAA, UOVSSAA, SD&G, Prescott-Russell** and **Lanark**].

The convenor will purchase a minimum of two balls for each game in the championship. The balls should be new and free of scuff marks and deformations. The costs of game balls should be incorporated into the championship fee.

In all championship formats [except a **two-team, four team and five team** championship] teams will be guaranteed at least one game as the **home team**. The higher seeded team will be declared the **home team** in championship games.

In the event of a **six-team** championship the teams will be split into two pools of three teams. Teams will play a round robin in their pools. A championship game will be played between the winners of each pool. The championship game will normally be played the day after pool play. In the event that **five teams** are entered in the championship the convenor will add a sixth team [normally the other finalist from the convenor's association]. If a championship includes two teams from the same association they **must** be placed in different pools.

In the event of a **four-team** championship the teams will be seeded. Teams will play semi-final games with the winners advancing to the EOSSAA championship game; losers of the semi-final games will play in the EOSSAA bronze medal game.

In the event of a **three-team** championship the teams will play a round robin tournament. The winner of the round robin will be declared the EOSSAA baseball champion. In the event of a tie the tie-breakers noted above will be used to break the tie.

In the event of a **two-team** championship the teams will play a single game to determine the EOSSAA baseball champion. A coin flip will be held prior to the game to determine the **home team**.

5. Expenses:

An entry fee will be charged to cover the operating costs of the tournament: umpires, field rental, *game balls*, telephone, fax, postage and paper.

The entry fee is due prior to the start of competition.

6. Eligibility:

To represent a school in any activity co-ordinated by the EOSSAA, 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));
- (vii) have signed the Rules of Behaviour signature form for the competition;

No competitor is eligible for the EOSSAA Baseball Championship if he has signed with a major league baseball team. Any high school team that includes said player on their eligibility sheet will forfeit all games in which the players name appears on the game sheet.

To be eligible for EOSSAA Baseball Championship play a team must play in an Association- approved league.

7. Rules:

The Official Rules of Baseball shall govern all play at the EOSSAA baseball championship 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 (4½) innings if the home team is ahead. Then the mercy rule will apply and the game is ended.
- (b) Tie games will be broken as follows:
 - 1. the teams will place a runner at second base (last player who made an out) and play extra innings until a winner is declared;
 - 2. should teams be tied after round robin play, the Baseball Canada National Championship tie breaking formula will be used. (see Appendix I). A designated hitter may be used for the pitcher as per the Official Rules of Baseball.
- (d) A pitcher may not pitch more than **twenty-seven** outs in the EOSSAA Championship. If the 27th out occurs during the course of an inning, the pitcher may complete the inning.
- (e) With two outs, and the catcher on base, the last player making an out shall be substituted for the catcher.
- (f) 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 or she has scored prior to committing the infraction) and is to be automatically ejected from the game.
- (g) Any individual ejected from a game shall be automatically ineligible to participate in his team's next game; subject to review by the Competition Committee.
- (h) 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. ***All bats must be composed of wood or wood composite. Metal, ceramic and other polymer bats are not allowed at the EOSSAA baseball championship.***
- (i) Only baseballs approved by Baseball Canada for use by Midget age and up (16 and over) shall be used in High School competition. It is recommended that all High School teams use the Worth MLH baseball.

- (j) 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) 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.
- (m) No visible jewelry is allowed.

8. Uniforms

- (a) All competitors are expected to dress in uniforms that are neat, clean and which maintain the integrity of the school and 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). Coaches must be uniformly dressed in team colours - no shorts.
- (b) All players and coaches must wear their official team cap.
- (c) Student-athletes must remain fully clothed in the appropriate team uniform in the competition area, **and** use the designated locker room or change area to change to and from competition attire. Incidents of non-compliance shall be forwarded to the Competition Committee for resolution.

This criteria must be met both on and in the immediate vicinity of the competitive area and during the awards ceremonies.

9. Awards

The team winning the EOSSAA baseball championship *may* receive championship medals; the second-place team *may* receive runner-up medals.

10. Supervision

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 EOSSAA competition as a unit...". A teacher 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) For individual sports (those sports in which athletes from a school qualify for federation competition as individuals), the principal of the school may designate an adult who is not a teacher to accompany the athletes. In addition, a teacher, or a retired teacher, must be present and on site and designated by the principal to be responsible for the athlete(s).
- (c) For all sports, where the teacher, as indicated in (a) and (b) above, is not of the same sex as the athlete(s), and where the athlete(s) are required or might be required to stay overnight, a supervisory adult, as approved by the principal of the school, of the same sex as the athlete(s), must be present and available at the accommodation site for the duration of their stay in the accommodation

11. Department:

- (a) A team is defined as, "All participants representing the same school at an EOSSAA Championship event".
- (b) A participant is defined as, "Anyone who has been granted proper authorization to enter a restricted area." "Restricted area" includes "those areas occupied by athletes and to which access by the general public is restricted or prohibited."
- (c) All participants are expected to abide by the, "Rules of Behaviour for Participants to EOSSAA Championships".
- (d) Supervising adults are responsible for the behaviour of participants for the duration of the Championships.
- (e) Teams are open to censure for failure of its participants to abide by the "Rules of Behaviour".
- (f)
 - (i) All coaches are expected to adhere to the Code of Ethics for Coaches to EOSSAA Championships.
 - (ii) Spectators are expected to adhere to the Code of Behaviour for Spectators.
 - (iii) All coaches are expected to adhere to the "Return to Play Guidelines".
 - (iv) School personnel and coaches are expected to adhere to the Policy on dispensing drugs, medication and food supplements.
- (g) All schools entering a EOSSAA Championship shall, by signature of the school principal on the Championship Entry Form, acknowledge responsibility for making restitution for damage resulting from misconduct by their participants.

12. Jury of Appeal

Jury of Appeal:

The jury of appeal will consist of three (3) individuals:

1. The Convenor or designate if the convenor is involved in the protest
2. The EOSSAA Baseball SAC Chair or designate
3. An EOSSAA Executive Member

The Jury shall handle disputes which do not fall within the jurisdiction of the Officials.

A protest must be submitted in writing together with \$25.00 (refundable if upheld) within 30 minutes of completion of the game in which the incident occurred.

APPENDIX ONE – INCLEMENT WEATHER PROTOCOL

- 1) *The decision to halt or postpone the EOSSAA championship rests with the convenor and umpires involved in the championship.*
 - i) *If the convenor determines that the tournament must be postponed in its entirety on the scheduled date they will notify all involved coaches early enough that coaches can alter travel arrangements if necessary.*

Notification would typically occur by e-mail no later than 7:15 a.m. on the date of the championship.
- 2) *If the EOSSAA championship is halted as a result of inclement weather and games have been started:*
 - i) *Every reasonable effort should be made to return field conditions to a level of playability. Reasonable effort includes the use of rakes, shovels, drying agent [i.e. cat litter] and clay. Pumps or vacuums may be used to remove water from a field, however, their use is considered beyond reasonable effort.*
 - ii) *If the EOSSAA championship is halted for a period of time that reduces the likelihood of declaring a champion using the schedule outlined in Section 4 some or all of the following steps will be taken to increase the likelihood of an EOSSAA representative to OFSAA being determined:*
 - (a) *the third place game will be cancelled*

(b) the start time of the championship game will be moved up to twenty minutes after the completion of the second championship semi-final

(c) the semi-final games will be decreased in length to five innings

(d) the teams remaining in the championship will re-convene at the championship site on the rain date

iii) In the event that an EOSSAA representative to OFSAA cannot be determined using a championship tournament format [i.e. there is persistent inclement weather that precludes the playing of the tournament between the championship date and forty-eight hours prior to the OFSAA tournament, the host field is unavailable as a result of city restrictions, etc.] the following protocol may be used to determine an EOSSAA representative to OFSAA:

(a) a single game will be played between the league champions of the winners of the previous year's championship and the previous year's runner up at a mutually agreeable site [this site may or may not be the championship site].

(b) where a single game cannot be played, to ensure that EOSSAA is represented at the OFSAA baseball tournament, the league champions of the league from which the previous year's champions emerged will represent EOSSAA. In this case no EOSSAA champion will be declared and no medals will be presented.