



PREMIER BASEBALL LEAGUE OF ONTARIO

I. PART ONE

II. REVISED BYLAWS, Rules and Regulations Governing the 2023 Season

The Premier Baseball League of Ontario (PBLO) is the only High Performance league sanctioned by Baseball Ontario, and the league plays its games under **Major League Professional Baseball rules**. These rules are stated in the latest edition of the Official Baseball Rules as published by Major League Baseball. There are certain exceptions, which are spelled out herein. The PBLO Board of Governors reserves the right to add, change, remove or modify in any way and at any time the following rules and regulations.

1. Governing Principles:

The PBLO (“the League”) is designed to provide an opportunity for high performance athletes to play baseball at the highest level for their age in Ontario.

The League and its members will be governed by four fundamental principles: integrity; fiscal responsibility; sportsmanship; and excellence.

a. Integrity:

i. The League and its member teams shall operate with integrity. Integrity in this context includes open and honest communication, a desire to further the goals of the athletes first and foremost, keeping one’s word and making a commitment to Player and League development. Integrity also means accurately recording and presenting true dates of birth and proper graduation years on rosters used in League play or in any Tournament in which a League member team participates.

b. Fiscal Responsibility:

i. The League and each member team will pay their respective bills in their entirety and on time. While legitimate disputes with suppliers may rise from time-to-time, persistent, unjustified non-payment in full of legitimate debts owing by any team will constitute grounds for expulsion from the League. The League and its member teams will produce/create whatever they say they will for monies raised or collected, for example, if money is raised to produce a Yearbook, to finance a trip for a team or to pay for a training program such monies will be expended for that purpose unless a majority vote of the providers of those funds agree to change the original purpose. The League and its members will deliver on their respective commitments.

c. Sportsmanship:

i. The League is characterized by its high calibre of play and its exemplary personal conduct both on and off the field of play. Coaching staffs will be accountable to the League for their behaviour, the conduct of their teams in general and their deportment as a team. Good sportsmanship must be consistently demonstrated in League play or in Tournaments in which League members participate.

ii. PBLO players, coaches and their fans are expected to always behave in an atmosphere of good sportsmanship on and off the playing field. Taunting, foul language, threats, making personal or derogatory statements about other players, teams, programs or personnel or any other inappropriate actions are considered poor sportsmanship. It is the responsibility of Team Management to ensure that its' players, coaches, and fans be always under control. PBLO teams are encouraged to vocally support their own players and teams and to specifically avoid directing any comments toward the opposition or the umpires.

d. Excellence:

i. The League is designed for high performance players who are seeking to improve their skills to enable them to move on to College or Professional baseball. Member teams shall be committed to player development and to placing a competitive team on the field.

2 Disciplinary Action:

An umpire must file a game report with the Commissioner and or the league secretary dealing with any ejection(s) within 72 hours of such ejection(s). A member Team who has had a player(s) or coach(s) ejected shall notify the Commissioner in writing within 72 hours of such ejection(s). It is the responsibility of the host team to hire umpires who will agree to provide a written report (email) to the league in the event of an ejection or other incident where discipline could be considered.

a. Player Ejections:

i. A game-related ejection with no physical contact with an umpire, no fighting, and no intent to injure another player and no ongoing verbal abuse of an umpire or opponent in the sole discretion of the umpire shall result in NO FURTHER suspension on the first occasion of the season; a second ejection of this nature by the same player in the same season shall bring a three (3) game suspension and a review by the Sanctions Committee. A third ejection of this type by the same player in the same season shall bring a ten (10) game suspension for the player, a two (2) game suspension for the

team's Manager and a review by the Sanctions Committee.

- ii. A game related ejection-involving abuse of an umpire, (contact or ongoing verbal abuse) fighting or intent to injure as solely determined by the umpire will be automatically reviewed by the Sanctions Committee and will carry with it an automatic three (3) game suspension, when upheld. iv.
- iii. A non-game related ejection shall be referred to the Sanctions Committee for review.
- iv. A suspended player is ineligible to play in any League game or League sanctioned Tournament until he serves his complete suspension. Use of a suspended player in a game will cause that players' team to forfeit such game(s), be penalized \$100 and may be subject to review by the Sanctions Committee.
- v. Any review by the Sanctions Committee may result in more severe penalties being imposed.

b. Coach Ejections:

Any Coach ejected from a game shall be subject to the following minimum sanctions:

- i. Ejection for arguing calls without undue verbal abuse or contact will result in no additional suspension on the first occasion in a season. A second ejection for this offense by the same coach in the same season will result in an automatic suspension of one game. A third ejection for this offense by the same coach in the same season will result in a Sanctions Committee review
- ii. Undue verbal abuse of an umpire beyond disputing a call will result in an automatic next game suspension and a review by the Sanction Committee
- iii. Physical abuse of an umpire (beyond incidental contact) shall result in ten (10) Games for the first offense and two (2) years for the second Offense.
- iv. Other ejections are at the discretion of the Sanctions Committee
- v. A Coach serving a suspension shall not be present in the park before, during or after the game(s) and shall have no contact, directly or indirectly with any team member during the game. Penalty for breaching this provision is forfeiture of game(s) and doubling of the suspension penalty.
- vi. Any review by the Sanctions Committee may result in more severe penalties being imposed.

c. Sanctions Committee:

i. Immediately upon receiving a report detailing a suspension, the Commissioner shall convene a Sanctions Committee meeting to determine the appropriate sanction to be imposed.

ii. The Sanctions Committee shall be composed of a Board member not associated with the teams involved in the game in which the ejections occurred. The Sanctions Committee shall hear representation by Conference Telephone call from each team and the umpire(s) involved with the ejections and shall decide as soon as possible. The Commissioner shall notify the team whose player(s) and/or coaches were involved with a copy to each Board member.

4. Player Eligibility:

a. 18U:

Eighteen (18) year old or younger and will not reach the age of 19 years before May 1st of the playing season year

b. 17U

Seventeen (17) or younger and will not reach the age of 18 years before May 1st of the playing season year.

c. 16U:

Sixteen (16) years old or younger and will not reach the age of 17 years before May 1st of the playing season year.

d. 15U:

Fifteen 15 years of age or younger and will not reach the age of 16 by May 1st of the playing season year.

e.14U:

Fourteen (14) years of age or younger and will not reach the age of 15 by May 1st of the playing season year.

f. A PBLO team designated as 15U or 14U may have on its roster one 13U player

5. Team Rosters & On Field Personnel:

- a. Only players, coaches and managers, whose names are submitted and approved on team's roster as filed with the league, can play, participate, or appear in scheduled games for that team. Any changes of managers or coaches during the season must first be communicated electronically to the Commissioner, and these persons cannot participate until official approval is received.
- b. A player shall appear on ONLY ONE PBLO roster during the same season, unless the Board of Governors has approved extraordinary circumstances and that doing so is not designed to create a competitive advantage.
- c. Any game played with non-rostered players, managers, or coaches, will result in an automatic forfeiture of each game in which an illegal person participated. Violating player eligibility rules can result in teams, coaches and managers being expelled from the PBLO. In addition, there will be an automatic fine of \$200.00 assessed to teams using illegal players, managers, or coaches, for each game in which they played or participated.
- d. All disputes concerning a player's eligibility are to be investigated by the Commissioner, and if not resolved, finalized by the PBLO Board of Governors whose decision is final.
- e. All changes to the approved roster must be communicated electronically to the Commissioner with a copy to the league or Secretary in advance of the game.
- f. All PBLO TEAM preliminary rosters must be submitted electronically to the Commissioner with a copy to the League Secretary by **September 30th of the fall season**. The spring season rosters must be submitted 72 hours before the start of the team's first spring season PBLO game. Teams must keep on file and make available to the league when required proof of age, liability waivers, field permits and other required documentation. Failure to comply may result in that team being suspended from play in the PBLO until the documentation is provided. Much of this documentation is required to ensure League insurance coverage is in effect
- g. Roster additions and deletions may be made by **PBLO teams up to May 22nd** by electronically submitting a revised team roster to the League Secretary and League Commissioner. Request for changes between May 22 and the end of the playoffs must be submitted first to the Commissioner with a copy to the Secretary along with a brief explanation for the request.

h. The Board of Governors reserves the right to request additional proof of a player's age. All disputes concerning a player's age are to be investigated by the Commissioner, and if not resolved, settled by the PBLO Board of Governors whose decision is final.

i. PBLO teams agree not to sign, negotiate with or recruit OBA players during the two-week period in advance of the start of the OBA eliminations and continuing until the player's team has been eliminated from the OBA eliminations. If a player's team has not entered the OBA eliminations PBLO teams are not required to observe this moratorium

j. The PBLO annual season is August 1st through to July 30th of the following year. However, it is recognized that some PBLO teams play their final tournaments in early August

k. Call-ups on the submitted and approved 14U, 15U, and 16U, roster of a PBLO organization are eligible for any 18U game (including games played by a "17U team") provided the player is in good standing (no need to communicate in writing to the commissioner,) as often as it is needed on an emergency basis due to an injury etc. If a PBLO organization has both a 17U team and an 18U team, a younger player can only be called up by ONE of the older teams for league play. The same player may not play for both the 17U and 18U teams in PBLO play in the same season.

6. Recruiting:

The PBLO discourages the active solicitation of players from other PBLO Teams. Any illegal recruiting should be reported to the Commissioner.

a. Recruiting Players:

Members are expected to promote the merits of their program rather than disparaging other PBLO programs.

b. Recruitment of League Players:

Provided all financial commitments to a player's current PBLO team have been met, players become free agents at the end of each season, able to move from team to team, as they desire. Players are "free agents" on August 1st of each season. Members are prohibited from initiating contact or actively recruiting a player with another PBLO team either directly or indirectly. If a player or his parent initiates the contact a PBLO team may enter discussions/negotiations with the player AFTER Aug 1st

c. Penalty:

The penalty for breach of these recruiting provisions shall be \$200.00 on the first offense, \$300.00 for each subsequent offense and such other sanctions as the Commissioner may determine in a case.

7. Team Obligations:

- a. All teams entering PBLO competition must have a home field(s). This may include holding permits for community fields covering the dates required during the official season. Failure to comply may result in that team's suspension from playing within the PBLO's regular season schedule and include a fine of \$100.
- b. All league registration fees, and other team charges must be **paid in full by April 30st** of the upcoming playing season.
- c. Home teams, regardless of whether their team wins or not, must call or e-mail the game scores to their Division Coordinator within 24 hours after the game or games have been played. Also, teams must notify Division Coordinators within 24 hours of any game that was postponed or suspended. Failing to report LEAGUE game scores will result in sanctions. Game score discrepancy will be backed up using Game Changer.
- d. Any manager or coach purposely reporting erroneous game scores will be subject to fines, suspensions, or both.
- e. Each club is responsible for paying their umpires by whatever agreement that has been worked out between the club and umpire body.
- f. No team owing delinquent fees to the PBLO will be allowed to play league or playoff games.
- g. Teams must play their games using the approved PBLO baseballs, and approved lineup cards including the player's position, first and last name and jersey number.
- h. All teams must play and if necessary, make-up all their scheduled games. The Commissioner must approve any exceptions to this rule. Failure to comply may result in fines and impact a member's right to enter future teams in PBLO competition. Best efforts are to be made to play and/or make up scheduled games. Due to travel requirements, field availability, weather, or other scheduled commitments, etc. it may prove too difficult to reschedule the game/games for such area teams as Tecumseh, Ottawa, or Sudbury. In these cases, the executive of the PBLO will make determined rulings that will stand in these types of cases.

i. Prior to the beginning of each game, managers will exchange line ups and supply a copy for the home plate umpire and the opposing team. Line-up must include player's first and last name, position, and uniform number.

j. All scheduled games must be played. A team's failure to complete their scheduled games will impact on the ability to re-enter future teams in PBLO competition and loss of all bond monies unless team is involved in a PBLO sanctioned tournament.

k. Teams that travel from or to Ottawa/Windsor and where overnight travel is required the visiting team are to be considered visiting teams for the purpose of paying for fields/umpires and supplying balls. This means that the host team will pay for the field/umpires and supply the balls for all the games. As far as home/away, the games will be alternated. When two visiting clubs are playing at a visiting diamond, each visiting team shall supply three (3) baseballs each to start the game. Any further need would be split evenly by each team.

8. Uniforms and Equipment:

a. All players, managers and coaches shall be on the field during games in full uniform (see section 1.11 of Official Baseball Rules). This includes hats, pants, shirts, and socks of the same type and colour. Teams should try to have complete uniforms prior to May 1st. First offence violators of the uniform rule will automatically be given a warning and must be reported. Second offence fines and/or suspensions will be determined by the Sanctions Committee.

b. All field managers and coaches must be in full uniform to be allowed to coach on the field, including trips to the pitcher's mound. If a coach or manager is not in uniform, he must limit himself to the dugout and is not permitted on the playing field during a game. Only managers or coaches whose names appear on a team's roster are allowed to coach on the field during games. Coaches on the roster of another team in the same PBLO organization may coach if they are not under suspension

c. All disputes concerning uniform rules are to be investigated by the Commissioner and if not resolved, decided by the Board of Governors and such Board decisions are final.

9. Baseball Bat Specifications:

Wood bats, non-wood bats and Metal BBCORR -3 may be used. Non-wood bats with a length-to-weight differential of -3 or less are permitted. For all levels of play, wood, Metal BBCORR -3, 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.

10. The Schedule:

- a.** All scheduled games must be played regardless of other commitments. All games must take precedence over all other games scheduled by other leagues a team might be registered in.
- b.** Teams who have other scheduling commitments DURING THE PBLO SEASON must file those with the Commissioner prior to March 1st.
- c.** All games must be played as scheduled. No changes are permitted without the permission of the Commissioner. If a scheduled game is not played, (except for weather related reasons) it is the responsibility of the team that caused the conflict to reschedule. The PBLO is not responsible for rescheduling these games. Games not played will be treated as forfeits and the team will be responsible for all forfeit fees that are applicable.
- d.** Any changes to official game starting time and/or game site require the home team manager or coaches to notify the visiting team manager and/or coaches, the division coordinator and umpire association within 48 hours.
- e.** All disputes concerning team schedules are to be settled by the Commissioner and such rulings are final.
- f.** In the event a team requests cancellation of a game due to unusual circumstances, the Sanctions Committee will determine if a forfeiture fee will be assessed. The loss of game will be used in calculation of winning percentage for standings.

11. Postponed Games:

- a.** The only acceptable reasons for not playing a game would be weather related or unplayable field conditions. The decision to postpone a game because of weather is as follows:
 - At least three hours before game time, both team managers agree to a weather postponement by telephone and advise all umpires and players involved.
 - Managers, coaches, and umpires meet at game site and determine that either the field conditions or weather will prevent the game from being played. The decision of umpires at game sites in this regard is final.
- b.** Umpires shall determine when to postpone a game already started because of rain, field conditions (including darkness) or lighting. The decision of umpires at game sites in this regard is final.
- c.** The host team is responsible for rescheduling postponed games. They must communicate with their opponent, the division coordinator and umpire association in the rescheduling process.

- d. One or both team's failure to comply with rescheduled game rules will be subject to a forfeit of such games, a fine, loss of game, and the game will count in the calculation of winning percentage in the standings.
- e. A game is considered an "official game" provided the losing team has had a minimum of five innings at bat for seven or nine inning games.

12. Playing Rules:

- a. Each Team in each age division operating under the auspices of PBLO shall operate their team in accordance with the playing rules of the PBLO.
- b. Any manger, coach or player who uses unsportsmanlike conduct before, during or just after a game (as per section 4.06 of Official Major League Rule Book) shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Sanctions Committee.
- c. Teams who repeatedly cannot control parents or spectators at their games shall automatically forfeit the remainder of their season and will not be reinstated until the team can guarantee such parents or spectators will not be present at any of their future games.
- d. The following rule pertains to teams who have more than one team in an age Division. A player on a 17U or 18U roster may only play for one team in the PBLO. The 17U teams play in the 18U division and therefore they would technically be competitors. They are not eligible to play (In PBLO games) for "the other" team. The player can only play for the team which has him on the official PBLO roster Should that player appear in a League game for another team, it will result in the forfeit of games. The League may apply additional fines or sanctions to the offending program.
- e. A mercy rule will apply to all PBLO games. The game will end if the losing team is behind by 10 runs or more and has batted a minimum of 5 times

f. Tie Breaking Format:

At 18U and below, the following extra inning procedure will be followed when the game is tied at the end of regulation play for all PBLO games, and play-offs.

Each team will begin the extra inning (and any subsequent necessary extra innings with a player on first and second, no outs.

- a) The placement of runners of the extra inning or any subsequent innings will be determined by how the previous inning ended.
 - i. The hitter with the last plate appearance in the previous inning will be placed at first (1st) base.
 - ii. The hitter with the second to last plate appearance in the previous inning will be placed at second base.

- b) The traditional system of the visiting team hitting in the top of the inning and the home team hitting in the bottom of the inning will remain in effect until a winner is determined.
- c) All other official baseball rules remain in effect during extra innings.
Teams will go to a tiebreaker at the completion of 7 innings in a 7-inning game and after 9 innings for a scheduled 9 inning game

13. Tobacco Products:

- a. PBLO players, managers and coaches are not permitted to use tobacco products at any time while on the grounds of a playing field, whether on the playing field, in the dugout, in the stands, on a bench or in the bullpen
- b. Any offending player will be advised by the umpire at the end of the inning in the presence of that players coach, that the player is ejected for the balance of the game.
- c. Any offending manager or coach will be advised by the umpire at the end of the inning, that the coach/manager is ejected for the remainder of the game.
- d. It is the intention that tobacco related ejections be conducted discreetly by the umpire at the end of an inning.

14. Protests:

- a. All protests must be lodged in accordance with MLB baseball rules and regulations.
- b. Only violations of rules and regulations will be considered. Umpire judgment calls are not grounds for protest.
- c. A team manager must advise the umpires if he will be playing the remainder of a game under protest. Such advisement must be made before play continues and the next ball is pitched. The umpire will advise the opposing manager and sign both teams' score books.
- d. Protests must be lodged by email with the Commissioner within 24 hours of the game in question. A copy of the score book page must be included if it is required to settle the protest in question. This written protest must detail the grounds under which the outcome of the game is protested. All protested games require a \$100.00 protest fee. This fee is to be made payable to the PBLO and sent to the Treasurer's address. This fee will be returned if the protest is upheld.
- e. All decisions shall be made by the Commissioner, and they are final and not appealable.

15. Suspensions and Reinstatements:

- a. Any player, coach or manager who is suspended from the League for any period, must submit a written request to the League for readmission. Such request would need approval from the Board of Governors. The Board has a right to continue suspension indefinitely. This determination shall be at the sole discretion of the Board of Governors. This does not apply to short term suspensions resulting from ejections.

16. Fines & Forfeited Games:

- a. All forfeited games without just cause will automatically count as a loss to the forfeiting team and a win for the opponent.
- b. A forfeit fee of \$100.00 will be levied against the team forfeiting a game without just cause and such team will be liable for paying both umpires their full fees.
- c. A team that forfeits a game without just cause on two (2) separate occasions may be expelled from the League and result in the loss of their Bond.
- d. Forfeit fees (without just cause) must be paid before a team is permitted to continue playing additional PBLO baseball games.
- e. Any unpaid fees and/or fines shall be deducted from the Franchise Bond.
- f. Fees and/or fines that have been deducted from the Franchise Bond must be replaced within 2 weeks...
- g. Any refusal to conform to PBLO rules or a wilful attempt to circumvent and violate the league's rules and regulations can result in an individual or team being suspended from league activities for a period determined by the PBLO Board of Governors.
- h. If a team reports to a game site with less than nine (9) players, there shall be an automatic suspension of the game's start for a period of not more than twenty (20) minutes to allow for the arrival of additional players. If after twenty (20) minutes the team still has fewer than 9 players, the team shall forfeit the game. Forfeiting manager will pay both umpires' one game fee each. If forfeiture occurs at the first game of a doubleheader, team shall forfeit both games, unless the forfeiting manager decides to wait for players for the second game. An additional 20-minute wait for the second game will be allowed. If after the second 20 minutes the team still has fewer than 9 players, the forfeiting manager will be liable for umpire fees for both games.
- i. At the discretion of the non-forfeiting team which has ten (10) or more players at game site, non-forfeited team players can be placed on the forfeited team to provide the team with nine (9) players for the purpose of playing a game or games. This game or games shall be deemed a scrimmage. These games shall not count in the league standings and will not

alter the day's forfeiture situation. No games shall be played with less than nine (9) players on each team. Umpires are obligated to do game without extra compensation. This game shall not exceed two (2) hours or five innings.

17. Playing on Teams or Against Teams Outside Of the PBLO

a. It is essential to the league that all PBLO players remain with their respective teams to play in regional, national, and international tournaments including OFSAA supported by PBLO and its affiliates. Without being granted special permission by the Governors, it is a violation of PBLO regulations for a player to join any non-PBLO team for the purpose of playing in tournament or game competition, except for the Ontario Youth Team, a Baseball Canada sponsored team, the players home OBA club or the player's own high school team. Any PBLO team registered as a "residence team" which also plays an OBA schedule may do so providing priority is given to the PBLO schedule.

b. PBLO Teams are strongly discouraged from playing teams not recognized by the OBA within the province of Ontario between the start of the PBLO season and the end of the PBLO playoffs. The only exception would be the meeting of a non-recognized team that is scheduled in an Ontario tournament the PBLO team has entered.

c. Teams leaving the province to compete in games and tournaments must apply for approval with both the PBLO secretary/registrar and the OBA Travel co-ordinator at least four weeks prior to the event. THIS IS NECESSARY to make sure your insurance is in force while outside the province.

PART TWO:

PBLO Game Day protocol

Game Day clarifications and consistency:

1. The Host team shall communicate by email to the travelling team in advance of the playing weekend (i.e., Friday latest) any field limitations (i.e., total field booking time/6 hour slots recommended for DH; time available (if any) for pre-game warm-up/ins and outs etc.; along with any limitations re timing; lights etc.) so that both teams have the same understanding re how the double header will play out.
2. Subject to field booking/time limits, play out ties as follows: Rule 12 sub-section (f)
 - 7 inning games or 9 innings, games when tied at end of game length teams go straight to the tie breaking rules as determined by the league
 - In all cases, subject to the field booking time limitations, the goal is to play the game to conclusion, rather than “quit early with a tie”.
3. Mercy rule: 10 runs after 5 or any inning after 5 complete.
4. **An EH (Extra Hitter) may be used at all levels (14U, 15U, 16U & 18U but is team optional).**
5. No re-entry of players is permitted in PBLO scheduled games.
6. Missed games are to be re-scheduled: All teams are to give their best efforts to re-schedule when required.
7. Line-up cards: must list first and last names along with jersey number and be exchanged at home plate prior to each game.
8. During league play (i.e., prior to playoffs):
 - Players cannot “play down” (e.g., ROSTERED 18U cannot play 17U or lower even if age eligible).
 - Players who are called up are then affiliated with that specific team for future call ups (e.g. 16U called up to 18U, same player cannot later be called up to 17U).
 - A player cannot be called up on a regular basis...i.e., a player cannot be playing on two rosters during the season

9. Prior to playoffs, PBLO exec will distribute “name only” rosters for all teams to each team, so that Line-up cards can be compared with official rosters.
- No call ups or playing down in Playoffs. Player must only play for the team he is rostered on as of May 22, of playing season.
10. No players coaching bases (unless extenuating circumstances of only 1 team coach due to ejections).
11. Only one non-uniform person (e.g., trainer) allowed in the dugout in any game.
12. Players and coaches are to be in the same uniforms. Jerseys tucked in. Suitable league image to be always maintained.
13. The following baseballs may be used in PBLO Play:

Make	Model	Manufacturer Recommended Use
Rawlings	ROMLCAN	15U & up
	ROMC	15U & up
Louisville	BB12-RL	15U & up

14. PBLO league play-offs will be scheduled for the weekend prior to the Civic long weekend in August.
15. League play will begin on the first weekend of May each playing season and end on the last weekend in June of the playing season.
- 16. 18U-17U Pre-Game Protocols:**
Host teams are to schedule on field Batting Practice for both teams. Infield and Outfield warmups are also to be scheduled for both teams.
- 17. 16U Pre-Game Protocols:**
Host teams are to schedule on field or batting cage practice for both teams. Infield and Outfield warmups are also to be scheduled for both teams.

18. 15U/14U Pre-Game Protocols:

Host teams are to schedule on field or batting cage practice for both teams. Infield and Outfield warmups are also to be scheduled for both teams

19. Other Baseball Rules:

If there is no reference to a rule in these pages then refer to MLB Baseball Rules for clarification. Exceptions are base size, no pitch clock.