



Thames Valley Regional Athletics

RULES OF PLAY: BASEBALL

1.0 In reference to schedule 5, **Organization of Competitive Groupings, Seasons and Practice Restrictions**, league competition will be organized into the following divisions, when schools have teams competing:

London District

Catholic Central
Gabriel Dumont
E.S. Msgr, Bruyere
Holy Cross
John Paul II
LDCSS
Mother Teresa
Notre Dame
Regina Mundi
St. Andre Bessette
St. Mary's
St. Joseph's
St. Thomas Aquinas

TVDSB Central

A. B. Lucas
Central
Clarke Road
H. B. Beal
Medway
Montcalm
North Middlesex
Oakridge
Saunders
Banting
Laurier
South
SDCI
Westminster

TVDSB South East

Arthur Voaden
Central Elgin
College Ave
East Elgin
Glencoe
Glendale
Huron Park
Ingersoll
Lord Dorchester
Parkside
West Elgin
Woodstock

League play, playoff schedules, and advancement to WOSSAA procedures which reflect these divisions will be communicated to the Athletic Directors and coaches as soon as practical, prior to the start of each season.

- 1.1 The placement of teams within these divisions will consider the number of teams participating and the location of the schools participating to create balanced conferences.
- 1.2 League structure will be developed by the Baseball SAC.

2.0 Eligibility

- 2.1 Refer to the TVRA Agreement Schedule 6 as well as the following:
- 2.2 As per OFSAA regulations, a team may register a maximum of 22 participants which includes players and team personnel.
- 2.3 No players may be added after the final regular season game.
- 2.4 A student who has signed with a professional baseball team is INELIGIBLE for TVRA baseball.
- 2.5 A student may only play on one team of the same sport (team or individual) during a school year.
- 2.6 Any coach ejected from a contest shall automatically be suspended until, and including the next TVRA league contest. Coach ejections should be reported by



Thames Valley Regional Athletics

the official on the game sheet and reported to the Convenor, who will in turn report to the Coordinator as per Schedule 8 – Coaching Issues of the Secondary Schools Participation in Sports Agreement.

3.0 Competition

- 3.1 The rules of baseball, as they appear in the OBA rule book shall govern play in the TVRA league with the following **exceptions**:
- 3.2 **REGULAR SEASON PLAY:** in the event of a tie after 7 innings, the teams will place a runner at second base (last player who was out) and play extra innings until a winner is declared (time permitting); if there is no time remaining to continue, teams will end in a tie.
- 3.3 **POST SEASON PLAY:** in the event of a tie after 7 innings, games continue with no time limit, using the tie breaking format described in 3.2 above.
- 3.4 **Pitch Count (Including any pitching for club teams)**
 - (i) 80 pitches- a pitcher may not pitch more than the following limits in a calendar day. If the limit is reached while facing a batter the pitcher may pitch until the earlier of a) the completion of that batter or b) the end of the inning
 - (ii) 60 pitches - If a pitcher throws more than the following limits in a calendar day he/she cannot pitch the next day – the player must have **two nights rest**.
 - (iii) If pitch counts are violated, a minimum one game suspension, or more, (next occurring TVRA games) will be applied to each player involved, at the discretion of the SAC.
- 3.5 All regular season games will be seven (7) innings except when a team is leading by ten (10) or more runs after five (5) innings or four and a half (4½) innings if the home team is ahead. Then, the **mercy rule** will apply and the game is ended. The **mercy rule** remains in effect for playoffs/TVRA WOSSAA Qualifying games.
- 3.6 All scores will be reported with a maximum 10 run scoring differential.
- 3.7 All regular season games will start at 3:00pm unless scheduling does not permit and is at the discretion of the SAC.
- 3.8 All regular season games will be under a strict time limit (curfew). No new inning can begin after 1 hour and 55 minutes from first pitch. The official time of first pitch should be announced by the official(s). Official time will be kept by the official(s).
- 3.9 League play will consist of **a majority of** round robin **play** within each division.
- 3.10 Regular season points are rewarded as follows: 2 points for a win; 1 point for a tie; 0 points for a loss.
- 3.11 Every team will be scheduled an equal amount of home and away games if possible at the discretion of the convenor. Any odd numbered games will be decided on a coin toss.



Thames Valley Regional Athletics

- 3.12 School Responsibilities for each game:
- a) All teams:**
- (i) Supply first aid facilities
 - (ii) Each team to supply two game balls
 - (iii) One official score keeper/pitch counter for each game (a total of one Scorekeeper/pitch counter per game). The Home Team will be responsible for the official scorecard, and the Visiting Team will be responsible for the alternative scorecard AND the official pitch count. Official scorekeepers must sit together outside of team dugouts.
 - (iv) Line up cards must be provided to the officials and opponents prior to the start of all games.
- b) Home team:**
- (i) Must get ALL official **scorecards** signed by coaches from both teams and **all of** the officials presiding. Scores **and pitch count information** must be entered to the TVRA website prior to **7pm** on the day the game takes place. A 10 run maximum run differential shall be used in score reporting.
 - (ii) In the event of an ejection, the home team must report such an incident to the convener as soon as possible and provide copies of lineup cards and official scoresheets.
 - (iii) **Must** retain original game sheets (including: scorecard/pitch count & lineup cards) until the end of the season.
- 3.13 Postponements prior to the game may be due to the following:
- a) poor weather
 - b) dangerous field conditions
 - c) unavailability of officials
- 3.14 Notice of postponements must follow the following procedure:
- a) The convener will inform the athletic director and coaches of teams involved before 12pm of the day of the game.
 - b) Convener must notify officials of postponement.
- 3.15 Postponements during the game. **Note:** *Officials have the power to call a game at any time during heavy rain, lightning or other natural interferences that may jeopardize the safety of everyone.* Referees and coaches are to be aware of the **OPHEA** guidelines regarding inclement weather. Specifically, **Appendix F** outlines the safety protocol that needs to be followed when lightning/thunder is seen and/or heard.
- a) If a game is called before the completion of three innings (or the bottom of the third if the home team is behind), it may be considered a postponed game and the game may be rescheduled and replayed from the start with no score to carry over from the postponed game.
 - b) If a game has completed three innings (or the top of the third inning if the home team is ahead), the score will stand as final.
- 3.16 If a game needs to be changed for any reason other than postponement, a change of schedule form must be filled out and sent to the convener for approval.



Thames Valley Regional Athletics

4.0 Uniforms and Equipment

- 4.1 All competitors are expected to dress in uniforms that are neat, clean and which maintain the integrity of the school's/Association's name, colours and logos. All uniforms must have numbers on the back of the uniform shirt. No sport club insignia on uniforms shall be permitted. A sport club is defined as a community, provincially or nationally based organization whose primary purpose is participation in organized competition in single or multi-sport programs.
- 4.2 Student-athletes must remain fully clothed in an appropriate team uniform in the competition area AND use designated changing rooms to change to and from competitive attire.
- 4.3 Coaches must be uniformly dressed in team colours - no shorts.
- 4.4 While coaching 1st and 3rd bases, coaches are encouraged to wear a helmet, but any players coaching bases must wear a helmet (no ear flaps required).
- 4.5 All players and coaches must wear their official team cap.

5.0 Ties in League Standings

- 5.1 Should ties occur between teams, division standings will be decided according to the following priorities:
 - a) The team record against each other
 - b) Games won in league play
 - c) Least runs scored against
 - d) Run differential
 - e) Most runs scored
 - f) Coin toss

Note: When a multiple tie occurs and is only partially resolved, the remaining ties will be resolved by continuing on with the remaining tie-breaking priorities until all (a-e) priorities have been exhausted. Then and only then will the remaining tied teams return to priority number 1 and proceed through the order again.

6.0 Championship Categories and Playoff Procedures

- 6.1 League champions will be declared in each of the three TVRA Divisions.
- 6.2 All playoff games will be seven (7) innings **with no time limit**. In the event of a tie after 7 innings, extra innings **will be played until a winner is declared**.
International tie break rules will apply.
- 6.3 Following regular season play, convenors will design playoffs that:
 - a) At least 50% of the teams will be involved in post season play.
 - b) The higher seeded team will be designated the home team.
 - c) Championship final will be played at a neutral site or a set site before the season begins.

7.0 Advancement to WOSSAA, OFSAA

- 7.1 **To be determined on an annual basis dependent on participating schools from TVRA and Huron-Perth.**



Thames Valley Regional Athletics

8.0 Awards

- 8.1 TVDSB Boys Central Baseball Champions (9x12 plaque)
- TVDSB Boys South East Baseball Champions (9x12 plaque)
- TVDSB Boys LDA Baseball Champions (9x12 plaque)

9.0 Convenor Responsibilities

a) As outlined in the TVRA Sports Agreement section 5.6 and schedules 3 through 8.

Convenor Coverage

b) There is one day of coverage for convening and planning in each baseball conference - TVDSB Central, TVDSB South East and LDA.