



# BASEBALL NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Junior & Senior

Rules and Regulations

June 2023

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## **TEAM ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA & GUIDELINES**

Under Baseball Newfoundland and Labrador's mandate, the promotion and growth of baseball is paramount at all times. When a player graduates from the Minor baseball system, Baseball NL is committed to Active for Life principles and practices that give players of all ages the opportunity to play well into their adult lives.

Baseball NL also wishes to establish rules and regulations around the entry of teams at the Junior and Senior level. In establishing these regulations, it is our hope that this will promote long term growth and involvement of teams at the Junior and Senior level, without destroying the integrity of Junior and Senior baseball in the province.

### **GENERAL GUIDELINES:**

Any team that has not participated in the Junior and/or Senior division for five (5) consecutive years is considered a new team (regardless of past historical involvement) and must apply to Baseball NL to enter a team in either division. In submitting the application, the following criteria **must** be followed:

1. Any new team **must** notify Baseball NL of its intentions, desires and reasoning for its application via email to the Baseball NL Executive Director and President. A formally submitted letter outlining these intentions, desires and reasoning is preferred and recommended.
2. Any new team **must** clearly demonstrate that it is their intention to continue the growth and development of baseball in the area;
3. Any new team **must** present, as part of its application process, a list of persons that will serve as the team's delegates (for voting purposes at Baseball NL Meetings), as well as a coaching staff for Provincial play that must include a Head Coach and a minimum of one (1) Assistant Coach.
4. Any new team **must** submit a preliminary roster consisting of no less than 12 players. A preliminary roster must have 70% of its players from the city/town in which they are representing based on the player eligibility requirements found on page 10.
5. The team **must** have a field in its hometown that meets Baseball NL specifications for approved Junior/Senior baseball fields. If necessary, Baseball NL will perform a site visit to inspect the field and determine its useability for Junior/Senior baseball. While the field itself will be of most priority, other considerations for a potential host site will include amenities such as washrooms, changerooms, lights, canteen/concessions, auxiliary buildings, etc.

**More information on field requirements can be found on page 11 of this document.**

If a team feels they meet each of the five (5) criteria as outlined above, submissions of consideration can be sent to the Baseball NL Junior/Senior Committee. As part of the submission process, a **non-refundable** \$150 application fee must accompany the application. The Baseball

## **BASEBALL NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR**

NL Junior/Senior Committee will review all submissions and offer recommendations to the Baseball NL Executive for each team on a case-by-case basis.

Once reviewed by the Executive, the applying team will be notified of the decision. All decisions are final and Baseball NL will not entertain an appeal of the decision.

If a team's application is successful, that team will be permitted to participate in the Junior or Senior Provincial Championship that is closest to their application being approved.

The deadline for submission of a new team or association in junior or senior baseball is the last Friday of April.

## **ROSTER DEADLINES & FINES**

### **Junior Rosters**

Initial rosters must be submitted to Baseball NL offices by midnight on the Friday three weeks before the tournament begins. The rosters will then be released on the Friday two weeks before the tournament begins to allow for player eligibility to be confirmed. Once rosters are released, teams will have up to 48 hours before the start of the tournament to make any changes to their roster that they wish. Once the tournament is 48 hours away from beginning, all rosters freeze and no other changes are permitted.

### **Senior Rosters**

Initial rosters must be submitted to Baseball NL offices by midnight on the Friday three weeks before the tournament begins. The rosters will then be released on the Friday two weeks before the tournament begins to allow for player eligibility to be confirmed. Once rosters are released, teams will have up to 48 hours before the start of the tournament to make any changes to their roster that they wish. Once the tournament is 48 hours away from beginning, all rosters freeze and no other changes are permitted.

### **Fines**

Any team that does not meet the deadline for roster submission for Junior or Senior rosters will be subject to a \$500 fine that must be paid in advance of the respective tournament for which the fine was issued.

## TOURNAMENT FORMAT

### Junior

1. Tournament format will mirror that of the minor division with respect to the format depending on the number of teams that are entered.
2. The order of games will, unlike Minor, take other factors into consideration. Those factors can include (but are not limited to):
  - a. The host location of the tournament;
  - b. The hometown of the teams that are participating;
  - c. The region of the province where the teams are coming from;
  - d. Travel considerations for traveling teams. This **does not** mean Baseball NL will entertain schedule requests due to specific team-related concerns, but it does mean Baseball NL will consider the distance in which teams are traveling when creating schedules.

### Senior

1. The format for Senior Baseball is as follows:
  - a. All registered Senior teams will play in the 2023 Senior Finals Qualification Weekend, to be held on the same weekend as the Senior B is traditionally held.
  - b. Teams will play a round robin tournament with no Championship game. The top two teams after the round robin tournament will advance to the Senior A Finals, to be held on the first weekend in August. Any ties in the standings will be broken using Baseball NL and Baseball Canada tie-breaking procedures
  - c. The Senior A Finals will be a one-weekend, best-of-five series.
  - d. The host for the 2023 Senior A Finals will be the #1 ranked team from the 2023 Senior Finals Qualification Weekend.

## **ROSTER COMPOSITION**

### **Junior**

1. The roster size for junior baseball teams is set at a maximum of **21 players** per team with a minimum of 70% having to be from the city/town in which they are representing based on the player eligibility requirements found on page 10.
2. A junior player, if asked to play with their home centre and refuses, **forfeits their right to play provincial junior baseball for that season** unless they are released by their home centre to play for another centre. Any junior player that refuses to play with their home centre is still the property of their home centre the following year.
3. Historical links for Junior Players
  - a. All historical links established in previous years **do not** carry forward. This includes junior players that have previously played for other associations in the junior division, as well as junior players that have previously played for other associations in the senior division.
  - b. At the junior level, players must play for their home centre first. If they are not selected to play for their home centre, they can then move to another centre. The following season, that player **must** return to their home centre first. If they are again not asked to play for their home centre, the player must go to the team they played with the previous summer. If that team does not want that player, they can go to another team. The process will repeat in that order every year until that player graduates to Senior baseball.

### **Senior**

1. Senior rosters can have a maximum of **23 players** with a minimum of 70% of those players being from the city/town in which they are representing based on the player eligibility criteria on page 10.
2. A senior player, if asked to play with their home centre but refuses, **must** occupy a roster spot or will be considered a free agent. If a senior player is rostered for the purposes of protection but does not want to play for that centre, they must sit out one (1) season of provincial level baseball before becoming a free agent the following season.
3. A junior-aged player, if asked to play with their senior home centre but refuses, **must** occupy a roster spot or be protected or they will be considered a free agent.

### **Pickups – Senior**

1. With all teams now playing in the Senior Finals Qualification Weekend, there will be **no pickups** permitted for either of the top two teams that advance to the Senior A Finals

**Historical Links to Senior Centres**

1. Senior players who have previously established a historical link with a centre that is not their home centre **will** retain those links.
2. If a junior player is moving to senior for the first time, they **will not** have formed an historical link.
3. If a junior player plays with a senior centre that **is not** their home centre, they **do not** form a historical link with that senior centre. Instead, they will return every year to their home centre until they become a Senior-aged player.



## **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

1. Player Eligibility for any team/centre will be determined by any of the following criteria. These criteria do not outrank each other, meaning if a player has more than one eligible centre based on the below criteria, they are free to choose whichever team they wish without prejudice against returning to the other team(s) the following year. The criteria are as follows:
  - a. Where a player currently resides;
  - b. Where a player currently plays;
  - c. Where a player played their minor baseball;
  - d. The city/town in which the player grew up;
  - e. A team/centre in which a **senior-aged player** has already established a historical link.
2. With any of the above clauses 1(a), 1(b) or 1(c), Baseball NL reserves the right to ask for additional documentation should they feel a player does not meet the criteria as outlined in clause 1(a), 1(b) or 1(c).
3. Any player living out-of-province that has previously played in Junior or Senior provincial competition can apply for an exemption to play junior or senior provincial baseball in a given year. If a player applies for an exemption, they can only be exempt under clauses 1(c), 1(d) or 1 (e).
4. Any player living out-of-province that wishes to play in Junior or Senior provincial competition **cannot** be registered in another province in a Baseball Canada-affiliated league or program.

**JUNIOR & SENIOR FIELD REQUIREMENT GUIDELINES**

Much like Baseball Canada, Baseball Newfoundland and Labrador does not have established, formal criteria for a junior- or senior-sized baseball field. Baseball NL is striving to create a set of guidelines for what a regulation-sized baseball field should have. While we understand that each field is different (much like Major League Baseball), there needs to be a certain minimum standard that should be maintained by all junior and senior baseball fields in the province.

There are certain aspects of a regulation baseball field that are determined based on the rules of play. Those aspects include:

- i. Pitching distance: 60’ 6”
- ii. Baseth distance: 90’

Concerning field size, infield material composition, and lights, Baseball NL has provided information on five (5) fields that have been used for Junior and/or Senior baseball in recent memory, along with the Major League Baseball minimum standards. While each baseball field is different in terms of its nuances, Baseball NL will use these five (5) fields as a comparable for any potentially new junior or senior baseball field:

	<b>MLB Minimum Standards</b>	<b>St. Pats Ball Park St. John’s</b>	<b>Smallwood Field Mount Pearl</b>	<b>Stoney Hill Field CBS</b>	<b>Art Walker Gander</b>	<b>Jubilee Field Corner Brook</b>
<b>LEFT</b>	325’	300’	320’	309’	305’	305’
<b>CENTRE</b>	400’	350’	370’	330’	365’	355’
<b>RIGHT</b>	325’	300’	320’	311’	300’	295’
<b>LIGHTS</b>		YES	YES	YES	NO	YES
<b>INFEILD</b>	CLAY	CLAY	CLAY mound and plate	STONE/SAND	DIRT	CLAY

Additionally, Baseball NL will consider any/all auxiliary components of a facility where junior and senior baseball will be played. This can include but is not limited to the following:

- iii. Washrooms (for spectators, teams and officials)
- iv. Changerooms and/or a clubhouse building
- v. Canteen/Concession services