

SOSSA BOYS' BASEBALL

PLAYING REGULATIONS – revised August 2023

1. Date

The SOSSA Boys' Baseball Championship will be held in the spring each year on a date set by the tournament convener. In determining the date, the convener shall take into consideration OFSAA regional and Prentice Cup playoff dates.

2. Location

The location of the championship shall be decided no later than the SOSSA Annual General Meeting held in June of the previous school year.

3. Eligibility

Eligibility is as per Articles VII and VIII of the SOSSA Constitution.

4. Classifications

SOSSA baseball is played as a "varsity" (Sr. team only) sport with an open classification.

5. Tournament Structure and Procedure

The Championship tournament shall be a single elimination tournament and the minimum time between games shall be in accordance with the OFSAA playing regulations for baseball. The semi-final winners will meet to determine the SOSSA champion and representative to the OFSAA regional tournament or Prentice Cup.

6. Entry

Each Zone shall be allowed one (1) team in the SOSSA championship. The SOSSA convener and the SOSSA administrative director may round out the draw to four teams if necessary. The procedure to fill out a SOSSA championship draw can be found in Article VII section 7.09.

7. Expenses

Since SOSSA is held responsible for any losses incurred in the tournament, then the Association should realize any profits. (After expenses - 60% to school, 40% to SOSSA)

Those schools having entries to SOSSA or OFSAA tournaments are responsible for arranging and financing their own travel and meals for the event(s).

A championship convener report shall be submitted to the SOSSA administrative director at the conclusion of the championship

8. Rules and Officials

The Official Rules of Baseball shall govern play at the SOSSA championship with the following exceptions:

- (i) All games will be seven (7) innings, with semi-final games having no new inning starting 1 hour and 45 minutes from first pitch.
- (ii) In semi-final games, 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, a mercy rule shall apply and the game ended.
- (iii) Each team is to provide 2 new game balls for each game.

Tie games will be broken as follows:

The teams will place a runner at second base (last batter who made an out) and play extra innings until a winner is declared.

Additional Rules

- (a) A designated hitter may be used for the pitcher as per the Official Rules of Baseball.
- (b) Pitchers are limited to 12 outs per game. Where the 12th out occurs during an inning, the pitcher shall be permitted to finish the inning.
- (c) Teams may opt to utilize 10 batters in the starting line-up. The additional batter shall be deemed as the extra player (EP). The following rules for the EP shall apply:
 - i. The option to use the EP must be declared when handing in the line-up card prior to the start of the game.
 - ii. The EP may bat in any place in the batting order.
 - iii. The EP will be considered a defensive position and eligible for re-entry.
 - iv. If a team using the EP has any players ejected or injured and it results in the team having less than 10 players in the line-up the game shall continue with 9 players. The batting order will be shifted up to fill the void but otherwise remains the same.

Note: If the player starting in the EP is moved into a defensive position his place in the batting order does not change. The new EP will bat in the place of the player they replaced.

A team may use either an EP, or a designated hitter, but the team may not use both an EP and a designated hitter in the same game. For clarity, a team may also choose not to use either an EP or a designated hitter.

- (d) With two outs, and the catcher on base, the last batter making an out shall be substituted for the catcher-runner.

(e) Runners are instructed to slide or attempt to avoid contact with a fielder. A player contravening this rule will be called out on the play. Runners are 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.

(f) Any individual ejected from a game shall be automatically ineligible to participate in his team's next game.

(g) All bats approved by Baseball Canada may be used – wooden bats only as per OFSAA rules. These bats shall meet the dimensional requirements specified in the Official Rules of Baseball subject to any revisions as specified by Baseball Canada.

(h) Only baseballs approved by Baseball Canada for use by midget age and up (16 and over) shall be used in high school competition.

(i) Shoes with metal cleats or rubber molded cleats are permitted.

(j) 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.

(k) 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.

(l) No visible jewelry is allowed.

9. Uniforms

All competitors are expected to dress in uniforms that are neat, clean and which maintain the integrity of the school's/Association name, colors 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 OFSAA placement guidelines outlined in OFSAA By-law 6, Section 2(h). Coaches must be uniformly dressed in team colors – no shorts.

All players and coaches must wear their official team cap.

10. Awards

The Boys' Baseball championship team shall receive eighteen (18) championship medallions.

11. Department

Any school entering SOSSA sponsored or approved competitions must be under the control of a staff member of the school which it represents.

12. Medical

It is recommended that qualified first aid personnel and equipment be available at the championship site(s). Coaches shall provide all consumable medical supplies (tape, band aids, etc.) for their athletes.

13. Appeals and Protests

If a school(s) wishes to proceed with a protest, see Article 9 of the SOSSA constitution.