

# By-Law Number 2

(Commonly called the WCBA Constitution)

(Approved: March 27, 2025)

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The Constitution of Baseball Ontario plus the Playing Rules and Regulations issued each year by Baseball Ontario will govern the Western Counties Baseball Association.

These will be limited by the following, which will apply only to the Western Counties Baseball Association.

## 1) Definitions

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- a) **“Active Local Association”** means a Local Association that is properly registered and enters at least one team in the WCBA Rep League and/or the River League
- b) **“Board”** means the Board of Directors as defined in Bylaw #1
- c) **“Board of Directors”** of the Corporation consists of the 14 Elected Directors that fill the roles of President, Vice President, Rep Convenors and River League convenors and up to four (4) Appointed Directors.
- d) **“Corporation”** means the Western Counties Baseball Association.
- e) **“Corporations Act”** means the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act 2010 and any statute amending or enacted in the substitution thereof.

- f) “**Executive**” refer to WCBA Executive.
- g) “**Letters Patent**” means the incorporating documents for the Corporation, including any duly filed supplements or amendments.
- h) “**OBA**” means the Ontario Baseball Association, also referred to as Baseball Ontario.
- i) “**ONCA**” means the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act 2010.
- j) “**PBLO**” means the Premier Baseball League of Ontario.
- k) “**WCBA**” means the Western Counties Baseball Association.
- l) “**WCBA Executive**” means the Board of Directors plus Appointed Officers and the Immediate Past President.

## 2) Not-For-Profit Corporation

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- a) The Western Counties Baseball Association is registered in the Province of Ontario as a not-for-profit corporation. Letters Patent for Ontario Corporation Number 5033485 were issued August 12, 2020.
- b) The Corporation shall operate without the intent of financial or material gain for its members and shall adhere to the relevant guidelines within the Corporations Act and to other legal requirements. Any profits, assets or accruals of the Corporation shall be used in promoting its purposes.
- c) WCBA is registered provincially with one class of members. All members of the class have the same rights and voting privileges.

## 3) Membership

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- a) Membership in this Association shall be comprised of the following:
  - (i) Active Local Associations whose boundaries are contained within the WCBA affiliate boundaries. (Note: the approved list of local associations, both active and inactive, and their boundaries are defined in Appendix 1).
  - (ii) Past Presidents are deemed to be members by virtue of their office and shall have all the rights of members at all Annual Meetings and Special Meetings of the association including the right to vote.
  - (iii) Honourary Members shall have all the rights of members at all Annual Meetings and Special Meetings of the association including the right to vote.
- b) Every member in this association must be in good standing and approved by a majority of the Executive.
- c) Every player in this association must be in good standing and approved by the Registrar before being allowed to play.

- d) The Executive shall have the power to grant permission to any member located within the affiliate boundary to play baseball in any other league which is affiliated with Baseball Ontario. Such permission is granted on an annual basis.
- e) The Executive shall have the authority to grant permission to an individual team (that is not part of an active member) to play in a WCBA league.
- f) Every entity desiring to join or renew membership in WCBA, shall complete an application form and return such application form with the necessary fee payment to the Registrar. The applicant agrees to abide by the rules and By-Laws of Association. The Executive will rule in any matter of dispute related to membership.
- g) The membership shall be forfeited:
  - 1. By voluntary withdrawal.
  - 2. By disbandment.
  - 3. By offering, agreeing, conspiring or attempting to lose any game of ball;
  - 4. By failing to immediately suspend any player who shall have been proven guilty of offering, agreeing, conspiring or attempting to lose any game of ball, or being interested in any pool or wager against his own team;
  - 5. By refusing to play or continue a game.
  - 6. By refusing to comply with any written instructions directed by the Executive through the league Secretary.
  - 7. Upon the forfeit of 3 games in any season.
- h) Any local association which shall forfeit its membership in the association shall be subject to a fine determined by the Executive and payable before the WCBA Annual Meeting.

#### 4) **Officers**

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- a) The membership elects 14 Directors, annually, at the Annual Meeting. These directors form the Board of Directors of the corporation, and fill the roles of President, Vice President, Rep League Convenors (7) and River League Commissioner and River League Convenors (4).....
- b) For the President, a maximum 2 year term (plus Past President for 1 season). For the Vice President a maximum term of 3 seasons. For the River League Commissioner a maximum term of 3 seasons. All other positions can be held for multiple seasons unless defeated in election. (ie....acting President for 2 seasons, 1 year as Past President, 1 year as Convenor, can be nominated again as President if accepted.....reason: proposing this to allow for new thoughts, new blood infused into the executive.....something Alan and I discussed after me taking over and having a conversation about what length of commitment.....his advise aligned with my thoughts that there should be quicker turnaround for positions)
- c) The Elected Directors may appoint up to four (4) Appointed Directors to the Board. The appointed directors may fill such roles as:
  - a. Secretary

- b. Treasurer
  - c. Registrar
  - d. WCBA Rep to Baseball Ontario
  - e. Technical Committee Chair
  - f. Umpire-in-Chief
  - g. Supervisor of Coaching
- d) The Board of Directors has the authority to appoint persons to the Executive as may be required from time to time. These Appointed Officers are non-voting positions.
- e) The Board of Directors together with the Immediate Past President and any Appointed Officers are defined to be the WCBA Executive.
- f) The Executive has the authority to appoint up to 5 Honourary Members. This honour may be conferred to recognize outstanding continuous and meritorious service to the Western Counties Baseball Association, for a period in excess of 20 years. The appointment may remain active so long as the Honourary Member remains active in the affairs of the association. The Executive also has the authority to rescind the appointment if necessary.
- g) Any member of the Executive may be removed from office for conduct detrimental to the WCBA at a meeting of the Executive upon a resolution approved by 2/3 of the votes cast in respect to such resolution. Notice must be given at least 7 calendar days prior to the meeting to all members of the Executive of the intention to bring such a resolution before the meeting.
- h) The Executive shall have control of the affairs of the Association and shall have power to fill vacancies which may occur in its number, to amend or alter the regulations or championship competition, to issue or revoke certificates in case of change of residence of players, to handle league business of an immediate nature.
- i) Nominations for Officers: Officers shall be nominated in writing i) by a Local Association in good standing and operating the previous year, or ii) by a member of the Executive. Nominations must be submitted to the Secretary at least three (3) weeks prior to the Annual Meeting. In order that a name remain on the ballot, a nominee must so request at the Annual Meeting in person or must have indicated to the Secretary in writing prior to the election. A nominee is only eligible to be placed on the ballot if they can attest to their ability to meet the requirements of a Director as defined by ONCA.
- j) Members attending the Baseball Ontario Annual Convention shall be selected in order from those noted below up to a maximum of 5:
- WCBA Rep to Baseball Ontario
  - President
  - Vice President
  - Immediate Past President
  - Secretary-Treasurer
  - Registrar
  - Rep Series Convenors

- River League Commissioner and Series Convenors
- Supervisor of Umpires
- Supervisor of Coaches

If any of the above are not able to attend the Executive shall appoint alternates as required to provide sufficient attendees to vote all votes allocated to WCBA.

- k) If positions of Rep league convenor(s) or River League Convenor(s) are left without nominations, local associations not already represented on the Executive will be requested to put forth candidates for selection:
- Local associations who have a total of 3 or more Rep teams shall put forth one person to be a Rep League Convenor. The Board of Directors will then select candidates from this pool to fill vacant roles.
  - Local associations who have a total of 2 or more River League teams shall put forth one person to be a River League Convenor. The Board of Directors will then select candidates from this pool to fill vacant roles.

## 5) Duties of Officers

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- The President shall preside at all the meetings of the association and Executive with the usual privileges of the office. Should the President, and Vice-President be unable to preside at the Annual or Special General Meetings, they shall advise the Executive Committee prior to the meeting, and the Executive Committee shall nominate a chairperson.
- The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in his absence. The Vice-President shall also be the overall Series Chairperson.
- The Elected Directors will hold the following positions.
  - Rep League Convenors for 9U (Rookieball), 11U (Mosquito), 13U (PeeWee), 15U (Bantam), 18U (Midget), 21U (Junior), and Senior.
  - River League Commissioner and four (4) series convenors
- The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings of the Association and Executive. He shall keep an accurate record of all money received and disbursed by him and report at any time desired by the President. He shall conduct all correspondence and shall have the authority to co-operate with the President in managing the affairs of the Association in accordance with the Association Constitution and the expressed policy of the Executive.
- The Registrar shall be responsible for all playing rosters, change of residence reinstatement forms, also the registration of all birth certificates.
- The Umpire-in-Chief has oversight responsibilities for matters pertaining to umpiring within the affiliate.
- Technical Committee Chair shall be the person responsible for operation of the Technical Committee. This person shall also assist the President in any matters pertaining to the WCBA Constitution.

## **6) Sub-Committees**

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- a) A sub-committee of three Executive members, plus any others deemed necessary by the President (who also shall be an ex-officio member of the committee) shall be convened to consider questions of re-instatement, suspension and all matters which might be dealt with by the Executive Committee at its regular meeting, except in cases which, in the opinion of the President, are of such emergency, as to require a special Executive meeting to be called.
- b) The Technical Committee is a standing committee under the direction of the Technical Committee Chair. This committee is responsible for ruling in matters such as release appeals, fine appeals and matters of discipline.
- c) The River League Operating Committee shall consist of the River League Commissioner and four (4) Series Convenors. This committee is responsible to manage the operation of the River League.
- d) The Umpiring Committee is a standing committee under the direction of the Umpire-in-Chief. This committee is responsible for dealing with matters related to officiating including recruiting, training, and discipline as may be required.

## **7) Meetings**

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- a) At all general meetings each member shall appoint one (1) voting representative for that meeting.
- b) A quorum at all meetings of the Executive shall consist of a majority of the active members of the Executive.
- c) A quorum at all meetings of the membership shall consist of a majority of the active members of the Executive and a majority of the active members in good standing.
- d) The League Convenors may call meetings at any time for the purpose of organizing leagues, and at the request of one team, which has problems that concern them and the league that they belong to. If no settlement is made at such meetings, they may be brought up at a meeting of the Executive.
- e) The Annual Meeting shall be held in March and the Semi-Annual Meeting shall be held in Sept (date to be determined by the Executive), including any other scheduled meetings. The members shall be notified of the time and place of the meetings at least two (2) weeks in advance of the planned meeting date. Each member is allowed one (1) vote. Each executive member is allowed one (1) vote.
- f) No member in arrears shall be entitled to vote.
- g) At the Annual Meeting, Semi-Annual Meeting and any other scheduled meeting of the membership, at least one (1) representative from each member MUST be present. At the Classification Meeting held in July each year at least one (1) coach or manager from each TEAM MUST be present. The penalty for not having representation at these meetings will be a fine not to exceed \$100 per offence.
- h) Order of business to be addressed at meetings:



- a. At General or special meetings, the order of business shall be:
  - (i) Acceptance of prior meeting minutes
  - (ii) Consideration of deferred business
  - (iii) Consideration of current business
  - (iv) Good and welfare of the association.
- b. At the Annual Meeting, the order of business shall be:
  - (i) Approval of prior meeting minutes (ii) Annual Reports:
    - President,
    - Secretary
    - Treasurer including the Annual Financial Report.
    - Resolution regarding the need (or lack thereof) for a financial audit or engagement review and to appoint the auditor/reviewer if required.
  - (iii) Report of the standing and special committees
  - (iv) Consideration of constitution and by-law amendments.
  - (v) General Business
  - (vi) Election of Officers
  - (vii) Good and welfare of the Association

## **8) Amendments**

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- a) Any change in the Constitution and By-Laws, can only be made at the Annual Meeting, and only by simple majority of the votes cast.
- b) Amendments and nominations can be proposed by any member in good standing or by a member of the Executive. These changes must be submitted to the Secretary in writing at least three (3) weeks prior to the Annual Meeting.

## **9) Dissolution**

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Should the corporation need to be dissolved, the assets of the corporation shall be distributed to the members of the corporation in the same ratio as the average of the fees received from the members in the prior three years.

## **10) General**

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- a) The Constitution as shown in this book is intended as a general guide and cannot specifically cover each situation that may arise. Therefore, the President in regular or special meetings, with a quorum of the elected and/or appointed executive, will have the authority to interpret and decide to the best of their judgement with regard to all these circumstances of any specific case, any



matters pertaining to any and all clauses contained herein and that their decision shall be final.

- b) The association shall affiliate with Baseball Ontario.
- c) The association schedules must be drawn up so that winners will be declared in time to compete in the Baseball Ontario provincial championships.
- d) Except as provided by the Constitution and By-Laws, the management and control of each individual league shall be left entirely in the hands of the Series Convenors.

## **11) Fees**

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- a) The annual fees for each member shall be determined by the Executive.
- b) A member will be said to be in arrears if the Treasurer has not received their payment(s) within seven (7) days of the date of a letter from the Treasurer advising the amount of any debt.
- c) No member which is in arrears in whole or in part in the fees, certificate tax, deposits for certificate tax, or in any other respect, shall be entitled to vote upon any question at any association, group or series meeting, and any member so in arrears shall forfeit all rights and privileges of protesting any games played while in arrears, or of requesting a special meeting of the association group or series
- d) Any team needing Player Rosters for tournament and/or any other deadlines, and a courier service is used for delivery, must pay a fee of \$25, IN ADVANCE of the rosters being sent.
- e) All appeal requests will be accompanied by a cheque made payable to WCBA for \$100. The panel hearing the appeal will determine if the fee is kept by WCBA or returned, depending on the merit of the appeal.
- f) Local Associations with at least one OBA rostered team (18U & below) will be required to provide an annual performance bond of \$500 at the beginning of the playing season. This will be paid at the time of payment for team registration. The performance bond will be returned at the end of the season, net of any outstanding unpaid fines. Should the outstanding fines exceed the performance bond amount, the unpaid portion of the fines, will be added to the performance bond requirement for the following season. The bond will be provided by means of a post-dated cheque that will be returned at the September WCBA meeting (if it was unused).
- g) The Junior and Senior leagues will handle their league performance bonds independently of the teams covered by 10 f).

## **11) Player Registration and Release Processes**

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- a) For each playing season, each Local Association will assign a Local Registrar on or before January 31. The Local Association Registrar will be responsible for gathering, verifying and disseminating all roster information and approved rosters within their Local Associations.

- b) If a Local Association plans to field any competitive teams for the coming playing season, they must declare such intent in detail to the WCBA Registrar on or before January 31. The Registrar will distribute a summary to the Local Association Registrars by the AGM.
- c) All players wishing to play competitive baseball as a member of an OBA rostered team must register with their home Local Association for the upcoming season prior to the date noted in Section 11 h).
- d) Players with valid releases from the prior year may choose to register with the Local Association they played with last season.
- e) A player may return to his/her home Local Association at the beginning of any season without a release.
- f) If a player has played OBA Rep baseball two consecutive seasons with another Local Association, as a result of Section 11 d) and h) and wishes to remain with that Local Association the player will be considered released. The player must request WCBA to issue a formal release under this clause, and once this release is issued the receiving Local Association will update "Release Year" on the roster.
- g) If a Local Association is unsure as to whether they will be fielding a team, a player may apply for a "Permission to Practice" form from the Local Association that would allow the player the opportunity to work-out with another specific team within WCBA, until a decision is made by the Local Association, at which point this form expires. The "Permission to Practice" form is not a release.
- h) Local Associations must determine the age categories in which they will be fielding teams by April 1st. After this date, players registered in categories where no team is to be fielded or are unsuccessful in making the team in his/her age group are free to seek a position with a team in another centre within WCBA.

**Note:** This is not a release. The player must register with his/her home centre the following year.

- i) If player resides within the boundary of a Local Association that is not currently active, the player is free to play for any other team within WCBA (however the player must notify the WCBA Registrar). Once the player registers with a Local Association, that Local Association is deemed to hold the playing rights of the player as it relates to release rules and subsequent player movement (treated as if the player was playing with the Local Association based on a valid release).
- j) The WCBA Executive will not entertain release requests or appeals between Labour Day and April 1st of the following year, unless a Local Association has declared which teams, they will have for the upcoming playing season as defined in Section 11 h). A player must be registered with their Local Association before a release request will be accepted for consideration by the WCBA Registrar. The Registrar will not consider release requests for players that have failed to register with their Local Association prior to the deadline date noted earlier in this clause.
- k) The WCBA Executive will not entertain any request for permission to register with a US based program unless the player has first registered with their Local Association.
- l) If a player wishes to register with a team that does not currently hold their playing rights, the OBA prescribed release process must be followed. Refer to the OBA

Constitution and Bylaws Section RP1.5. The WCBA Registrar may be contacted for clarification of the requirements.

## **12) Team Permission to Play Games Outside of WCBA**

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- a) Any team wishing to play in a league schedule outside of WCBA must request permission from WCBA in writing. The request is to be forwarded to the Secretary/Treasurer prior to February 14.
- b) Any team that has been granted permission to play in a league outside of WCBA must meet all of the requirements set out in Section 13) to be eligible for classification to play in Baseball Ontario provincial championships.
- c) Any team wishing to play games outside of Ontario must submit a request to the Secretary/Treasurer. If the Executive approves the request, the Secretary/Treasurer shall issue permission to the team.
- d) WCBA will not approve out of province travel requests from 14U & 15U teams that fall on the weekend of the Ontario Summer Games.

## **13) Classification of Rep Teams**

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- a) At the annual REP Coaches Meeting held in April, teams will have to declare their preliminary classification with their convenor. A virtual meeting will be held in July to confirm the teams classification, in order to be verified with the OBA office prior to the deadline. The Secretary and Convenor must be notified so that proper documentation of the change is submitted to Baseball Ontario.
- b) Teams will not be classified if any of the following apply (at the Convenor's discretion):
  - If the team has not met the league eight (8) game minimum as described in scheduling Section 14) k) d. prior to the classification meeting date. OR
  - If the team has fines or fees are in arrears.
- c) If the WCBA does not offer a league schedule for a team, classification will be at the Series Convenor's discretion.
- d) Teams that do not submit their league and tournament results to their convenor at least 2 days prior to the classification meeting will automatically be classified at the highest level associated with their household count as defined by the OBA Constitution Section R4.01 a).
- e) If a River League team wishes to be considered for OBA classification to attend OBA Provincial Championships, they must notify their Series Convenor before June 1 of the playing season. They must play a schedule of games against the OBA teams in their series, prior to the classification date (this will consist of at least no less than 5 games and must be against different opponents). The team must submit a completed roster to the WCBA Registrar by the WCBA roster deadline (refer to Section 11 n). The players on the roster will be subject to applicable WCBA and OBA release rules. The coaches on the roster must meet the applicable OBA coaching certification requirements.

## 14) Games and Rep League Schedules

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- a) All games shall start on the official starting times as laid down at the series schedule meetings, however the starting time of any game may be changed by mutual agreement of the two teams, or failing agreement, by order of the Executive.
- b) A fine of \$50 shall be imposed on any team which does not have nine (9) properly signed and registered players on the field and prepared to play within 1/2hr of the advertised time, unless for some unavoidable delay, and the fine shall be imposed and collected by the WCBA Secretary on or before the date of the offending team's next game, the offending team having the right to appeal to the WCBA Executive. The team management shall notify the WCBA Secretary by personal report immediately after such an occurrence. The game shall be forfeited.
- c) It is the obligation of the Home Team to reschedule any un-played/cancelled game within seven (7) days with the other team. The Home Team is responsible for notifying the Series Convenor immediately of the cancelled game. If the game is not rescheduled the Series Convenor shall have the discretion to fine the team deemed responsible for preventing the rescheduling of the game a fine of \$50 (to be withheld from the local association performance bond).
- d) If there are two out, and the catcher is on base, a runner may be put in for catcher and he must be the last out.
- e) In 7 inning games, if after 3 or more innings a team is ahead by 18 or more runs, or if after 5 or more innings a team is ahead by 10 runs or more then the game shall be called.
- f) Game Reports must be submitted to the series convenor by the home team within 48 hours of the game. The game report must contain the score and report any ejections or injuries. Failure to submit the report will result in a warning for the first offence, a \$50 fine for the second and \$100 for each subsequent event.
- g) OBA playing rules apply to all league games, including pitch count requirements.
- h) All league and tournament games must use OBA carded umpires. If a host is unable to secure carded umpires for a game, they must contact the Umpire in Chief for permission to use uncarded umpires. The Local Association must have in place OBA insurance for such uncarded umpires. Permission will not be granted if the required insurance is not in place. If uncarded umpires are used without permission of the Umpire in Chief, a fine of \$50 will be assessed for each occurrence.
- i) All league games for ages less than 14U (Minor Bantam) shall be subject to a time limit as follows;
  - a. 9U (Rookie ball) – no new inning may start after 90 minutes
  - b. 11U (Mosquito) & 13U (PeeWee) – no new inning may start after 105 minutes
  - c. A time limit less than that noted in a) and b) may be imposed by local facility time limits, weather, or darkness.
- j) At ages less than Midget, all players will be included in the hitting line-up.

- k) League schedules will be developed with the following guidelines.
- a. If a Dedicated Select registered team chooses to play in the Rep League, they must meet all of the same requirements as the Rep teams in the league.
  - b. The league schedule will be completed by the end of July.
  - c. All necessary rescheduled games must be completed by the end of July.

Teams must play one home game and one away game against all teams at their classification level, with a minimum of 8 games prior to the final classification meeting in July at the discretion of the convenor, where applicable. They also need to play one home or away game against any teams one level above and below them. For example, a 'C' team plays one home and one away game against other 'C' teams, and one home or away game against each 'B' and 'D' teams. Any team can request additional games with any other teams within the division, with no obligation for the other team to accept.

- d. League standings as at the end of July will be used for initial playdown pairing.
- e. No league games will be scheduled on the two weekends following the August long weekend. These will be reserved for teams to participate in a playdown tournament or a 2 out of 3 series, should it be required.
- f. 14U & 15U teams will not schedule attendance at tournaments of any type on the weekend of the Ontario Summer Games without prior approval of the Series Convenor.

## **15) Protests and Appeals**

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- a) All protests arising out of league games must be filed with the WCBA Secretary, accompanied by \$50, within 48 hours after the said game. A copy must also be filed with the protested local association within 48 hours. The protested local association will have 36 hours to file a defense with the WCBA Secretary and the protesting local association. The President of WCBA will appoint a committee to resolve the protest within 5 days from the time the Secretary receives the protest. Each local association may be represented at the hearing. Any appeals must be filed within 48 hours after the handing down of the decision by the committee and accompanied by \$100. Disposition of fees shall be at the discretion of the President.
- b) Once a protest and/or appeal has been dealt with by the WCBA or a committee delegated to act in such matters by the WCBA that any ruling handed down must be considered FINAL by the WCBA. No further action will be taken under the heading "Protests and Appeals".
- c) In play-offs, due to the Baseball Ontario time factor, emergency decisions will be made by the Convenor in consultation with the executive within twenty-four (24) hours.

- d) Protests or appeals on questions of fact will not be considered, as an umpire's decision in such matters is final.
- e) Decisions made by Series Convenors as it relates to classification and fines may be appealed to the WCBA Executive. The written appeal must be filed with the WCBA Secretary, accompanied by \$100, within 48 hours of the WCBA annual classification meeting at which all classification decisions are finalized. The President of WCBA will appoint a committee to resolve the protest within 5 days from the time the Secretary receives the appeal. Any fine remaining outstanding after the appeal is complete, must be paid to the Treasurer of the WCBA within 7 calendar days of the date of the appeal decision.

## **16) Suspensions and Expulsions**

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- a) Any Local Association, or a member of this association violating the Constitution or By-Laws or refusing to abide by the decision of the Executive or Sub-Committee may be expelled or suspended.
- b) Local Associations, officers, or players may be suspended by the Executive Committee for knowingly:
  - 1) Permitting betting or improper conduct by players or officers at league or play-off games.
  - 2) Offering, agreeing, conspiring, or attempting to lose any league or play-off game or being interested in any pool or wager thereon.
  - 3) Playing with a league that has been suspended or expelled.
  - 4) Knowingly having on its list of signed players any disqualified players.
  - 5) Any player who shall play under an assumed name shall be suspended from the association.
  - 6) Using of Tobacco Products During a Game - Players, coaches and umpires in uniform must refrain from using any tobacco products during all games. Penalty for this will be immediate ejection for players or coaches and may result in the loss of accreditation for umpires.

## **17) Discipline**

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- a) All players, coaches and other persons who are members of the WCBA are subject to the discipline of the WCBA regardless of who they are, or where they play.
- b) Beginning with the 2023 season, OBA roster approval is entirely a Local Association responsibility. The Local Association is accountable for the accuracy of their submitted rosters. The Local Association is responsible for ensuring every player on their rosters are eligible to be on their rosters. The Local Association is responsible for providing releases as may be required to support eligibility of players included on their rosters if requested. If a Local Association approves a roster containing an ineligible player (or players), they will be subject to a fine of

up to \$1,000 per occurrence plus the team with ineligible players may not be permitted to play in provincial playoffs.

- c) Any player, coach, manager, or team personal ejected from a game will be suspended for the next one or more WCBA games, to be served in a regularly scheduled, play-off, or O.B.A. game within the WCBA league. This suspension is to be above and beyond any suspension served at a tournament or non-WCBA game. The suspension will be set as follows.

**WCBA Penalties Resulting from an Ejection:**

***i. Disputing the Call of an Official or Harassment of an Official or Unsportsmanlike Conduct of a Player / Coach / Manager***

- 1st incident, current game plus a minimum of 1 game
- 2nd incident, current game plus a minimum of 2 games
- 3rd incident, suspended until reviewed by the WCBA executive

***ii. Verbal Abuse of an Official***

- 1st incident, current game plus a minimum of 2 games
- 2nd incident, suspended until reviewed by the WCBA executive

***iii. Trash Talking or Obscene Gesture***

- 1st incident, current game plus a minimum of 1 game
- 2nd incident, suspended until reviewed by the WCBA executive

***iv. Player / Coach / Manager Fighting or Leaving the Dugout to Enter into a Fight (not trying to break up the fight)***

- 1st incident, current game plus suspended until reviewed by the WCBA executive

***v. Intent to Injure, Spitting in the Direction of, or Threatening a Player / Coach / Manager / Official***

- 1st incident, current game plus suspended until reviewed by the WCBA executive

***vi. Travesty of the Game (throwing items on the field, pulling out bases, not leaving the game when directed to, etc.)***

- 1st incident, current game plus a minimum of 2 games
- 2nd incident, suspended until reviewed by the WCBA executive

***vii. Coaching from the Sidelines after being Ejected from the Game***

- 1st incident, current game plus a minimum of 2 games
- 2nd incident, current game plus a minimum of 4 games
- 3rd incident, suspended until reviewed by the WCBA executive

***viii. Pitching Rule Infraction***



- 1st incident, game is forfeited, manager suspended current game plus 1 additional game
- 2nd incident, game is forfeited, manager suspended current game plus 3 additional games
- 3rd incident, game is forfeited, manager suspended until reviewed by the WCBA executive

***ix. Physical Contact with an Official***

- 1st incident, current game plus suspended until reviewed by the WCBA executive

**Example:** A Coach is ejected from game #1 of an out of town tournament. The coach serves a one game suspension at the tournament in game #2, and returns for the remaining games of the tournament. The coach is still subject to a one game suspension for the next WCBA game per section i. above.

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## **18) Code of Conduct General Provisions**

- a) The Codes of Conduct identify the standard of behaviour which is expected of all WCBA members and participants.
- b) Conduct within the spirit of this Code of Conduct is expected of players, assistant coaches, coaches, managers, umpires, parents, spectators, trainers and WCBA Executive.
- c) The dignity and spirit of all people - players, parents, assistant coaches, coaches, Convenors, managers, umpires, and local association officials - is to be respected at all times.
- d) All those participating in the activities of the local association are to be treated fairly and equitably.
- e) Behaviour that frightens, embarrasses, demoralizes, or negatively affects the self-esteem of anyone participating in the member's activities will not be tolerated.
- f) A supportive, positive experience for the purposes of building confidence, developing, or improving skills and having fun is expected.
- g) All members will promote positive behaviours that encourage participants and reduce the likelihood of disrespect and violence in our activities.
- h) Abusive or disrespectful language or actions by anyone will not be tolerated including verbal, emails, voice messages, text messages and social network postings.
- i) Public property and the property of others and the local association will be respected.
- j) Failure to abide by any of the provisions herein may result in offenders being ejected from a game, being asked to leave the park, suspended and/or being called before a Discipline Committee at the discretion of the Series Convenor.
- k) The WCBA will neither tolerate the use of alcohol or drugs at any of its venues, nor the participation of anyone connected with a team who is under the influence of the above.
- l) Baseball Ontario requires that each Local Association implement the appropriate Codes of Conduct as part of the central registration process. The approved Codes of Conduct to use may be found on the Baseball Ontario website. If the local association does not use Goal Line as their registration process, they are expected to retain appropriate evidence of the signed codes of conduct (printed or electronic).
- m) Failure to comply with this Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action in accordance with the discipline policy of the WCBA. Such action may result in loss of privileges associated with membership.

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- n) An individual's membership, or a specific role within WCBA may be revoked at any time if an individual has been deemed to be in contravention of the WCBA Constitution which includes this Code of Conduct.
  - o) The WCBA reserves the right to reject membership in any case where a previous record of behaviour unbecoming a member of WCBA has been evident.

## **19) WCBA Playoff Games**

### **(i.e. playdown games to qualify for OBA Provincial Tournament)**

- a) Playdowns do not need to start prior to the last weekend in July. This is the weekend on which the OBA approves and publishes the final classification list. It is at this time that WCBA is able to determine which classifications require a playdown.
- b) Where there are less than 4 teams in a division, a 2 out of 3 series will be held, with the top team in the standings at the end of the league schedule having the extra game. The series must be completed at least two weeks prior to the OBA Championship weekend.
- c) Where more than three teams are classified in the same division, a double knockout or round robin tournament will be held to determine the teams that attend the OBA championship tournament. The team with the best record at the end of the schedule will be given the opportunity to host this tournament. Initial pairings will be based on the league record at the end of July (first against last, etc). A fee will be charged to each team to pay for umpires and baseballs. Choice of the tournament style will be at the discretion of the Series Convenor. For ages less than 18U (Midget) , the tournament will be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend after the August long weekend. The following weekend will be used as the rain date.
- d) Winning teams must notify WCBA Convenor and Secretary immediately after the final game. They must also notify the Convenor of the provincial championship tournament.
- e) All local associations must notify their respective umpire-in-chiefs for umpires in league games and all playoff games.
- f) If a series Convenor resides in a location with a team playing in the series or tournament the WCBA Executive will appoint an alternate Convenor for the series.
- g) At least one Level 2 or higher OBA carded umpire is required for all playoff/playdown games. All umpires assigned to playoff/playdown games must be OBA carded. The umpires may not be family members or siblings of players of the teams involved.
- h) Pitch counts will be tracked and reported to the Series Convenor. Games will be treated as if games 1 and 2 are played on day 1, games 3 and 4 are played on day 2, games 5 and 6 are played on day 3 etc. (This causes pitching to be treated in a tournament style format and prevents a team winning their playdown based on only one or two pitchers pitching their count limits every game of the series).

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- i) The OBA tie-breaker rule will apply to the results of any round robin series between any tied teams. To assess ties in the records of teams, a tie game result is considered to be superior to a loss.
  - j) Any team forfeiting a playdown game will be fined \$150 for each game not completed (at the discretion of the league convenor).

## **20) Baseball Ontario Playdowns**

**(i.e. these are the games you play against another association such as Sun Parlour)**

- a) You must have an OBA Convenor at each home game
- b) You must have Baseball Ontario carded umpires.
- c) You must have your Baseball Ontario approved roster at each game.

## **21) Tournament Hosting Applications**

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- a) The potential host will complete the OBA online tournament application form. Local associations planning to host OBA Championship tournaments must complete this application prior to January 1 of the playing year.
- b) The potential host will secure the necessary diamond facilities and note the facility details on the WCBA Tournament Application form.
- c) The potential host will secure approval of the hosting local's executive. An authorized member of the local association executive will sign the WCBA Tournament Application form.
- d) The potential host will secure approval of the local umpire assigner. The local assigner will produce an estimate of cost for umpiring the tournament and supply to the host. Upon agreement with the estimate and umpire procurement plan, the local assigner will sign the WCBA Tournament Application form.
- e) The potential host will discuss the tournament with the WCBA Umpire in Chief and secure approval and signature on the WCBA Tournament Application form.
- f) The completed WCBA Tournament Application form will be forwarded to the WCBA Registrar.
  - a. For season tournaments, the Registrar will approve the OBA online tournament application if all information is satisfactorily completed on the WCBA Tournament Application form.
  - b. For requests to host OBA Championship tournaments, all Tournament Application forms must be submitted by January 31. The WCBA Executive shall review the WCBA Tournament Application forms submitted to determine which applications will be supported by the WCBA. The

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WCBA Registrar will approve the OBA online applications associated with the tournaments that the WCBA Executive approve.

- g) The Series Convenor must approve all tournament applications to host 14U & 15U tournaments on the same weekend of the Ontario Summer Games.

## Appendix 1: Local Associations and Boundaries

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The boundaries of each Local Association are shown on the maps attached as part of this Appendix. The maps are split into North and South portions of WCBA.

The boundaries of each historical Local Association have been retained even though some of these Local Associations are not currently active. The Constitution describes how the movement of Rep players residing in inactive Local Associations is managed.

The table below shows the postal codes assigned to each local association for the purposes of OBA Rep team classification. Inactive local associations will be added to the table if they choose to field OBA Rep teams in the future.

The maps included in this appendix show the physical boundaries assigned to each local association. These boundaries are the ones that are applied for the purpose of Rep player releases.

These boundaries were adopted at a WCBA open meeting held January 31, 2011. Originals of the included maps are held by John Vasey.

Note: Dedicated Select and House League Select teams will adopt these same boundaries for the purposes of team registration.

### WCBA Boundaries:

**East** – Starting at and excluding Port Talbot on Lake Erie, north on Elgin County Road 14 and Middlesex Country Road 9 to Cairngorm, west on Metcalfe Township Road 77 to Middlesex County Road 6, north on Middlesex County Road 6 to Middlesex County Road 12, west on Middlesex County Road 12 to the Ausable River, north along the Ausable River (Lambton County Boundary) to Lake Huron.

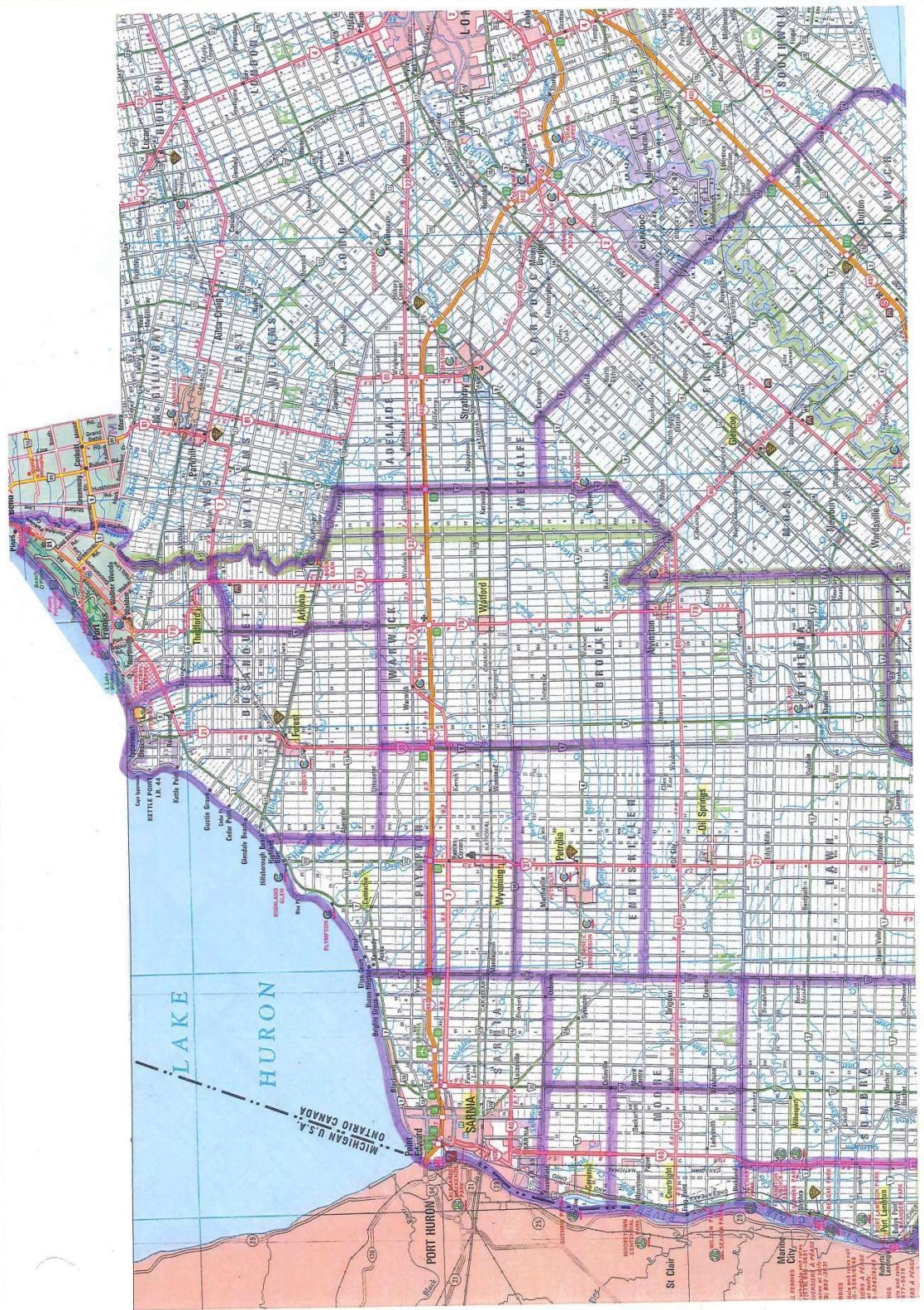
**West** – Starting at Lake Erie, north on Kent County Road 6 to Kent County Road 14, west on Kent County Road 14 to Kent County Road 7, north on Kent County Road 7 and Pump Road to the Thames River, west along the Thames River to Lake St Clair.

### Local Association Postal Codes: (Required for Classification & Select Rosters)

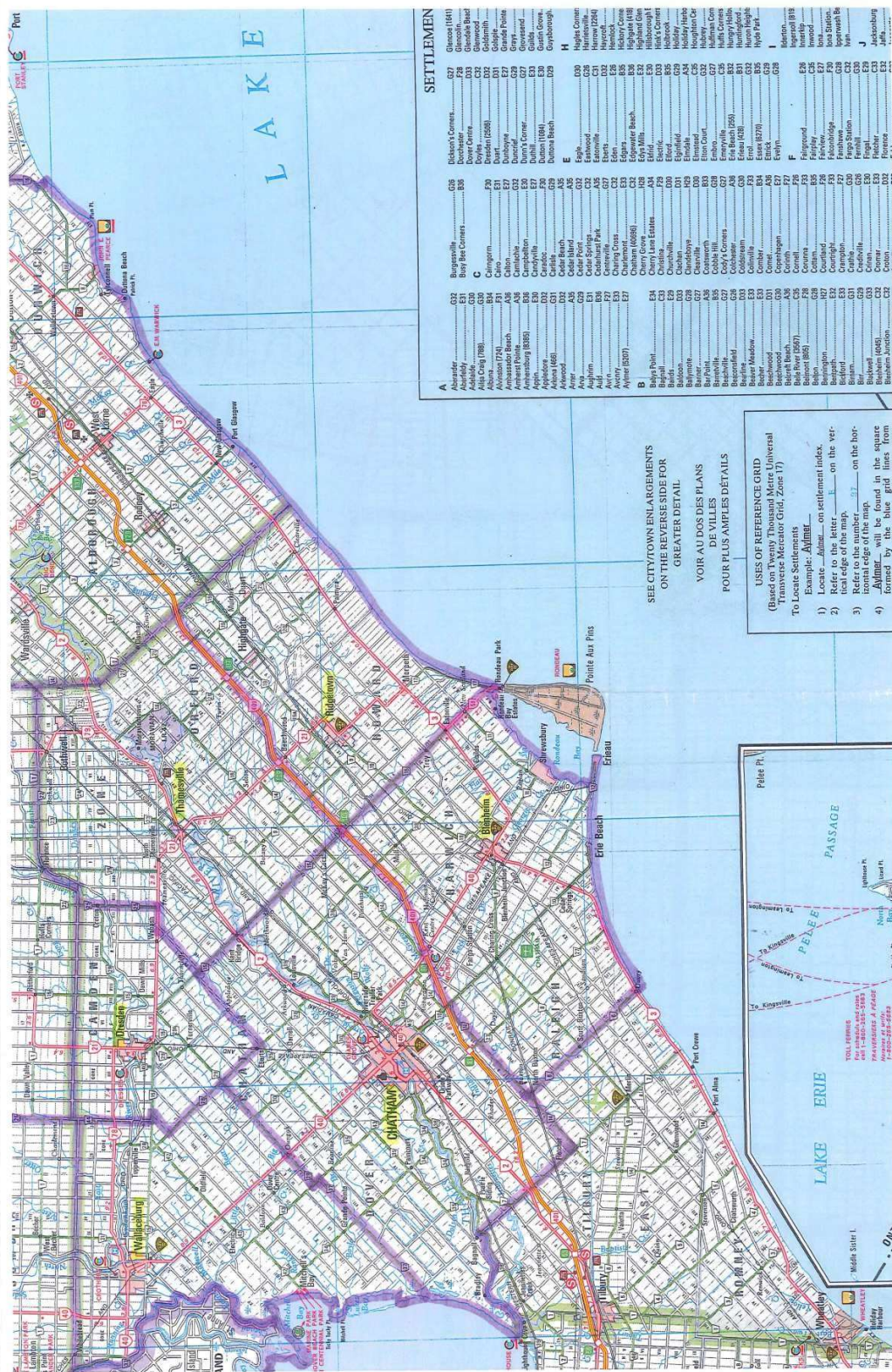
Association	Postal Codes	Household Count 2023
Alvinston	N0N 1A0	591
Blenheim	N0P 1A0	4,069
Brigden	N0N 1B0	
Camlachie	N0N 1E0	1,184
Chatham	N7L, N7M	22,129

Corunna	N0N 1G0	2,632
Courtright	N0N 1H0	930
Dresden	N0P 1M0	1,627
Forest	N0N 1J0	2,996
Petrolia	N0N 1R0	3,094
Port Lambton	N0P 2B0, N0P 2H0, N0P 0B6	1,298
Sarnia	N7S, N7T, N7V, N7W, N7X, N0N 1C0	32,525
Wallaceburg	N8A	6,064
Wyoming	N0N 1T0	1,110









## W.C.B.A. RIVER LEAGUE APPENDIX

### **River League Requirements**

- River League Registration Fee is \$100 per team.

### **Playing Rules- ALL DIVISIONS**

- Playing rules for all divisions in River League play will adhere to the following rulebooks, in the following order of hierarchy rules of play: Baseball Canada, Ontario Baseball Association (OBA), Western Counties constitution, River League Amendments.
- River League playing rule amendments listed below. Any modifications made at the annual coaches meeting to be approved by division convenor and directors for River League.
- All Players in all divisions are to be not only listed on the batting order but also are required to play a field position for a minimum of 2 innings out of the first 4 innings of the game.
- Run cap of 5 runs per inning for all levels, except at U11, where OBA run cap rules apply (currently 4 in 2025).
- Time limit for U9 to U11, to be 1 hour and 30 minutes from the time of first pitch. U13 to U15 to have a time limit of 1 hour and 45 minutes from the time of first pitch.
- Only at 2 outs in the inning will a courtesy runner be allowed for the catcher. Runner to be last recorded out not currently on the base path.
- There will be unlimited substitutions permitted at all levels.

### **Playing Rules- U9 amendments**

- No player will be permitted to score or advance on overthrows.
- In a ball hit to the outfield, the maximum amount of bases that a batter runner can advance is two bases. Current base runners can also only advance two bases on any ball hit.
- Bat rules: metal bats with minus 10 length/weight (drop) differential are permitted

### **Rules- U11 amendments**

- For overthrows, ball to be declared out of bounds, play is considered halted, and 1 base will be awarded to runners.
- No players permitted to steal home, or score on overthrows from the pitcher, or overthrows from the catcher to the pitcher.
- Bat rules: metal bats with minus 10 length/weight (drop) differential are permitted

### **Rules – U13**

- Bat rules: metal bats with minus 10 length/weight (drop) differential are permitted
- There is no open inning in the last inning of any game.

### **Rules – U15-U18 merged Division**

- As of 2025, this division will allow for the expansion to 18U players.

- All players who are 16U and above will be identified on the lineup card.
- All teams will follow bat rules as outlined by the OBA.
  - For 15U players, wood bats and non-wood bats may be used. Only non-wood bats with a length-to-weight differential of -5 or less are permitted.
  - For 16U players and above, only wood, wood composite, and wood-like material bats are permitted. Wood composite bats include wood or bamboo bats with fiberglass sheathing and wood-barrelled bats with composite handles. Wood composite bats do not include any bat that has any metallic component.

### **Overaged Players**

- Except at 9u a maximum of 3 overaged players can be permitted upon approval by the River League chair or committee to play at a lower level.
  - These players cannot pitch or catch.
- At 9u there no overaged players are permitted. Centers in desperate need to ensure they have numbers to form a team can be requested on a case-by-case basis.
- An overaged player is considered maximum of 1 year above the playing age of that level of play.
- All overage players to be presented in the lineup with an asterisk on the lineup card. If a team has multiple overage players, these players must be staggered in the lineup and cannot bat consecutively.
- Any special requests for overage players can be requested but would require approval of the River League committee (ie. 2 years older, more than 3 overage players, etc).

### **OBA/REP Affiliated Players (AP) In Same Division**

- A local OBA/REP team in the same age division can sign a maximum of 3 River League players from the same division laterally.
- Teams must have the OBA boundary rights to the players or a valid release with Western Counties and OBA.
- These players must be made known and approved by the River League to avoid any conflict. They must be identified on the River League roster and on lineup cards at all games.
- AP players are only to be used occasionally in times of need to ensure centers can field teams. If it's reported and proven that a center has abused the AP process the AP player(s) and coach will be ineligible for postseason games or tournaments. The River League committee will meet to review each case reported. Priority is given to the RL team the player is rostered to.

### **Year End Championships**

- All tournaments are run on a voluntary basis.
- If no centre applies to host a year end tournament, no year-end tournament will occur.
- At the discretion of the division convenor, a playdown format can be developed.
- Western Counties will provide medals for 1st and 2nd place for each division for the year end tournaments. In the event there are multiple tournaments running for one division, a 1st place medal will be provided for each tournament.
- Ordering for medals will be done by host.
- All meals, baseballs, umpires and tournament convenor will be supplied by tournament host, and to be covered by team fees.
- Tournament weekend to be determined by host.
- Deadline for hosting to be submitted to the River League Committee by the first Saturday of July.

