



# NIAGARA DISTRICT BASEBALL ASSOCIATION POLICIES

## 1. POLICY CREATION

- a. The policies of the organization can be amended, enacted, or suspended by a 2/3rd majority vote at any regularly scheduled or special general meeting of the NDBA.

## 2. ASSOCIATIONS

- a. Association Listing:
  - i. Active Associations:
    1. Beamsville
    2. Grimsby
    3. Niagara Falls (GNBA)
    4. Pelham
    5. St. Catharines
    6. Thorold
    7. Welland
  - ii. Inactive Associations (HL Programing only):
    1. Fort Erie
    2. Port Colborne
- b. Insurance
  - i. All Associations MUST have Liability Insurance as provided by the OBA. This insurance must be purchased every year before the season begins.
- c. Bond
  - i. Any Affiliate with the NDBA must post a bond for each team which must be kept at a par to maintain good standings. Any infraction on this bond suspends the Affiliate until a bond is posted or is replenished. These funds deposited with the NDBA to cover such bonds shall be kept separate from the General Account. Any Affiliate that has new teams coming into the NDBA will have to the maximum bond fee for that year. Affiliates that have been in will catch up on Bonds on a set annual basis.
  - ii. Should a municipality withdraw from the NDBA, the Bond amount shall be maintained for a period of 5 inactive years, after which the bond shall be forfeited. Any subsequent application for membership in the NDBA will require Bond Money to be re-instated by that association.
- d. Participation
  - i. All Associations will be responsible to have a representative to all meetings. Failure to comply can result in that association becoming an association in bad standing and can result in disciplinary action or fine.
  - ii. Association representatives are not to be current board members of the NDBA, yet members of the member association's Board of Directors

### 3. DIVISIONS OF PLAY

- a. NDBA Shall provide rep baseball programming locally at any and all OBA divisions when possible.
- b. The NDBA Board of Directors shall have the power to appoint Conveners wherever necessary to fill vacant roles or as required by the league.
- c. For the ease of scheduling, and determining of division feasibility the following divisions may be merged to play together:
  - i. 8U/9U
  - ii. 10U/11U
  - iii. 12U/13U
  - iv. 14U/15U
  - v. 16U/18U
- d. Associations must declare to NDBA their intentions to enter teams in specific divisions by the first TUESDAY after Labour Day Weekend.

### 4. MEETINGS

- a. Regular Meeting
  - i. At all regular NDBA and Board of Director Meetings each elected and appointed member along with the Past President and all Life Members shall be entitled to one (1) vote on any item.
  - ii. General Business Meetings shall be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at 10am at a site to be determined by the NDBA Board of Directors unless otherwise determined by the BOD.
  - iii. The order of business shall be:
    1. Reading of the Minutes
    2. Presentation of Treasurers Report
    3. Reading and Consideration of communications and notices
    4. Reports of Special and Standing Committees
    5. Consideration of By Laws, Policies and Amendments thereof
    6. General Business
    7. Good and Welfare of the Association
    8. Reception of any Application of Affiliation
- b. Annual Members Meeting:
  - i. The Annual members Meeting shall be held in November annually, prior to Baseball Ontario's AGM (if possible)
  - ii. The order of business shall be:
    1. Presidents Address
    2. Amendments to the By-law
    3. Treasurers Report
    4. Election of Board of Directors
    5. Social Evening

## 5. DISCIPLINE (CONDUCT & EJECTIONS)

- a. Any Player, Team Manager or Coach, or any other personnel guilty of misconduct may be suspended by the Board of Directors.
- b. Any Player, Team Manager, Coach or Umpire attending any NDBA or OBA game in any series shall conduct himself/herself in a sportsmanlike manner at all times, failing which any individual(s) may be subject to a disciplinary hearing for any conduct the series convener deems serious.
- c. If any Player(s), Team Manager, Coach or Team Official of a playing team is ejected from a ball game, for any reason of misconduct, he/she is automatically suspended for the following regular, tournament or playoff game and cannot participate for any other team while under suspension.
- d. If for any reason of misconduct, a Player, Manager, Coach or any Official is ejected from a ball game twice (2) in the season, he/she is automatically suspended for a period of two (2) games, following his/her teams next regular scheduled game, tournament or playoff games and is not to attend any games played by his/her team during such suspension and cannot participate for any other team during such suspension.
- e. If a Player, Manager, Coach or Official of a Playing Team is ejected more than twice (2) in the same baseball season, he will be automatically suspended indefinitely subject to a hearing of the Advisory Board and could be liable to a suspension for up to a year.
- f. The Advisory Board shall be responsible for hearing any Discipline Matters. The President shall preside over any hearing in the event a member of the Advisory Board is unable to attend a hearing or declares a conflict of interest, the member shall notify the President and the President may request any other member of the Board of Directors to attend such hearing.
- g. Any Player, Manager, Coach or Team Official ejected anytime for an offence that the Series Convener deems serious enough by virtue of an Umpires Report, may be subject to further suspension. The Convener shall notify the President of the offence and the President may immediately impose an indefinite suspension and shall refer the matter to the Advisory Board for a hearing to be held within seven (7) days.
- h. Any suspended person may only appeal any disciplinary decision of the Advisory Board by giving written notice to the Secretary of the NDBA within seven (7) days notification of the decision of the Advisory Board. The Executive shall hear the appeal at a special meeting called by the President within seven (7) days of receipt of the notice of appeal. Any notice of appeal must be accompanied by a deposit fee of \$50.00 cash, cheque or money order. The deposit will be refunded only if the Player, Coach, Manager or Team Official is re-instated immediately.
- i. For NDBA Playoffs, a Player, Manager, Coach or Team Official ejected a third (3) time in the Play-offs, will be suspended indefinitely pending a hearing of the Advisory Board. Any hearing will be held within seven (7) days.

- j. If any Player, Manager, Team Official is under suspension at the time of the OBA Playoffs, the suspension will continue into the playoffs unless otherwise approved by the NDBA Board of Directors.

## 6. RELEASES

- a. All releases fall under the guidelines of the OBA Constitution, unless otherwise noted in the NDBA By-Law or Policies.
- b. All Player(s) must be registered with their Local Association to be eligible to apply for a release(s).
- c. All player(s) requesting a release(s), must first make application in writing to their Home Association, before the Chair of the Advisory Board will entertain any application for a release.
- d. Where there are more than 1 (one) Association that exists in the same city or town, and there are requests for releases, these requests will be dealt with by the Association to which the player(s) are registered.
- e. When a Local Association grants a release(s), these release(s) allow the released player(s) to play for any team and any Association within the boundaries of the NDBA.
- f. When a Local Association denies player(s) a release request, these player(s) have the right to appeal their Local Association decision to the NDBA.
- g. The NDBA will set up a hearing to take place once they have been provided proof of the denied release, then NDBA will then make a decision based on all the information provided whether to grant or deny the release.
- h. If denied both parties may appeal the NDBA'S decision to the technical Committee of the OBA.
- i. Where player(s) are requesting a release(s) to play for teams outside the boundaries of the NDBA, they shall appear in person, at a date and time and place to be determined by the Advisory Board Chair. Should the request by the NDBA be denied, they have the right to appeal this decision to the Technical Committee of the OBA.
- j. Where a request for a release is received pursuant to paragraphs v), and or vi), all requests for release(s) heard will be resolved on an individual and case-by- case basis.
- k. Where a District Team exists and are sanctioned by Article 2.07, (Regional Niagara Team Operations), any player(s) who attends the required number of tryouts and is offered a spot on the roster of such team, is deemed to be released from his/her Local Association to participate with said team, as applicable, for the playing year.
- l. Where an Association does not have fall tryouts and is unclear if they will be fielding a team(s) for the upcoming season, any player(s) can apply for a request to tryout from their Local Association. Should the player(s) make the team and is offered a spot on the roster, then the request to tryout will be their granted release, if they are unsuccessful, then they must return to their Local Association.
- m. When a local association does not wish to grant a release, they may also grant 'Permission to Tryout' allowing the player to tryout with another association. Only if the player makes the team they are then released.



- i. A player in receipt of a permission to tryout, can only tryout with one association. If they do not make the team, they must return to their home association for REP baseball.

## 7. LEAGUE PLAY

### a. GAME PLAY

- i. Game times and innings will be as follows:
  - 1. All weekday games shall have a start time no earlier than 5:45pm unless mutually agreed by both teams, and with convener approval.
  - 2. All games in the NDBA for all series shall be 7 innings.
  - 3. All games will have a 15-minute grace period. If a team is unable to begin the game by this time, they shall lose by forfeit. A game must be started on time if a team has 9 players in attendance. Games that are forfeited shall be recorded as a 7-0 win over 7 innings of play. If a game is forfeited at the diamond, the team which lost by forfeit is responsible for all game costs.
  - 4. All games shall follow standard mercy rules as outlined in the OBA Rep Rule Book.
  - 5. All regular season games in all division shall have no new inning start after 2-hours from the scheduled time of first pitch. Games will only be extended in the case of Facility, Umpire or Weather delays.
  - 6. A game is considered complete after 7 innings have been played and curfew has not been reached. No extra innings shall be played during regular season or exhibition games.
  - 7. All NDBA Playoff or playdown games shall follow OBA Rep Playing Rules. There will be no time limit and extra innings will be played using Baseball Canada extra inning rules.
  - 8. Ground rules are the responsibility of the Home Team and shall not contravene the Official Rules of Baseball.
  - 9. Only Players, Coaches, Managers, Trainers, and Team Officials shall be allowed on the players bench or dug outs.
- ii. Where a team wishes to postpone a regular scheduled game, mutual agreement with the other Team involved must be made within 48 hours of the start of the game. Division Convenor must be notified of any changes to the game schedule.
- iii. Failure to provide 48 hours' notice of game postponement may result in the game being marked as a loss and any incurred expenses (i.e. prepayment for fields, umpires and lights) shall be covered by the team postponing the game at the discretion of the division convenor. These expenses are to be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval, and the amount as approved by the Board

of Directors shall be paid forthwith, failing which, the expenses may be paid out of bond monies. Failure to replenish the bond money shall result in the automatic suspension of the Affiliate until the bond is replenished.

- iv. All Teams playing Rep Ball in NDBA, from 8U to 18U, must play or complete 85% of their scheduled games to be eligible to participate in NDBA Playoffs and OBA Rep Provincial Championships unless approved by the division convener.
- v. Any players who are called up from another team must follow OBA playing rules.
- vi. Game Lineups in all divisions shall follow OBA Rep Playing Rules. During the regular season, teams may bat a full continuous batting order which must be declared prior to the start of the game and indicated on the lineup card accordingly.

b. CLASSIFICATION

- i. Teams must declare their desired classification to the division Convener by the deadline provided. The Convener shall review the desired classification and submit to the NDBA board or final approval. If upon review, the Convenor or NDBA Board of Directors, deem the submitted classification inappropriate, the classification may be modified. If modified the Convenor must notify the head coach who then has one (1) week to appeal prior to classification becoming official.
- ii. In all divisions at 8U and above where two (2) or more teams have the same classification, playdowns may be required. The playdown format shall be as follows:
  - 1. With 2 teams, there will be a best 2 out of 3 series. Upcoming League games may be used for these games if determined that this is feasible by the Convenor and Head Coach.
  - 2. In the case that more than two (2) teams have the same classification, a round robin tournament will be planned to determine who will represent the NDBA in OBA Rep Championship. Upcoming League games can be used for these games if determined that this is feasible by the Convenor.

c. PROTEST

- i. The Advisory Board shall preside over all protests.
- ii. All protests shall be filed in accordance with the following regulations:
  - 1. All protests are to be filed with the Umpire at the time of the infraction and it is the Umpires duty to notify the opposing team (coach or manager). The Umpire will note the protest on the game card or scorebook.
  - 2. To proceed with a protest, the protesting team shall submit a written report in duplicate with the Series Convener or Secretary within forty-eight (48) hours of the scheduled start time of the game in question.

3. The protest must be accompanied by a deposit fee of \$50.00 in cash, cheque or money order. The deposit will be refunded if the protest is upheld. If the protest is denied, the deposit shall be forfeited unless otherwise determined by the Advisory Board.
  4. The Team protested against shall be notified immediately by the Secretary or Series Convener that a formal protest has been lodged and shall forward a copy of the notice of protest.
  5. The Team protested against shall file its response if any, with the Secretary or Series Convener within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt of notification of the formal protest.
  6. The Advisory Board shall meet within ten (10) days of receipt of the formal protest to a decision with respect to the protest. Where the Advisory Board upholds the protest, it shall prescribe all conditions governing the disposition of the game protested. The decision of the Advisory Board shall be final.
- d. PLAYING RULES
- i. The playing rules as laid down by the OBA for baseball shall govern all games in this association EXCEPT as noted in the Policies of the NDBA.
- e. LEAGE SCHEDULES
- i. Divisions shall play a schedule of no more than 20 Regular Season games. The schedule will be prepared by the convener and be balanced where possible. Should a schedule of more than 20 games be requested by the Convenor, the NDBA Board of Directors must approve the extended schedule.
  - ii. Schedules will be provided to teams by convenors before April 15th annually.
  - iii. The regular season shall end before the Civic Holiday in August to allow for playoffs to be completed prior to OBA weekend.
  - iv. The week of the Civic Holiday is reserved for makeup games and/or playdowns as necessary.
- f. PLAYOFF SCHEDULES
- i. Playoffs shall be separated Major and Minor aged teams at each division to determine a Major and Minor Champion.
    1. 8U & 9U
    2. 10U & 11U
    3. 12U & 13U
    4. 14U & 15U
    5. 16U & 18U
  - ii. If there are not three or more teams at the Major or Minor level, a single combine playoff format shall be used to determine a single champion.
  - iii. All playoffs shall be a double elimination style tournament. This tournament shall be seeded based on REGULAR SEASON standings.
    1. Tie-breakers for seeding shall be:
      - a. Head-to-Head
      - b. Win Percentage

- c. Lowest Runs Against
- d. Random Draw
- iv. Playoffs shall be completed at least 5 days prior to OBA Provincial Championships, except 18U must be completed before Labour Day Weekend to allow for a 5 day break prior to OBA Provincial Championships.
- v. For the purpose of days rest and pitch counts, all games in a playoff or playdown series shall be considered sequential regardless of the number of days between games. For divisions 10U-18U, pitch counts must be sent to the convenor after the completion of each game and made available to all coaches.

## 8. DISTRICT TEAMS

### a. PLAYERS:

- i. All Player(s) must be registered on the NDBA website before taking the field to try-out for any District team as per NDBA and OBA Rules.
- ii. Any Player(s) who is signed to any District team Roster, regardless of the Host Centre may simultaneously play in another program but NOT in Ontario.
- iii. Player(s) are encouraged to try-out for their appropriate age groups only.

### b. COACHES:

- i. The NDBA will send out notices to all associations in the region beginning in July of the current baseball season, which applications are now being accepted for the position of Head Coach for all District teams for the following baseball season. These applications will be accepted until August 30<sup>th</sup>.
- ii. All applications received by August 30<sup>th</sup> will be reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors of the NDBA.
- iii. The NDBA's goal is to have Regional Representation of Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches for all District teams, BUT in the end must select only the most qualified applicants regardless of their city of residence or where the Host Centre Teams are based.
- iv. The 'NEW' or returning Coaches must select the following years team in the week immediately following the conclusion of the current year's OBA Labour Day Play downs. Coaches will be encouraged to keep a spot or two open for unforeseeable situations that may arise. This will also encourage attendance and competition for the winter workouts.
- v. All District Coaches are encouraged to run indoor work outs at an approved NDBA facility, beginning in October of their coaching year, through to such time as Mother Nature allows teams to move outdoors. No workouts will be scheduled for the March Break week.
- vi. All Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches must apply for District teams on a year-to-year basis, unless otherwise approved by the NDBA Board of Directors.

### c. HOST CENTRES:

- i. Each District team will be based in an Affiliate center on a year-to-year basis. Coaches of these Teams are encouraged to play a few home games in other centers, but that is not mandatory.





- ii. The Host Centre will be responsible for the entire cost associated with their respective District team(s). The NDBA will NOT subsidize any team(s) beyond what is reasonable and expected.
- iii. All District teams must wear the Host Centre 'Club Uniform', bearing their appropriate and traditional name and colors. No exceptions.
- iv. Team(s) will adhere to the policies of the Local Association that governs the Host Centre. Any issues that should arise from this and cannot be settled will be brought to the NDBA for arbitration, and their decision shall be Final.
- v. Coaches of Host Centers are to notify all eligible player(s) once try out dates have been established.
- vi. If and when numbers warrant a 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> District team in any division and no Host has approved, notices will be sent out immediately to all associations in the Region, that there is need for and association to Host these team(s).

## 9. UMPIRE ASSOCIATION

### a. PURPOSE:

- i. It is the intent of this By-Law to establish the framework for the affiliation of the NBUA with the NBDA.

### b. DEFINITIONS:

- i. NDBA shall mean Niagara District Baseball Association.
- ii. NBUA shall mean Niagara Baseball Umpires Association.
- iii. ASSIGNOR shall refer to the person or persons used by the NBUA for the purpose of coordinating the umpires schedule for game attendance and other duties herein designated.
- iv. OBA and/or Baseball Ontario shall refer to the Ontario Baseball Association.
- v. AFFILIATE ASSOCIATION shall refer to a member Association of the Niagara District Baseball Association.
- vi. ALL-STAR LEAGUE shall refer to the teams playing in a division of the Niagara District Baseball Association.
- vii. GAME shall refer to a baseball game.
- viii. CONVENER shall refer to the person assigned by the NDBA to coordinate the play of baseball in a division of the All-Star League.
- ix. DIVISION shall mean the name of the age group for the players in the assigned game.

### c. RECOGNITION

- i. The NDBA recognizes the development of the NBUA and recommend to its affiliated associations that the NBUA be utilized by all affiliates within the NDBA for League, Play-off and Tournament Games for All-Star Divisions including 14U and above.

### d. RULES AND REGULATIONS

- i. The NBUA shall enforce the Rules and Regulations of the NDBA, the Official Rules of Baseball and the Playing Rules and Regulations of the OBA.

### e. UMPIRE ASSIGNMENTS



- i. The Assignor shall assign Umpires for the following games if requested by the affiliate associations by team registration completion date.
    - 1. NDBA Affiliate All-Star team regular season schedule.
    - 2. NDBA Play-off games and/or Tournaments.
    - 3. OBA Sanctioned Tournaments.
  - ii. The Assignor must be notified no later than one (1) hour before scheduled game time for cancellation as a result of inclement weather or unsafe playing conditions. Failure to notify the Assignor of cancellations in the required period of time, shall result in the Host Association being assessed a \$10.00 travel expense fee per Umpire in attendance, as of the scheduled start time. If the Umpires have not taken control of the game, and weather conditions or unsafe playing conditions prevent the start the same travel expenses shall apply.
  - iii. Cancellations of games for any reason other than weather or field conditions require forty-eight (48) hours notification of the Assignor prior to the scheduled game(s). Failure to do so will result in assessment of full game fees to the Host Association.
  - iv. Once the Umpires have taken control over control of the game at ground rules, if said game is completed because of inclement weather or unsafe field conditions the Host Association shall be assessed the full game fees.
  - v. Assigned NBUA Umpires involved in a forfeited game, will be entitled to a full game fee. If said forfeited is the result of a team not having sufficient players by game time, Umpires must allow thirty (30) minutes grace period as described in the By-Laws and Policies of the NDBA.
  - vi. In the event that the Assignor is unable to provide two (2) Umpires for a scheduled game, the Assignor shall give at least forty-eight (48) hours before the time of the game to the League Convener to enable said League Convener an opportunity to fill the vacant position with a Level 2 Umpire. Provided the proper notice has been given, if the game proceeds with only one (1) assigned Umpire, said Umpire shall be entitled to 1 ½ game fee.
  - vii. Tournament schedules for sanctioned OBA Tournaments must be given to the Assignor ten (10) days prior to the Tournament start date.
  - viii. The NBUA shall provide the Host Association Tournament Convener with a list of assigned Umpires for each game scheduled three (3) days prior to the first game.
- f. DISCIPLINE
- i. The NBUA and NDBA shall establish a joint disciplinary committee to deal with serious allegations involving conduct of NBUA Umpires.
  - ii. The NBUA acknowledges that their members, as an affiliated association of the NDBA are subject to disciplinary action by the NDBA as outlined in the By-Law and Policies of the NDBA.
  - iii. Any NBUA Umpire(s) missing an assigned game, the Host Affiliated Association shall not be assessed Umpires fees for the no-show Umpire. The Host Affiliate Association shall receive a credit equal to the sum of the missing Umpire(s) fees

for the game missed. On a second missed assignment the Umpire(s) shall be suspended pending review by the Joint Disciplinary Committee.

g. **REPORTS**

- i. For games involving ejections and/or protested games, the Umpire involved shall be responsible for the submission of the completed game report online within twenty-four (24) hours of the game being played.
- ii. If there is an ejection(s) or a protest during the course of a game, the involved Umpire shall be responsible to contact the League Convener. The League Convener will then inform the NDBA Supervisor of Umpires of said ejection(s) and/or protested game. The NDBA Advisory Board shall then be responsible in imposing any suspensions.

h. **ASSESSMENTS**

- i. The NBUA shall submit a detailed invoice listing the date, series, place and shall be paid within ten (10) days of receipt. Failure to do so could result in the bill being paid from that Team's Bond.
- ii. The NBUA can file a claim against Bond Funds if the bill issued remains unpaid, notice is given to the Association involved by the NDBA and will be paid unless a dispute is filed within five (5) days' notice. The NDBA Advisory Board shall mediate any dispute and the Boards decision is Final.
- iii. The NBUA shall assess an affiliated association within seven (7) days after the completion of a Tournament hosted by said Affiliated Association.
- iv. The Affiliated Associations shall provide the NBUA with the Affiliates Contact List by the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Sunday of April each year.

i. **FEE SCHEDULE**

- i. Any fee schedule shall be approved by the NDBA before it may implemented. The NBUA shall submit any proposal for fee changes no later than September 30<sup>th</sup> in any year for consideration by the NDBA Executive for the subsequent year. Failure to provide any notification will result in the continuation of the existing fee schedule.
- ii. Junior and Senior series rates shall be based upon the rates of the Leagues where the Junior and Senior Teams play as per the Affiliated Constitutions.

## **10. ROLES OF DIRECTORS**

a. **CONVENERS**

- i. The conveners shall be responsible for managing the day-to-day operation and reporting of their assigned division.
- ii. The following specific items must be actioned by a convener every year:
  1. Set up meeting with Coaches one (1) month prior to the season starting if possible.
  2. Make the schedule for District and Playoffs.
  3. Send contact list and schedule to overall series convener.
  4. Classify teams by June 30<sup>th</sup>.
  5. Hand out awards to winning teams in the playoffs.

b. **ADVISORY BOARD (3 members)**



- i. Shall be responsible for all release and disciplinary hearings and their rulings.
- c. **REGISTRAR**
  - i. Shall issue and keep accurate records of all players certificated and rosters
- d. **Technical Director**
  - i. Shall be NDBA's representative to Elite Baseball league of Ontario.
  - ii. Shall oversee the EBLO District teams playing within NDBA.
  - iii. Shall manage and organize coaching certifications, development programs and shall be the primary liaison to outside organizations in regards to NDBA District teams.

