



# LAKELAND MINOR BALL LEAGUE

## BASEBALL RULES

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### Revision History

Section	Date	Details	Revision	Contributions By	Approved By
All	May 5, 2023	Initial Document from previous rules	00	D'Arcy Evans	Dennell Anderson
All	April 28, 2024	Edits to 2023 Rules via Motion 2024-007 Formatting Edits	01	Alain Mahe Dennell Anderson Kim Gauthier Margaret Bayduza Real Bourbeau	Justin Blackburn Chris Moser
All	May 1, 2025	Interpretation on 7 Edit 14 - Players Removed 19 –No Walk Rule Message to 11U umpires	02	Lindsey Stanton Margaret Bayduza Orry Gelowitz	Dennell Anderson Chris Moser
All	April 20, 2026	Edits 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15 Add 18, 19, 20 Age Chart and Bat Regulations Delete weeknight game rules	03	Dennell Anderson Shaun Johnson Margaret Bayduza	Pam Cannan Chris Moser
All	May 22, 2026	Edits to 8 & Mercy Rule Clarity	04	Dennell Anderson Shaun Johnson Margaret Bayduza	Pam Cannan Chris Moser

## LAKELAND LEAGUE – BASEBALL RULES

### BASEBALL RULES APPLYING TO ALL DIVISIONS

1. Lakeland Minor Ball League (“*LMBL*”) rules apply first, and all other Baseball Alberta rules apply thereafter.
2. All players SHALL be registered with Baseball Alberta.
3. Each team must submit a completed *official roster* to LMBL board each year. *Official rosters* must be entered on the LMBL.ca website prior to league play beginning.
4. Each team must carry an *official roster* with them to each game.
5. Home team will provide game balls, umpires, and prepared diamonds. If the home team cannot supply an umpire, they may access umpires from other communities.
6. Home team must provide the *official scorebook* which must be shared between the two teams. The official score that is sent to the league is what is recorded in the *official scorebook*.
7. All players are in the batting order, must be on the *official roster*, and written in the *official scorebook*.

***Interpretation:*** To clarify batting order rules for all LMBL games – Late arriving players should be marked as a substitute at bottom of batting order lineup until they arrive. When they arrive, they can be added to the lineup in the last batting position. If a player is called to bat and is not available, it is an out. This can be discussed at the plate meeting if any players are anticipated to be late.

8. Teams cancelling games due to reasons OTHER THAN INCLEMENT WEATHER (AQI, rain, etc.) must do so a minimum of 48 hours prior to game time.
  - 1) Games cancelled within this time limit will result in no points awarded to either team and may be re-scheduled at LMBL’s discretion.
  - 2) NO rescheduling games will be permitted unless due to unforeseen circumstances (ie. No host site or umpires) or weather-related conditions. LMBL require teams to commit.
  - 3) If games are needing to be rescheduled due to unforeseen circumstances or weather-related conditions send info about rescheduled games to [president.lakeland@gmail.com](mailto:president.lakeland@gmail.com). In the event of rescheduled games, the deadline for when games must be played will be determined at the President’s discretion.
  - 4) Games cancelled with less than 48 hours notice for reasons other than weather will result in the cancelling team forfeiting the two points to the other team. If both teams agree, the game can be re-scheduled for exhibition play.
  - 5) Teams must play both weekends (8 league games) to qualify for the Finals weekend.
9. All league and final games will be scheduled for weekends. Either Friday, Saturday, or Sundays.
  - 1) In the event of a re-scheduled weeknight game, the game should start at 6:30 pm.
10. There will be NO open innings during any games.

11. All players coaching 1st or 3rd base must wear a helmet.
12. We want to encourage all kids to play. The related Baseball Alberta rules DO NOT apply:
  - 1) A team can play with 7 or 8 players without the 9th position being an automatic out.
  - 2) Players are allowed to pitch and catch in the same game.
  - 3) Substitutions are unlimited.

**Interpretation:** To clarify 8 – players = no outs (when the 9th position is called to bat). 7 – players = 1 out (when the 8th position is called to bat).

13. No limit to overage players on the roster; however, teams are only allowed three (3) overage players **on the field at one time.**
  - 1) Can only play if they do not have a team to play on at their own level in their community.
  - 2) Overage players must be from one year older than the team they are playing on.
  - 3) Overage players must be indicated on team line up PRIOR to game.
  - 4) Overage players must be marked O/A on the *lmb.ca official rosters.*
  - 5) Overage players cannot pitch ~~or catch~~ (Delete in 2026), except for 18U Boys.
  - 6) 18U Boys may have two 19-year-old players on the field provided they do not turn 20 in the current year. The 19-year-old may play any position.
14. Teams may bring underage player(s) to play games to fill a weekend tournament roster, provided they are registered with the SAME association, to minimize games cancelled.
  - These underage players must be marked U/A on the *lmb.ca official roster* as well.
  - Regardless, the overage players must follow rules above.
15. Female athletes have the option to play one year overage at each division of play and compete at Provincial Championships (11U, 13U, 15U in A, AA or AAA categories).

**Interpretation:** To clarify the rules on overage female players, Lakeland League officially adapted Baseball Alberta overage female playing rule on March 3, 2020. A one-year overage female player may participate without any overage player restrictions (pitching, catching, number of players on field). The player does not count towards the teams 3 overage player limit.

2026 LMBL Baseball Age Chart			
CATEGORY	BORN IN or LATER THAN	OVERAGE YEAR*	COMMENT
<b>18U</b>	2008-2010	2007	Must be turning 16 – 18 in calendar year. 19-year-old players are the O/A category
<b>15U</b>	2011-2012	2010	Must be turning 14 or 15 in calendar year.
<b>13U</b>	2013-2014	2012	Must be turning 12 or 13 in calendar year.
<b>11U</b>	2015-2016	2014	Must be turning 10 or 11 in calendar year.
<b>9U</b>	2017-2018	2016	Must be turning 8 or 9 in calendar year.

- Overage Year is still subject to Rule #13.1 to 13.6 above.

## RULES FOR LEAGUE AND CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

16. No new inning to start after 2 hours and 15 minutes of play unless the game is tied.

**Interpretation:** To clarify time limit rules for all games – The start of the game begins when the first pitch is thrown. The umpire shall state the time, and it is recorded by the official scorekeeper.

17. 11U\*, 13U, 15U, and 18U pitching rules for the tournaments will follow Alberta Baseball Provincial Championship Play Pitch Count rules.

- 1) \* = 11U pitch count limits will be raised by 5 pitches.

**Message to Umpires** – Please consider opening the 11U strike zone, to minimize the amount of walking, in particular early in the season. The League Association leadership would like to see the 11U players develop by swinging and getting comfortable with the player pitch. Please discuss at the plate meeting at beginning of the game how you plan to handle the strike zone to gain alignment between all coaches.

**Interpretation:** To clarify the pitch count rules are taken from the Baseball Alberta Handbook. This rule is meant to promote the development of pitching at every age level. Please refer to the current Baseball Alberta Virtual Handbook for additional details - [Pitch Count & Violation Policies](#)

18. The Home team shall not play their half of a final inning if the home team is ahead before their bat or at any time during the last inning, the game is considered over.

19. A “Coin Toss” may be used to determine home team as required; the “Coin Toss” will usually be done immediately after the Coaches plate meeting. Teams NOT in attendance will automatically forfeit “choice of inning”.

20. Bat Regulations Chart

Age Category	Max Differential	Max Barrel Diameter	BBCOR	USSSA/USA	Wood / Wood Composite
11U	N/A	2 – 3/4”	Yes	Yes	Yes
13U	-10	2 – 3/4”	Yes	Yes	Yes
15U	-5	2 – 3/4”	Yes	Yes	Yes
18U	-3	2 – 5/8”	Yes	No	Yes

## 9U: PLEASE REFER TO THE 9U & U9 MODIFIED RULES DIVISIONAL PACKAGE BOOKLET

### 11U: BASES @ 60’, POINT OF HOME PLATE TO FRONT OF PITCHER’S PLATE – 44’.

1. Maximum of 5 Runs Scored per Half Inning: Once the 5th run of the half inning is scored the inning automatically stops no matter how many outs there are, and that half inning is over. This rule will apply to League and Championship play.
2. Maximum of 6 innings per game.
3. No breaking balls or knuckleballs permitted.
4. Stealing permitted when ball crosses plate. No leading off.

5. Three (3) strikes and player is out. Player is not permitted to run to 1st even if catcher does not catch ball on third (3rd) strike.
6. Bunting is permitted.
7. Mercy Rule is in effect when there is a 10-run differential, and the losing team has completed their 4<sup>th</sup> offensive inning / at bat.

**Message to Associations & Team Staff** – Lakeland Minor Ball will stay at 60 feet for 11U baseball for the 2026 season. This distance shall be adjusted to 70' for the 2027 season. However, the League shall permit a Host Association to set 11U bases up at 70' for weekend play (with pre-approval & notification to visiting teams) due to diamond logistics.

**13U: BASES @ 70', POINT OF HOME PLATE TO FRONT OF PITCHER'S PLATE – 48'.**

1. Maximum of 5 Runs Scored per Half Inning: Once the 5th run of the half inning is scored the inning automatically stops no matter how many outs there are, and that half inning is over. This rule will apply to League and Championship play.
2. Maximum of 7 innings per game.
3. No breaking balls or knuckleballs permitted.
4. Mercy Rule is in effect when there is a 10-run differential, and the losing team has completed their 5<sup>th</sup> offensive inning / at bat.

**15U: BASES @ 80', POINT OF HOME PLATE TO FRONT OF PITCHER'S PLATE – 54'.**

1. Maximum of 7 Runs Scored per Half Inning: Once the 7th run of the half inning is scored the inning automatically stops no matter how many outs there are, and that half inning is over. This rule will apply to 15U/18U League and Championship play.
2. Maximum of 7 innings per game.
3. Mercy Rule is in effect when there is a 10-run differential, and the losing team has completed their 5<sup>th</sup> offensive inning / at bat.

**18U: BASES @ 90', POINT OF HOME PLATE TO FRONT OF PITCHER'S PLATE – 60'6".**

1. Maximum of 7 Runs Scored per Half Inning: Once the 7th run of the half inning is scored the inning automatically stops no matter how many outs there are, and that half inning is over. This rule will apply to 15U/18U League Play and Championship play.
2. Maximum of 7 innings per game.
3. Mercy Rule is in effect when there is a 10-run differential, and the losing team has completed their 5<sup>th</sup> offensive inning / at bat.