



BASEBALL NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Junior & Senior

Rules and Regulations

June 2025

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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 9.
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 10 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

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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 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 a Championship game. The Senior Finals Qualifier winner and runner-up will advance to the Senior Finals, with the winner of the Senior Finals Qualifier earning the right to host the Senior Finals. The Senior Finals will be held July 26th – 28th.
 - c. The Senior A Finals will be a one-weekend, best-of-five series.

NOTE – For the 2025 season, the format for Senior Provincials will be a one-weekend tournament from July 25th – 27th in St. John's. This is due to the field constraints related to the hosting of the 2025 Canada Summer Games. A review will take place after the 2025 season to determine the format for 2026 and beyond.

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 9.
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 9.
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

NOTE – For the 2025 season, there will be no pickups permitted under the one weekend

format. Roster composition guidelines for 2025 Senior Provincials will follow the eligibility guidelines found on Page 9 while also adhering to the roster freeze (48 hours prior to the start of the event) referenced on Page 5.

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. If they are again not asked to play for their Senior home centre, their Senior centre from the previous summer will have first right of refusal before the player becomes a free agent.
 - a. Example – Kevin Higgins, as a junior-aged player from Corner Brook, was not asked to play Senior for Corner Brook. He is asked to play Senior with St. John's and accepts. The following summer, Kevin once again is not asked to play Senior for Corner Brook in Senior.
 - i. Kevin must play Senior with St. John's as that was his team from the previous summer
 - ii. If St. John's does not wish to have Kevin play for St. John's, Kevin then becomes a free agent and available for any team.

Injury Replacement for Senior Finals

In the event of an injury to a player (or players) between the Senior Qualifier and Senior Finals, teams advancing to the Senior Finals will be permitted up to two (2) replacement players as a result of an injury.

In replacing a player as a result of an injury, there must a note from a physician submitted to support the injury and the player's inability to play as a result of the stated injury.

Players eligible to be added as an injury replacement include players that **did not** play in the Senior Qualifier. Players that played in the Senior Qualifier **are not** eligible to serve as an injury replacement.

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:

- iii. Pitching distance: 60' 6"
- iv. 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:

	MLB Minimum Standards	St. Pats Ball Park St. John's	Smallwood Field Mount Pearl	Stoney Hill Field CBS	Art Walker Gander	Jubilee Field Corner Brook
LEFT	325'	300'	320'	309'	305'	305'
CENTRE	400'	350'	370'	330'	365'	355'
RIGHT	325'	300'	320'	311'	300'	295'
LIGHTS		YES	YES	YES	NO	YES
INFEILD	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:

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