



APPROVED AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION FOR 2012

1.05 a)i)1) OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Page 8

Delete “The President, 1st Vice President and 2nd Vice President shall be elected annually for a maximum of 3 successive terms.” and **replace with** “The President, 1st Vice President and 2nd Vice President shall be elected annually.”

And that this motion take effect immediately so that the election to be conducted at this year’s AGM shall be held with this provision in place.

2.04 a) CLASSIFICATION

Page 15

Delete the population bands for B, C and D and **replace with** the following:

30,000-13,001 Households	13,000-7,001 Households	7,000 and under Household
B	C	D

2.04 a) CLASSIFICATION

Page 15

Delete “Minor Midget AAA, AA” and **replace with** “Minor Midget AAA, AA, A”

2.04 c) d) CLASSIFICATION

Page 15

Delete 2.04 c) and d) and **replace with** the following:

“c) For purposes of classification, the number of households will be based on Canada Post data. Each Affiliated Association must define which postal codes are contained within their Local Associations’ boundaries. Urban centres will use the FSA (first three digits of the postal code) and rural centres will use all 6 digits of the postal code. The information must be filed with the OBA Office by April 1, 2012 and updated as necessary every three years thereafter. If an Affiliated Association fails to comply with this requirement, the Competition Chair will decide whether or not the Affiliated Association’s teams will be eligible to be classified, and if so, will determine the classification of the teams. The Competition Chair’s decision is final and may not be appealed.

d) The number of households added to the household count of a team by an import player(s) will be determined as follows:

- i. Each urban postal code will add the highest count associated with the LCW, LB, SS, RR, or GD (as defined by Canada Post) for the FSA in which the players reside.

- ii. Each rural postal code will add the highest count associated with the LCW, LB, SS, RR or GD (as defined by Canada Post) for the postal code in which the players reside.
- iii. The import player household count adder will be calculated as the average of the household counts determined in the prior two steps. (Note: this will determine a single number that will be used as an adder for each player residing outside of the Local Association postal code(s), regardless of whether they reside in an urban or rural postal code. This number will be 725 until the end of the 2014 season).
- iv. The import player household count adder will be recalculated on the same frequency and timing as the update of the Canada Post information on which it is based.
- v. Canada post data will be updated once every 3 years.

2.04 m) i) CLASSIFICATION

Page 16

Delete the last sentence of 2.04 m)i) and **replace with** the following: “If there are less than 12 teams classified at a classification, all teams may be permitted to participate.”

2.04 m)ii) CLASSIFICATION

Page 16

Delete “All teams are eligible to participate, but must fill out the appropriate application.” and **replace with** “All teams classified at the particular category are expected to attend the OBA Play-off Tournament or Play-off. Teams desiring not to attend should not be classified.”

5.01 c)d)e) SPECIAL PLAYING RULES

Page 18-19

Delete c), d) and e) and **replace with** the following:

“c) Each Affiliated Association shall have one vote and a simple majority in attendance is required to pass any changes. The Special Playing Rules Committee may entertain and discuss rule changes throughout the year. Any changes suggested by the Special Playing Rules Committee shall be considered at an initial meeting of the Special Playing Rules Committee for consultation with the membership. At a subsequent meeting to be held at least 3 weeks after the initial meeting, the Special Playing Rules Committee shall vote on whether or not to recommend the suggested changes to the OBA Board of Directors.

d) The Special Playing Rules Committee shall prepare a report to the OBA Board of Directors on the proposed changes it is recommending. Such report shall be submitted to the OBA Board of Directors at one Board meeting and voted upon at the subsequent OBA Board of Directors meeting. Changes must be approved by 2/3 of the votes cast in respect of the changes in order to carry.

e) The Special Playing Rules Committee shall send the approved changes to each of the Affiliated Associations and present a report of the changes at the Annual Meeting.”

5.01 h) SPECIAL PLAYING RULES

Page 19

Add P3 and P4 to the list of special playing rules.

P1-9 c) ELIGIBILITY
Page 30

Add the following: “A player participating with a non-recognized program outside of the province without these approvals shall be automatically suspended indefinitely. Any further penalty shall be decided by the OBA Board of Directors.”

P1 PLAYER SIGNING

Section P1.1 AGE AND CATEGORY

To be eligible to play in a particular age category, a player must be born during the year indicated beside such category or during any subsequent year:

Minor Rookie Ball	2004	
Rookie Ball	2003	
Minor Mosquito	2002	
Mosquito	2001	
Minor Pee wee	2000	
Pee wee/Pee wee Girls	1999	
Minor Bantam	1998	
Bantam	1997	
Minor Midget/Bantam Girls	1996	
Midget	1994	
Junior	1991	
Senior/Women’s	Unlimited	(Note: These years are to be automatically updated each year.)

Section P1.2 BIRTH RECORDS

- a) All players 21 years of age and under must produce a birth record the first time they register with OBA. Only birth certificates, passports, citizenship cards or drivers licences will be accepted as birth records. In the case of Affiliated Associations having their own registrar and having the approval of the OBA, it is not necessary to send birth records to the OBA Office if such birth records are provided to the Affiliated Association’s registrar and will be recorded by the registrar. For Affiliated Associations not having their own registrar or for Direct Entries, when sending birth records to the OBA Office, they must be listed and a copy of the list included with the birth records. Upon receipt of a birth record, it will be recorded in the OBA Office.
- b) Players who cannot procure a birth record may sign a team roster upon producing a statutory declaration sworn by their parent or guardian establishing their age; the same to be accompanied by a certificate of a solicitor or notary public.

Section P1.3 PLAYERS TO QUALIFY UNDER RESIDENCE RULE

- a) The basic premise of OBA’s residence rule is that players are to play with the Local Association where they reside.

- b) Players must establish residence within the Local Association on or before June 30th of the playing year. Exception: a player, who (1) maintains Canadian citizenship, (2) has been a member of an OBA team for at least one year prior, (3) continues to be a member of the same OBA team, and (4) for any reason is living outside of the Province of Ontario, may continue to register with that team.
- c) Individuals may be granted permission by the OBA Registrar to participate in OBA play. Cases will be dealt with on an individual basis (i.e., exchange students).
- d) Affiliated Associations must establish territorial boundaries for Local Associations within the Affiliated Association. Affiliated Associations may also set policies applicable within their Affiliated Association. A copy of the boundaries and any related policies must be filed with the OBA. OBA will use the most recent copies filed by the Affiliated Association in any dispute.
- e) In areas where no Local Association exists, the Affiliated Association may set policy. In the absence of such a policy, the OBA shall apply the following policy: The player may play for any team in the Affiliated Association without a release.
- f) In areas where there is a Local Association but the Local Association does not have a team at the particular series, the Affiliated Association may set policy. In the absence of such a policy, the OBA shall apply the following policy: The player may play for any team in the Affiliated Association without a release. For the purposes of this rule, minor (e.g., Minor Rookie, Minor Mosquito, Minor Peewee, Minor Bantam, Minor Midget) is not defined as a separate series from major (e.g., Rookie Ball, Mosquito, Peewee, Bantam, Midget). If a combined minor/major program is offered by a Local Association, then the Local Association is considered to have a team at the particular series. The player is expected to return to his/her Local Association, unless a release is obtained pursuant to P1.5.
- g) A player in the circumstances of e) or f) may play for a team in another Affiliated Association without a release where such team is the team closest to his/her place of residence. Closest team shall be interpreted as the distance from the player's home to the relevant teams' home baseball diamond as the crow flies.
- h) Where a Local Association has more than 1 team operating in the same series, the Local Association shall set policy and/or boundaries for such teams. The Local Association shall file a copy of such policy and/or boundaries with the Affiliated Association and OBA.

GIRLS BASEBALL

- i) Notwithstanding any provision of this section P1.3,
 - i. A female may, but is not required to, register with both a Girls Baseball team and a non-Girls Baseball team.
 - ii. Where the Local Association in whose territory the female lives offers both Girls Baseball and non-Girls Baseball teams, the female may register with either a Girls Baseball team or a non-Girls Baseball team or both in such Local Association and on the basis of such registration play on any team from such Local Association for which she is eligible to play based upon her age.
 - iii. Where the Local Association in whose territory the female lives does not offer Girls Baseball, the female may register for non-Girls Baseball with such Local Association and Girls Baseball with another Local Association without a release being required from the Local Association in whose territory the female lives.
 - iv. Except as provided for in this clause i), a female player requires a release in accordance with the provisions of section P1.5 in the same manner as a male player.

Section P1.4 PLAYERS CHANGING RESIDENCE

- a) OBA recognizes that families move. As set out in P1.3b), players must establish residence prior to June 30th of the playing season.

- b) In split family situations (i.e., the parents are divorced or separated), players 18 years of age and younger shall be deemed to reside where the parent(s) having custody rights reside.
- c) OBA does not condone moves of convenience or falsified family splits designed to bypass the release process.
- d) OBA, when considering the legitimacy of the family move or family split, may have regard to a number of factor(s), including, but not limited to the following:
 - i. a statement from the parent(s) outlining that they actually live at the stated address;
 - ii. a copy of a rental agreement or proof of ownership of the residence;
 - iii. a driver's license with the stated address;
 - iv. the name and address of the school the player attends;
 - v. a separation agreement or divorce decree outlining the custody and access arrangements of the player; and/or
 - vi. Canada Revenue Agency Marital Status Change Form – RC 65

Section P1.5 PLAYERS CHANGING TEAMS

- a) Players are only allowed to be registered with one team at any time. Players registered with one team must be properly released before registering with a second team. This applies to all series.
- b) A player's playing rights are held by: (i) the Local Association(s) where he/she resides as set forth in P1.3 and P1.4; and (ii) the Local Association where he/she played the previous season if the player obtained all necessary releases under this section P1.5. At the Affiliated Association level, a player's playing rights are held by the Affiliated Association(s) where he/she resides as set forth P1.3 and P1.4.
- c) Before a player may participate in a practice, game, tryout, evaluation or other baseball activity with a team that does not currently hold the player's playing rights, the player must obtain the appropriate authorization as specified below.
- d) Where a player wishes to participate in another team's out-of-province game or tournament, and is registered with the Local Association that holds his/her playing rights, then permission from the Local Association and the Affiliated Association are required.
- e) Where a player desires to register with a Direct Entry or Local Association that does not hold his/her playing rights, the player must obtain:
 - i. a release from each Local Association that hold his/her playing rights as set out in P1.5 b); and
 - ii. a release from the Affiliated Association where the player resides, if the player desires to register with a Direct Entry or Local Association outside of the Affiliated Association where the player resides.

The request for a release must be in writing and the granting or refusal of a release shall be in writing authorized by the current management of the Direct Entry, Local Association or Affiliated Association involved.

- f) Where a player desires to participate in a tryout, evaluation, practice or other baseball activity with a team that does not currently hold the player's playing rights, the player must obtain the releases required by P1.5e).
- g) Where a Local Association or Direct Entry grants a player a release, such release is valid and remains in full force and effect so long as the player continues to play for the Local Association or Direct Entry with which the player registered on the basis of having been granted such release.
- h) All releases must be in writing and cannot be conditional.
- i) Any player, for whom a Local Association is not prepared to offer a spot on one of the Local Association's OBA teams, is deemed to be released. The Local Association is required to provide a written release upon request by the player.
- j) Any player, who has not been played by his/her team in 3 or more consecutive games, has the right to appeal to the OBA Technical Committee should the player's team refuse to release the player.

k) Releases shall not be valid until filed with the OBA Office.

Section P1.6 RELEASE APPEALS

- a) Where a player has been denied a release under P1.5 by a Local Association, the player has the right to appeal in writing the Local Association's refusal to the Affiliated Association.
- b) The Affiliated Association will make a decision to grant or deny the release. The Affiliated Association's decision is to be in writing.
- c) Either the player or the Local Association may appeal the Affiliated Association's decision to the OBA Technical Committee. No appeal may be made until the Affiliated Association has made its decision. The appeal must include all evidence and correspondence submitted to the Local Association and/or the Affiliated Association and copies of all decisions made by the Local Association and Affiliated Association.
- d) The OBA Technical Committee will establish the time and place of the appeal hearing, which will be held within 30 days of receiving the written appeal and all documents required in P1.6 c).
- e) The player (and/or his/her parent(s) or guardian(s)) and the Direct Entry or Local Association and/or Affiliated Association must be present in person at the hearing to provide evidence in support of their position.
- f) Failure to appear may result in a default decision. The decision of the OBA Technical Committee shall be final.

Section P1.7 OFFENCES

- a) Where a player participates in a practice, game, tryout, evaluation or other baseball activity with a team that does not currently hold the player's playing rights without the authorization(s) required by P1.5, the player is subject to suspension by OBA.
- b) Any coach or manager, who allows a player to participate in any practice, game, tryout, evaluation or other baseball activity with a team that does not currently hold the player's playing rights without the authorization(s) required by P1.5, is subject to suspension by OBA.
- c) No player, coach or manager may approach any player for whom their Local Association or Direct Entry does not hold the playing rights with the intention of securing said player for their Local Association or Direct Entry. Violation of this rule will leave the player, coach or manager subject to suspension by OBA.
- d) Where a director, officer, employee or other member of a Local Association or Direct Entry (who is not a player, coach and/or manager) approaches any player for whom their Local Association or Direct Entry does not hold the playing rights with the intention of securing said player for their Local Association or Direct Entry, then such violation will leave the Local Association or Direct Entry open to a fine of up to \$1000.

Section P1.8 PLAYERS MAY ADVANCE TO HIGHER SERIES

- a) A player registered with a team in any series Junior or below shall be allowed to advance to a higher series of his/her own Local Association without affecting his/her status in the series and classification of the team with which he/she is registered. Any player, who advances, must play with his/her original team when the team he/she advances to and the team he/she is registered with have games on the same date. (**Note:** Any team knowingly postponing a game so that a player may advance will be suspended from the OBA Play-offs.) (Local Association shall be interpreted as the Local Association with which the player is registered.)
- b) In advancing under P1.8 a), a player may only advance as follows:
 - i. A Rookie player may only advance to Mosquito. (Note: A Rookie player is not eligible to pitch.)

- ii. A Mosquito may advance only to Peewee.
- iii. A Peewee may advance only to Bantam.
- iv. A Bantam may advance only to Midget.
- c) For clarification, where a Local Association has more than one team at a series, players on one team are not eligible to be called up to the other team.
- d) Where a player of a younger age is rostered with a team at an older age category (eg. A Peewee aged player is rostered on a Bantam roster), such player shall be considered as a player of the older series at which he/she is rostered despite being of younger age, and shall not be eligible to play with the younger team.
- e) Where a team wishes to use a call up player from a team that has been eliminated from any further competition during a tournament or an OBA Play-off tournament or an OBA Elimination tournament being held the same week-end, must have either the pitch count records or copies of the official game sheets for all games involving the call-up player. Any player, for whom the pitching eligibility cannot be confirmed, shall not be eligible to pitch.

Section P1.9 PLAYER REGISTRATION

- a) A permanent identification number will be assigned to an OBA registered player based on his/her birth registration number. For players without a birth registration number, the OBA will assign a permanent identification number.
- b) The OBA shall update the eligibility for a series for all previously registered players, based upon the player's birth year, at the beginning of each subsequent calendar year. Team rosters will be prepared by OBA, by sorting the updated player information by Local Association or Direct Entry and by series. Team rosters will be made available to Local Associations or a Direct Entry through the OBA online registration platform.
- c) Team rosters will be available for editing through the OBA online registration platform by December 1st of each year for the following playing season.
- d) Each Local Association shall be responsible for providing as necessary through the OBA online registration platform the complete and accurate information for each returning player and each new player. The required information includes: proper name, date of birth, birth registration number, gender, proper address of residence including postal code, and telephone number. In addition, completed information for the head coach/manager and all coaches is to be provided.
- e) By virtue of having their Local Association submit a team roster, the head coach/manager accepts responsibility for the authenticity of the information shown on his/her team roster.
- f) The Local Association shall submit the team roster to the Affiliated Association registrar for approval.
- g) The Affiliated Association registrar shall check the submitted team roster ensuring that all information is complete and accurate (i.e., players are registered for the proper team and series, birth records are confirmed, necessary player releases are included, etc.), that all required player releases are included and that all registered coaches have the proper credentials.
- h) The Affiliated Association registrar approves the team roster by submitting the roster to OBA for approval through the OBA online registration platform. By submitting a roster, the Affiliated Association registrar accepts responsibility for confirming the completeness and accuracy of the submission.
- i) The OBA shall review the team roster submitted to ensure that the information for each player and coach/manager is complete and that the required number of players and coaches are present, copies of birth records and player releases are submitted where required, no player is registered with a series for which he/she is not eligible.
- j) When all requirements of the OBA Constitution and By-laws are met for the team's registration, the OBA shall approve the roster through the OBA online registration platform.

- k) Approved rosters will be sent to the Affiliated Association and Local Association through the OBA online registration platform.
- l) Subject to the deadlines set forth in this section P1.9, rosters may be amended through the OBA online registration platform by adding or deleting players after they have been initially approved by the Local Association, Affiliated Association and/or OBA.
- m) All team rosters must be submitted to the OBA Office through the OBA online registration platform on or before June 30th of the current playing year; provided, however, that Affiliated Associations with approved registrars, shall have until July 8th to submit their rosters to OBA so long as the Local Association has submitted the roster to the Affiliated Association by June 30th.
- n) Team rosters submitted to the OBA by the deadline, but not completed correctly, must be resubmitted correctly to the OBA Office by August 8th of the current playing year.
- o) Where a team, which is playing an Affiliated Association schedule prior to June 30th, fails to submit a roster to OBA by the deadline, the team may register late upon paying a \$500 late registration fee to the OBA. In so registering, the team must provide evidence satisfactory to the OBA Registrar that the players listed as being part of such team were part of such team roster prior to June 30. **Note:** This provision does not permit individual players to be added to any team roster after June 30.
- p) No player shall be added to a team roster before September 15th of the preceding year, nor after June 30th of the current playing year.
- q) Affiliated Associations must forward all team rosters and certificate tax for all of their players and teams whether they participate in OBA Play-offs or not. No player may participate in an OBA tournament or OBA Play-off without his/her name on a team roster.
- r) Where this section refers to the providing of rosters, the same shall be provided through the OBA online registration platform.

Section P1.10 TEAM NUMBER

A team must have 9 signed players and may have a maximum of 25 players who must be signed to a team roster of the series of the team entered. Each team must have at least 1 manager, and/or 1 or more coaches, signed to the roster clearly marked “Manager” or “Coach” and who shall be responsible for that team.

Section P1.11 PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS AND REGISTRATION

- a) Any player signed by a professional baseball club of the National or American Leagues of Professional Baseball Clubs, or of the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues, who has received his/her unconditional release or has been placed on the Voluntary Retired List by said professional club before June 30th of the playing season shall become eligible for reinstatement to play in the OBA immediately when he/she returns to his/her home city or town, or to the team he/she left to turn professional or he/she may play with any other team providing he/she qualifies under the residence rule.
- b) All applications for reinstatement must be accompanied by a letter from the Office of the President of the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues or a copy of the release from the applicable professional organization.
- c) A player shall be considered to have turned professional when he/she plays his/her first game, either exhibition or league with a professional club.
- d) The release or voluntary retirement must accompany any application for reinstatement.

Section P1.12 ELIGIBILITY

- a) Players are not eligible to register with the OBA for the then current playing season if they have registered with a non-recognized baseball program operating in the Province of Ontario for any part

of such playing season. Players registered with the OBA for the then current playing season who register with a non-recognized baseball program shall be subject to suspension in accordance with section P7-1.

- b) Where an entire team of players desires to register as a team with a non-recognized baseball program, the Local Association operating such team may, if it has the approval of its Affiliated Association, apply to the OBA for OBA recognition of the non-recognized baseball program. The OBA may in its absolute discretion recognize or refuse to recognize such other baseball program.
- c) Individual players may participate with a non-recognized program outside of the province if he secures letters of permission from: (1) OBA Coach and/or Manager (2) Local Association Executive and (3) Affiliate Association Executive; allowing him/her to play with a specified team or organization. (All letters and information shall be forwarded to the OBA through the Affiliated Association) A player participating with a non-recognized program outside of the province without these approvals shall be automatically suspended indefinitely. Any further penalty shall be decided by the OBA Board of Directors.
- d) For the purpose of this section P1.12, the following terms shall have the following meanings:
 - i) “non-recognized baseball program” shall mean any baseball program other than (1) a baseball program operated exclusively by the OBA, its Affiliated Associations and its Local Associations, (2) a high school, college or university baseball program, (3) a baseball program operated exclusively by an associated member of the OBA, (4) a baseball program recognized by the OBA Board of Directors, or (5) a baseball program operated by the PBLO in accordance with the PBLO Agreement.
 - ii) “playing season” shall mean the period from May 15 through to the end of the Labour Day weekend.
 - iii) “registered” includes any form of signing or registration process and any player participating on a regular basis with a non-recognized baseball program shall be deemed to have been registered with such program.
- e) A player participating in another recognized program shall have the right to sign only with:
 - i) the OBA Local Association in whose territory the player lives or
 - ii) the OBA Local Association with whom the player played in the previous playing season.

If the player is not signed by such Local Association, then he/she shall not be entitled to sign with another Local Association.

Senior players are exempt from P1.12 e).

Section P1.13 PLBO

- a) The terms of the PBLO Agreement shall govern teams operated by PBLO Franchises.
- b) The provisions of Sections P1.1 to P1.12 shall not apply to teams playing in the PBLO unless the Franchise operating such teams determine to operate as a Residency Franchise in which case those provisions shall apply to the teams operated by such Residency Franchise.
- c) The PBLO shall determine such residence and release requirements, if any, as shall apply to PBLO Non-Residency Franchises.
- d) The PBLO shall determine such registration procedures and policies as shall apply to PBLO Franchise teams.
- e) PBLO Non-Residency Franchises may not operate teams other than as set out in the PBLO Agreement. Accordingly, Affiliated Associations and Local Associations may not operate PBLO Non-Residency Franchises. However, since PBLO Residency Franchises may operate additional teams, Affiliated Associations and Local Associations may operate PBLO Residency Franchises.
- f) Players playing on a PBLO Non-Residency Franchise team may also register with a team of a Local Association in accordance with P1.12 e) i) or ii).

- g) Players playing on a PBLO Residency Franchise may not sign with another team.
- h) PBLO Non-Residency Franchise teams are not eligible to compete in OBA Elimination tournaments and/or OBA Play-offs, other than the AAAA championships determined by PBLO. PBLO Residency Franchise teams are eligible to compete in OBA Eliminations and/or OBA Play-offs at the AAA level.
- i) The provisions of P2, P3, P4, P5, P6 and P7 do not apply to the PBLO, PBLO Franchises or PBLO Franchise teams, except that P5 and P6 apply to PBLO Residency Franchise teams participating in OBA Eliminations and/or OBA Play-offs at the AAA level.

OBA Resolution #1

That the concept of a baseball federation for Ontario be approved in principle and that between now and the 2012 AGM that Baseball Ontario enter into discussions with other baseball groups within Ontario to determine interest in a federation model and potential structure for such a federation; provided, however, that the results of any such discussions shall be brought to the 2012 AGM for approval before any such federation is created.