

Pickering Baseball Association
House League Division
Clarifications
Revised as of April 2012

It is the coaches responsibility to read and understand all of the rules. If there are any confusing areas, or anything a Coach is not perfectly clear on, they should ask for clarification before the season starts. If something comes up during a game, please ask for clarification from the umpire, or the VP of House League.

Applies to all Divisions (T-Ball and up)

Rotation Rule

The rotation rule is the basis of play for House League, allowing every player to play regardless of their ability. The ONLY exception to this (other than injury) would be a request received from a parent and/or player not to play in a certain position. The coach of any team who may have a player with such a restriction should apprise the opposing coach and scorekeepers in this regard prior to the start of the game. The scorekeepers should note this information on the back of the score sheet. A member of the Executive or the Division Convenor may confirm this information from time to time.

With regard to the rotation rule, please read the House League Rules available on our website at www.pickeringbaseball.ca, downloadable from your Division Page. If you have any questions please email vphouseleague@pickeringbaseball.ca, or call at any time. We are happy to offer any help we can with regard to coaching, or helping out at the games. We can help to create line ups for each inning played that will ensure all players are participating at all stations, as required in the House League Rules. We understand that mistakes do happen.

All players must play an infield and outfield position in the first four innings of any house league game. Once positioned players should have the opportunity to play that position for the ENTIRE inning without interruption. There will be times when following the rotation rules will be difficult ie. when playing with a minimum number of players extra consideration will be extended at these times from coaches and game officials. This is the basis of house league play teams MUST follow the rotation rules. If you have any doubt whatsoever please use NUMERIC ORDER. Numeric order begins with catcher, pitcher 1st, 2nd, short, 3rd, left, right and centre the lowest numbered player being the catcher etc. Next inning players who were sitting start at catcher, lowest number at catcher, then pitcher 1st, etc. the highest numbered player(s) from the previous inning will be sitting for the second inning.

The Umpires RUN the game; they are NOT RESPONSIBLE for ensuring all players are rotated properly. The opposition coach is running his team and should not have to watch the other team to make sure that the rotation rule is honoured. Coaches must be counted on to follow this key directive for house league play. Teams who intentionally disregard the rotation rule could forfeit their game.

We will be providing forms for lineups to help coaches ensure the rotation rule is honoured. Should you run out of forms, you can make up your own; there must be a written record of player placement for every inning played for every game. Coaches should keep these lists until the end of the season; the lists can be requested for a particular game at any point throughout the season. A game official, executive member or convenor may ask to see the line up sheet indicating players' names and numbers at any time during the game. The opposing coach may also make this request by asking the umpire to call time only if he feels that the rotation rule has been dishonoured. If a player is out of place, the players own coach will correct the player without penalty. Should the coaches disagree regarding placement after checking lists, they should notify the umpires (umpires please note this on your game sheets) if there is no agreement, complete the inning and then, revert play to numeric order. Being catcher, #1 (or whatever member has the lowest number on their shirt) , pitcher, # 2, 1st, #3 2nd, #4 short #5, 3rd #6, right field #7, centre field #8 and left field #9, in rookie where there is two pitchers numbers should be adjusted accordingly and as well in Tball where there may be additional fielders. The following inning numerically those sitting start at catcher etc. And the previous inning's left fielder, centre fielder, right fielder sit, 3rd base, short and 2nd go out in field etc., in this case infield and outfield positioning may have to be forgiven for this game. Following the game, coach(s) can contact the Executive concerning their game, or launch a protest as they see fit (see House League Rules for how this should be done). The Umpires RUN the game, if the coaches cannot agree regarding rotation, the game goes on. There should be absolutely no conflict over this issue. Any conflict between coaches must be dealt with as indicated.

If a coach forgets his line up or chooses not to follow this procedure numeric order MUST be followed.

If during one game a team is found to have player(s) out of place more than twice, the umpire will note this on the score sheet and the Division Convenor and/or Director will be contacted. If it is felt a coach has deliberately disregarded rotation rules, the game could result in a forfeit. Coaches should ensure their players follow their placement direction; a parent may be willing to help in this regard.

General

WOODEN BATS that meet Ontario Baseball Association regulations are allowed; to find out about certified bats, go to ...

<http://www.mme.wsu.edu/~ssl/certified/certification.html>.

We will continue to supply only metal bats, since there is no chance of breakage and players have an easier time hitting.

Parents are absolutely not allowed on the field or in the dugout when the game is being played. If a parent is on the field the umpire will ask them to leave immediately.

When playing, players must wear the uniform provided for them by the Pickering Baseball Association; player's shirts should be tucked into their pants for safety reasons.

Should a player attend a game without proper uniform they may not be allowed to play. If a player attends a game in shorts, the Umpire will NOT allow that player to play.

Coaches should ensure that their catcher is dressed and ready for the field. Pinch runners should be sent out to replace catchers if necessary.

Coaches are welcome to speak to the umpires during the game when the ball is dead, if a coach approaches the umpire while the ball is "alive" he will be asked to return to the dugout and reminded of the need to call "time" (1 warning). If it happens again, all runners advance one base. ONLY coaches should engage the umpires at the appropriate time (when the ball is dead or if time is called); these discussions should be for information purposes only. If coaches, parents, or players have issues with how a game is called they MUST be dealt with following the game. (See instructions in House League Rules or use contact information/forms on the website) Right or wrong the umpire runs the game and this rule is key to playing successful baseball.

Coaches arguing with coaches and/or umpires will be warned once by the umpire and then asked to leave.

Parents yelling/interfering with the play of the game are not allowed, they will be warned once, and then asked to leave.

Players MUST be accompanied by a parent/guardian at all times.