

York Region Baseball League

York Region Baseball League Official Rules 2025



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Purpose

The York Region Baseball League (YRBL) formerly known as the York Region Men's Baseball League (YRMBL) is a friendly-competitive wood bat hardball league intended for experienced players from all parts of York Region aged 20 years and older. The YRBL fosters a spirit of healthy competition, commitment, teamwork, and emphasizes the virtues of sportsmanship.

The YRBL promotes parity and continuously strives to aid in the development of Players, Officials, and the overall diversity of our communities and popularity of Baseball in Ontario.

Overview of Rules

Where there may be any discrepancies between league rules and the Official Rules of Baseball, league rules take precedence. 2023 MLB rule changes do not impact current rules of the YRBL.

The league reserves the right to modify the rules at any time before, during, or after the season in order to maintain its principles and objectives.

Official Rules of Baseball - [Official Rules of Baseball](#)

Contacting the League

For any or all matters regarding league rules and policies players and officials may contact the league in the following ways. In order of response time:

Phone - (416)733-3981

Email - info@yrmbL.com

Website Contact Page – www.yrmbL.com > [‘Contact Us’](#)

Roster Management

a. Rosters / Batting Lineup

(i) Roster transactions or trading players between teams is not permitted unless given consent by the league and players involved.

(ii) Managers and Coaches ultimately select the batting lineup and defensive roles. Equal playing time should be a priority whenever possible throughout the course of a season.

(iii) A minimum of 10 players are required in the batting lineup unless fewer players are present.

b. Substitutions

- (i) Free substitutions are permitted with the exception of the Pitcher, therefore players removed from a *defensive* position may retake the same or different position at any point during the game (otherwise known as ‘free substitutions’).
- (ii) You can use pinch hitters or substitute players in your batting lineup, however, the pinch hitter must be selected from the players on your team who are not currently in the batting lineup. For example, if 14 players are present and 10 are in the lineup, the remaining 4 players who are not in the original lineup are your only options for pinch hitters.

c. Players Arriving Late

- (ii) If a player is late, and their team has already completed their first batting cycle, the late player can assume any defensive position but can only bat as a pinch hitter (see rule 4.b.ii for more information).
- (iii) If a player arrives after the first rotation of the batting lineup, they must be removed from the lineup when their turn at-bat comes up. This must be done by notifying the Official Scorekeeper; otherwise, an automatic Out will be recorded for that player.

D. Non-Roster Players

- (i) Non-Roster players must not be registered players, all Non-Roster players are to be inserted into the bottom of the batting order. Non-roster players are not allowed to Pitch and may only be used if your team has fewer than 9 players.
- (ii) A maximum of 4 Non-Roster players per team is allowed per any one game.
- (iii) It is a team’s responsibility to find their own replacement players. Non-Roster player names must be submitted to the league prior to being inserted into the lineup; submit to the league by email to info@yrmbl.com .
- (iv) Non-Roster players must be in appropriate baseball attire such as; cleats, long pants [no jeans or shorts], and appropriate shirt of a team colour. Specific attire can be provided upon prior arrangements with the league.
- (v) In exceptionally rare circumstances and at the discretion of the league; a Non-Roster player may be eligible to play in a game with greater than 9 players present.

E. Player Minimum

- (i) If a team has fewer than 7 players, they can avoid forfeiting the game by using a substitute from the opposing team. This substitute can only play defense, except for the pitcher position, and only with the approval of both the opposing team and the selected player.
- (ii) A team with 6 or fewer players automatically forfeits the game.
- (iii) A team with 7 or more players cannot forfeit or concede the game.

Games

If an Official Scorekeeper is not available, teams are responsible for recording the score and offensive statistics. Additionally, teams must monitor and announce the start and end times of their games, especially when time constraints are a factor, including announcing the final inning. Umpires are not obligated to notify teams when a game has reached its final inning or time limit.

A. Completed Games

- (i) A league game is deemed complete when at least 3 innings have been played, or 2.5 innings if the home team is ahead.

B. Game Length & Tie Games

Tie Games are not permitted during playoffs and will be continued prior to the start of the next/following playoff game or rescheduled for continuation at the next available date.

- (i) All regulation games consist of a maximum of 7 innings.
- (ii) No new inning shall begin after 2 hours and 30 minutes, or 2 hours and 15 minutes in back-to-back games.
- (iii) If an inning cannot be completed, stats will be reverted back to the previous complete inning. In the circumstance where the game would revert to less than 3 completed innings the game will be rescheduled or continued at a later date pending field availability.
- (iv) If a game is tied and has reached its time limit, the game will be deemed a tie.

(v) If teams are tied entering the final inning, the inning will be declared an open inning.

(vi) During the Regular Season, only one extra inning is allowed in Tie games if time allows. During the Playoffs, extra innings are only allowed if the time limit has not been reached.

(vii) The league may modify the start/end time of a game when necessary if scheduling permits.

C. Mercy Rule/Run Maximum

A game may end in a default Tie with all innings and statistics reverted back to zero if Mercy rules and conditions are not met.

(i) The defensive team can only have 8 runs scored against them per inning, with a maximum of 12 runs allowed in the final inning. This mercy rule applies to all runs that cross home plate on the final play, including home runs and any associated runs.

D. Postponed games

(i) Any game that is cancelled (due to field conditions, weather, etc) will be rescheduled to a later date if possible.

(ii) If a game is started but then cancelled before it reaches the minimum length required, it will be rescheduled and continued from the last completed inning at a later date, if possible.

(iii) Due to the nature of field conditions and unpredictability of the weather players and officials will be notified of a cancellation typically within 2 to 24 hours prior to the scheduled start time. Coaches should be the only ones in contact with the league commissioner on field conditions and playability on game day.

E. Pre Game

(i) Players may warm-up on the field prior to the game in order of Visiting Team (no later than 10 minutes before the start time) followed by the Home Team.

(ii) Before the game starts, team managers must give the official scorekeeper a lineup card with the batting order. The lineup card must clearly show which players are designated hitters and which are bench or defensive players.

F. Post Game

- (i) All belongings and garbage in the dugouts and surrounding bench area must be cleaned and removed after the game, *the league is not responsible for lost items*.
- (ii) Scoresheets must be submitted to the league in a timely manner if an Official Scorekeeper is not present during or after the game. Failure to submit a scoresheet may result in a team fine at the discretion of the league.

Batting / Designated Hitters

- (i) If a player is unable to take their at-bat and is not removed from the lineup before their plate appearance, they will be called Out. However, if a player is injured or becomes ill before their at-bat, they must be removed from the batting lineup to avoid an automatic out.
- (ii) Once removed from the batting order a player may only re-enter the game in a defensive role other than Pitcher.
- (iii) Designated Hitters (DH) are permitted if a team has greater than 9 players present.
- (iv) The DH is not required to act as a courtesy runner.
- (v) The DH may assume a defensive role effectively eliminating their role as DH for the remainder of the game.
- (vi) The DH may also be pitch hit from the bench / defensive players.

Running

- (i) If a runner is substituted out, their spot in the batting lineup is taken by the replacement player. The original player may continue to play defense, but they lose their spot in the batting order. Pinch runners are allowed.
- (ii) A Pinch Runner is to be any bench / defensive player who has not currently been added to the line up.
- (iii) To expedite the game, if a catcher gets on base with two outs, they can have a pinch runner. This substitution is called the "2-Out Catcher" rule, and the catcher is considered the last out.
- (iv) A Runner becomes ineligible to play the remainder of the game if they are removed from the basepaths due to injury/illness or other reasons

Pitching

- (i) Pitchers are granted 8 warm-up pitches when entering the game and 6 warm-up pitches between innings at the discretion of the Home Plate Umpire.
- (ii) All players, including pitchers, are permitted to wear compression sleeves on one or both arms. If only wearing one, it may be worn on either the pitching or glove arm. A compression sleeve extending only to the elbow shall have the same restrictions as a compression sleeve extending to the wrist. Pitchers may not wear compression sleeves which are distracting in nature including designs and reflective material. A sports elbow brace may be worn by a pitcher provided it is covered by a sleeve which is not distracting in nature including designs & reflective material.

Managers

Teams consist of 1 or 2 Team Managers and several other member Coaching roles.

- (i) Team Managers are to act as the line of communication between teams and Umpires during a game.
- (ii) Managers are the only team member(s) permitted to make substitutions.
- (iii) Any player in uniform is permitted to act as Base Coach.
- (iv) Managers oversee their team's conduct throughout the season and have occasional off-season administrative tasks. These tasks may include roster management and/or handling Player Waiver Forms, as agreed upon by the team. [Rule 15.(ii) "Player Eligibility"].

Umpires

- (i) All YRBL Umpires must be certified by the Ontario Baseball Association (OBA) and have an active certification of Level 3 or above.
- (ii) In the absence of one Umpire, the game may continue with one Home Plate Umpire.
- (iii) Umpires have complete authority during games. Players may not argue with or contest an umpire's decisions. Any player who disregards this rule risks ejection from the game without warning and potential suspension following a league review. Furthermore, umpires may eject any player they believe is intentionally causing a delay or whose comments toward opposing players result in delays, obstruction, or any form of harassment.

Equipment / Uniform

- (i) Only wood bats or composite bats (with wood barrel) are permitted for play.
- (ii) All baseballs must be OBA approved for recommended use in Senior Baseball. These include “Rawlings ROMLCAN”, “Rawlings ROMC”, “Silverstar Sports REV500”, “Louisville Slugger Canada BB12/BB12-RL”. [Refer to [OBA Constitution](#) Section RP2.6 “APPROVED BASEBALLS”].
- (iii) Mismatching uniforms are not permitted, one MLB replica Team Uniform is included with New Player registration. Teams and/or individual players are responsible for being in acceptable uniform on game day.
- (iv) Acceptable uniform includes team jersey tucked in, team hat, baseball pants, belt, and plastic or metal cleats. A player that is not in proper uniform will not be eligible to take the field.
- (vi) Jewelry must be removed prior to a game and is only permitted to be worn for religious purposes or if deemed non-interfering by the Umpire and/or the league.
- (vii) The league prohibits all cell phone use while on the playing field.

Injury / Illness

- (i) A player's injury or illness status is determined at the combined discretion of the player, league, and/or umpire(s). If the injury is prolonged, proper documentation may be required. Registration fees are non-refundable if a player withdraws due to injury or illness during the season.
- (ii) Strategic feigning of an injury during a game is against league principles and will be subject to a suspension review by the league.

Ejections / Suspensions

- (i) Players who are ejected from a game must vacate the diamond and dugout premises immediately.
- (ii) Players who are ejected twice in the same season are issued a minimum automatic 1 game suspension and a further review by the league.
- (iii) Ejections, suspensions, and actions which breach the league code of conduct on the Player Waiver agreement, before or during the season, can result in banishment from the league and forfeiture of all fees paid.
- (iv) The League carefully reviews all suspensions and potential suspensions. All decisions are

final and cannot be appealed, and are based on a thorough review of all circumstances and details surrounding the situation.

(v) The commissioner, league directors and the designated coaches will handle all communication about enforcing Ejection rule (iv).

Playoffs

A. Eligibility

(i) Players must appear (1 plate appearance or 1 half-inning defensively) in at least half of all Regular Season games. This does not include games missed due to injury/illness.

(ii) Teams with fewer than 9 players present for 7 or more Regular Season games are not eligible for playoffs.

B. Structure

(i) The playoffs format consists of a seeded 3-game series bracket with the losing teams being eliminated and the winning teams advancing to the next round.

The Playoff format consists of several rounds:

First round will be a double elimination bracket based on season performance.

Semis and finals 3 game series

The league reserves the right to amend this playoff structure as the season develops based on several factors.

Player Eligibility

(i) Players who are currently enrolled in Professional or Semi-Professional Baseball are not eligible for play.

(ii) The Player Waiver Agreement must be signed (electronically or paper copy) and submitted before the first game of the season to be eligible for play. (www.yrmb.com > “Documents”).

(ii) Players who are 19 years old or will turn 19 during the same calendar year are eligible.

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Changelog:

2025:

- Updated Hyperlinks throughout.
- Updated year to reflect current year.
- Rosters rules have been updated to reflect the minimum 10 players in the batting lineup.
- Substitution rules have been updated to reflect MLB rules around substitutions.
- Also updated to reflect pitch hitters (4.b.ii) and pinch runners (7,*) which are both legal with some stipulations.
- Updated “2 out catcher rule” to add clarity with the new substitution rules.
- Rule 14,b playoff structure has been updated to reflect the playoff structure that has been adopted since COVID.