

Official Rules of Baseball

Canadian Content

2006



BASEBALL
CANADA

**OFFICIAL RULES OF BASEBALL
CANADIAN CONTENT**

1. Age Categories - Baseball Canada

Pee Wee Boys 13 years old and younger who do not reach their 14th birthday during the current calendar year.

Pee Wee Girls 13 years old and younger who do not reach their 14th birthday during the current calendar year.

Bantam Boys 15 years old and younger who do not reach their 16th birthday during the current calendar year.

Bantam Girls 16 years old and younger who do not reach their 17th birthday during the current calendar year.

Midget Boys 18 years old and younger who do not reach their 19th birthday during the current calendar year.

Midget Girls 21 years old and younger who do not reach their 22nd birthday during the current calendar year.

Junior 21 years old and younger who do not reach their 22nd birthday during the current calendar year.

Canada Games 19 years old and younger who do not reach their 20th birthday during the current calendar year.

Canada Cup 17 years old and younger who do not reach their 18th birthday during the current calendar year.

Senior Men - Open classification.

Senior Women's – Open classification.

2. Baseball Canada Rules Interpretation

1.04 On page 13, delete "Lime", Keep chalk, and other white material.

1.10 Bats constructed of aluminum, fibreglass, magnesium, or other approved manufacturer's materials will be permitted. **For Baseball Canada Championships, at the Bantam category, only Minus 3 (length-weight differential) bats with 2 5/8 maximum diameter barrel will be allowed. For Baseball Canada Cup, Midget, Junior, Canada Games and Senior championship, only wood bats will be allowed. The bat must clearly show the manufacturer's ORIGINAL marking (length-weight differential). If not, the bat will be considered illegal. Rule 6.06 (d) will apply with this addition as shown in bold above. This rule applies only to non-wooden bats.**

1.11 All uniforms must have numbers on the back of the uniform shirt.

1.16 All players shall wear double earflap helmets while at bat, in the on-deck circle and on the base-paths in all age categories. Chinstraps on batting helmets are to be mandatory for Pee Wee category and lower.

1.17 The C.F.A.B. rules require catchers in all age categories to wear a protective helmet and mask while catching. NOTE: This includes practice and warm-up situations such as the bullpen or between innings. Coaches must wear at least a mask in all practice and warm-up situations. Throat protectors are to be mandatory for all catchers and umpires. Extension masks are acceptable provided that the throat area is adequately covered in conjunction with the chest protector.

1.18 It is recommended that all players wear a protector cup (or Jill straps for females).

4.06.1 THAT the use of all tobacco products, including smokeless tobacco, by all on-field participants (players, coaches, managers, umpires etc.) be prohibited at all competitions sanctioned by Baseball Canada, PENALTY: Automatic ejection from the game.

6.05 Contact Rule: 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/she has already scored prior to

committing the infraction) and is to be automatically ejected (whether or not declared safe).

B. Contact shall be considered malicious if: the contact is the result of intentional excessive force, and/or there is intent to injure.

C. Malicious contact is to be penalized whether committed by an offensive or defensive player. The Umpire shall determine whether contact was avoidable or unavoidable whether the runner was trying to reach the base or attempting to dislodge the ball from the fielder. IF the runner a) could have avoided the fielder and reached the base, or b) attempted to dislodge the ball, the runner is out even if the fielder loses the possession of the ball. The ball is dead and all other runners shall return to the last base legally occupied by them at the time of intent to contact. If the fielder blocks the base path, the runner may slide into or collide with the fielder as long as the runner is making a legitimate attempt to reach the base. IF the collision is flagrant, the runner is called out and ejected. The ball is declared dead. If the defensive player blocks the base path clearly without possession of the ball, obstruction is called. The runner is safe and a delayed dead ball is signaled. If the runner collides flagrantly, he/she shall be declared safe due to obstruction but shall be ejected. The ball is dead.

6.10 The designated hitter may be used in any exhibition play, league play, play-offs, tournaments, and championships in the midget, junior, senior and Baseball Canada Cup.

8.06 (b) "A second trip to the same pitcher in the same inning will cause the pitcher's automatic removal from the pitching position.

The pitcher once removed from the mound as a result of 8.06 (b) as stated above, although retained in the game, may not be back as a pitcher in that same game.

Baseball Canada Umpires Committee

Rule Interpretations / Case Studies

1) Obstruction before first base.

Situation:

On a fly ball to right field line and a runner on third the batter runner is obstructed on his way to first. The right fielder catches the ball and R3 tags up and scores.

Rule 7.06 a): When a batter-runner is obstructed before he touches first base, the ball is dead and runners shall advance, without liability to be put out, to the base they would have reached, in the umpires judgement; if there had been no obstruction.

Interpretation: Since the batter was out on the fly ball, and would not have reached first base safely, the batter shall be ruled out and the play stands with no reference to the obstruction.

2) Runner stealing on ball four:

Situation:

With a runner on first, with a 3-1 count on the batter, the runner attempts to steal second on the pitch, and the umpire calls the runner out. Ball four was called on the pitch. The runner, because of being called out, is now off the base is tagged again.

Interpretation: Because the runner was entitled to second base on ball four, and is called out in error, the umpire shall call time, and place the runner back at second.

3) Multiple substitutions involving the DH

Situation:

The pitcher is removed from the mound and is now playing short stop, and the new pitcher enters the game from the bullpen.

Rule: 6.10 states that the game pitcher can only pinch hit (bat) for the DH. *Which means the new pitcher would have to bat in the batting position that was occupied by the DH.*

Interpretation: This is a multiple substitution and the manager can choose where he wants the players to bat. If the manager does not specify, the new pitcher will bat in the batting position that was occupied by the DH.

4) Obstruction with continuous action

Situation: Bases loaded, the batter doubles and R3 and R2 score. R1 is obstructed rounding third base and continues home and is thrown out at home. The batter, on the throw to the plate, attempts to go to third base and is called out.

Rule 7.06 b) If no play is being made on the obstructed runner (at the time of the obstruction) the play shall proceed until no further action is possible. The umpire shall then call time and expose such penalties. In the above situation, R1 would be ruled safe on the obstruction and the batter would be ruled out.

Interpretation: On an obstruction play, the ball becomes dead when the play is made on the obstructed runner, therefore, when the tag is made at the

plate, time is called and the runner is called safe on the obstruction, and the batter returns to second.

5) Balk followed by a throw

Situation: R1 is stealing. The pitcher balks while throwing to first. The first baseman catches and throws the ball to the shortstop, who tags R1 as he over slides second base.

Rule 8.05 penalty. The ball is dead and each runner shall advance one base without liability to be put out unless all runners advance at least one base in which case the play proceeds without reference to the balk.

Interpretation: A balk is indicated, and since the first baseman caught the ball, (not a wild throw as indicated under “penalty approved ruling”), time is called and the runner is awarded second base.

6) Catcher’s Interference with R3 stealing home

Situation: 1 out, with runners at second and third. R3 attempts to steal home, R2 remains at second. The catcher interferes with the batter and the pitch is fouled off.

Rule 6.08 c). If a catcher interferes with the batter, the batter is awarded first base. If, on such interference a runner trying to score on a steal or squeeze from third, the ball is dead and the runner on third scores and the batter is awarded first base. Runners not attempting to steal or not forced to advance remain at the base they occupied at the time of the interference.

Rule 7.07. If with a runner on third base and trying to score by means of a squeeze play or a steal, the catcher steps on or in front of home plate without possession of the ball, or touches the batter or his bat, the pitcher shall be charged with a balk and the batter shall be awarded first base on the interference and the ball is dead.

Interpretation: The balk is enforced. All runners advance one base, and the batter is awarded first base on the catcher’s interference.

6) Plays / Attempted Plays

Interpretation: A play or an attempted play shall be considered as one of the five following situations:

- Tag or attempted tag of a runner
- Tag or attempted tag of a base
- Throw from another fielder in an attempt to get an out
- Rundown
- Balk

7) Player Manager and visits to the mound

Interpretation: A player manager is the person who is designated by his team and is recognized under the roster requirements.

- 1) A player (or player coach) may visit a pitcher as permitted by the umpire whether or not time has been called. This would not be considered a trip to the mound.
- 2) A player manager who leaves his position to talk to his pitcher, whether or not time is called, is subject to the same rules provisions as a non playing manager. Therefore, a trip would be charged to the pitcher.