

# Mosquito Division House Rules (Spring)

---

The Mosquito division will be divided into 2 Leagues – The American and National Leagues. The rules below are for both divisions unless otherwise stated.

## A. GENERAL RULES

- (1) Uniforms and Equipment.
  - a) Full uniform and hats must be worn to all games.
  - b) The jersey must be tucked in.
  - c) All players must wear an athletic supporter.
  - d) Base runners, batter, and on-deck batter must wear batting helmets with chinstraps properly attached.
  - e) Players must wear running shoes or molded rubber cleats.
  - f) Coaches are encouraged to be in full uniform; however athletic wear is permissible through the spring season.
  - g) Coaches must be in full uniform during the full summer ball season, spring interlock games, and spring tournaments.
- (2) Each team is responsible to clean up their dugouts after the game.
- (3) The Home team is responsible to prepare the diamond, line the field and fill in any depressions, before the game.
- (4) After the game, the visiting team is to rake the infield, home plate and pitching mound areas, replace the field tarps and make sure all equipment used during the game is returned to the bins and locked up. Bases should be left in place when another game follows. No children are allowed in equipment room or bins.
- (5) The Home team occupies the dugout behind third base.
- (6) Before a game, each Head Coach must give a copy of his batting line-up to the opposing team and the home plate Umpire.
- (7) Coaches are free to make notes on Umpires performances and forward to the Umpire-In-Chief or Umpire Allocator with any advice that can help their future games.
- (8) During a game, Coaches or parents cannot position themselves on the outside of the backstop behind the umpire in order to coach the team. During game play, if the defensive coaches are on the playing field they can only be in foul territory near their dugout or past their dugout towards the outfield.
- (9) Coaches are responsible for the behaviour of their team players, fans and parents during games and to make sure that there is no abuse of the equipment.

- (10) A Tadpole player may be called up to play on a Mosquito National League team up to a maximum of 5 games. The Tadpole & Mosquito Coordinators, plus the called up player's Coach, must be notified of the name of the player being called up, to ensure the player is eligible to be called up. The player must receive the same treatment as regular players, must not play more innings than a regular team player and must not pitch.
- (11) If an American League team needs a player, they must call up a player from the National league. There is no limit on how many games a National League player can play for an American League team.

**B. PLAYING FIELD**

- (1) Bases shall be 60 feet apart.
- (2) Pitching for all players is from the 46 foot rubber.
- (3) The batter's box is to be 3ft. wide x 6ft. long and the inside line 6" away from the side of the plate. It shall extend 3ft. behind the centre of the plate.

**C. ENDING THE GAME**

- (1) Games must start within 15 minutes of the scheduled start time.
- (2) It is solely the umpire's discretion when to call the game due to darkness (should call open inning when light begins to fade), or for field or weather conditions.
- (3) No new innings to begin after 1 hour and 45 minutes from the time of the first pitch. The decision on whether or not to have another inning is based on the time of the 3<sup>rd</sup> out of an inning. The umpire will notify the scorekeeper of the start time. If the start time is not noted, then the official start time will be the scheduled game time.
  - a) For example, if the 3<sup>rd</sup> out of the 5<sup>th</sup> inning occurs at the 1 hour and 44 minute mark, a 6<sup>th</sup> inning will be played.
  - b) Any delay starting the next inning will not alter this decision (i.e., while discussing whether there should be another inning).
  - c) This time limit applies to all games regardless of light conditions, following games, etc.
- (4) Games postponed due to rain will be rescheduled by the division coordinator where possible, if there is time available in the schedule.

#### **D. GAME RULES**

- (1) The length of a Mosquito game shall be 6 innings (subject to time limit).
- (2) Four complete innings with no less than 8 players on the field for each team will constitute a legal game. If a team cannot field a team of 8 players (including call-ups), they will forfeit the game.
- (3) A team's turn at bat will consist of 3 outs or when the 4 run limit has been met for the inning.
- (4) The 6<sup>th</sup> inning (or last possible inning at the umpires' discretion because of a time limit enforcement) will be declared an 'open' inning, and will have an 8 run max limit rather than the normal limit of 4 runs.
- (5) Score is to be kept by both teams. If a game is a tie at the end of the game, it will remain a tie.
- (6) There is a 10 run mercy rule after 4 innings.
- (7) All Players will be included in the batting order. Players will be listed in the order they are to bat. Players arriving late will be added to the end of the batting order. Any player not present after the team has completed their batting order shall also be placed at the end of the batting order for their first at bat and all subsequent at bats in that game.
- (8) All players must play the infield for a minimum of 2 innings in a six inning game (pitcher/catcher included as infield positions).
- (9) All players must sit one inning before a player can sit a second inning and no player can sit more than 2 innings per game.
- (10) Bunting is allowed.
- (11) No intentional walks
- (12) The batter cannot run on the third strike dropped by the catcher.
- (13) If a pitcher hits a batter or batters three times, the pitcher is to be replaced by another player. One trip to the mound by coaches per inning – per pitcher. A pitcher is removed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> trip to the mound by coaches. A pitcher withdrawn from the mound, but who stays in the game at another position shall not be permitted to return to the mound as a pitcher in the same game.
- (14) Leadoffs are not allowed. The ball must cross home plate before any base runner(s) can leave the base(s). When a base runner leaves the base before the pitch crosses home plate and the batter DOES NOT hit the ball, the Umpire shall call "Leadoff" and the base runner must return to the base and 'No Out' is called. When a base runner leaves the base before the pitch crosses home plate and the batter DOES hit the ball, the base runner is automatically out. The batter will be allowed to advance as normal.
- (15) Base stealing is allowed in Mosquito.
  - a) Stealing home is NOT permitted at any point in National League games.
  - b) Stealing home is permitted in American League games with the following applying:
    - i. Stealing home from 3rd base is NOT permitted in the first 2 innings of a game before Victoria Day long weekend, unless the ball is put into play by the

defensive team. The pitcher dropping the ball on the throw back from the catcher does not constitute the ball being put into play, but attempting to throw out a base runner does. On or after Victoria Day base stealing is allowed during the whole game.

- c) An errant throw from the catcher to the pitcher is not a live ball.
  - d) Stealing to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base is permitted at any time other than when the pitcher is holding the ball on the mound prior to the runner beginning his steal attempt.
- (16) After a pitch, if the catcher has possession of the ball and is in fair territory, any runner between third and home who stops advancing must return to third base. If a runner does not return to third base and the catcher does not make a play or does not throw the ball back to his pitcher the umpire may call time. If the catcher chooses to make a play on a runner returning to third base the ball is live and in play. The runner may advance.
- (17) No head first slides allowed in Mosquito and the runner shall be called out. A player may dive back to a base they already occupy.
- (18) Slide or Avoid Rule is in effect. If a play is being made, or is about to be made, it is MANDATORY for players of all age groups to slide or make an effort to avoid a collision at all bases and home plate. Failure to do either will result in an automatic out. The ball is dead and no runners may advance beyond the base that was last legally acquired.
- (19) The infield fly rule does not apply.
- (20) Calling the players out for throwing the bat will be at the umpire's discretion. If the batter is called out, no base runner will advance.
- (21) If a player has started the game and must leave before it is over, he/she will be deleted from the line-up and no outs will occur. If a player is injured during the game and cannot continue, he/she will not be considered an out in any further at bats.
- (22) On deck batters will be permitted on the safe side of the batter and a safe distance away.
- (23) To speed up the game, coaches are permitted to warm-up pitchers without wearing a mask. Any player warming up pitchers either on the field or in the bullpen, must wear a mask.
- (24) If four balls are thrown to a batter, the coach of the offensive team shall enter to pitch to their own player.
- a) If the batter had 2 strikes on him at the time of the walk, the strike count will revert back to 1 strike. This will allow the batter to at least see 2 coach pitches before being called out on strikes.
  - b) No runners may advance while the coach is pitching.
  - c) The defensive pitcher must take a position with at least one foot touching the dirt on the mound.
  - d) If a hit ball strikes the coach, the ball is declared dead and the batter re-hits.
  - e) The coach pitch rule will remain in effect through the Spring Season for the National League.

- f) The division coordinator will evaluate the progress of the American League and determine when coach pitch will stop. The playoffs in the American League will be player pitched.
- (25) A batter struck by a pitch may choose to walk or have their coach come in to pitch. If the batter elects to have their coach pitch, the coach pitch rules (section 24) apply.
- (26) Coaches are responsible for keeping pitch counts and must be made available to other teams when asked. Coaches must follow the current BC Minor pitch count rules. Failure to do so will result in potential disciplinary action.
  - a) 2022 Pitch Count rules from BC Minor Rulebook are as follows:
    - i. 1-25 Pitches = No Rest
    - ii. 26-40 Pitches = 2 Night Rest
    - iii. 41-55 Pitches = 3 Nights Rest
    - iv. 56-65 Pitches = 4 Nights Rest
    - v. 66-75 Pitches = 5 Nights Rest
- (27) In National League games, a pitcher can pitch a maximum of 1 inning per game until Victoria Day long weekend. After Victoria Day, a pitcher can pitch a maximum of 2 innings per game. BC Minor pitch count rules (section 26) still apply.
- (28) In American league games, a first year player must pitch a minimum of one complete inning for a team each game regardless of how many innings are played in the game, provided the team has an eligible first year player that wants to pitch.
- (29) No 'Balk Balls 'will be called against the pitcher.
- (30) Once a player assumes the position of pitcher, they cannot catch for the remainder of the day.
- (31) All BC Baseball rules will be in effect, but WRSSBA rules above take precedence.

## **E. PLAYOFFS**

- (1) All Mosquito teams compete in the playoffs within their own league.
- (2) Playoff format will be determined at the start of the regular season by the division coordinator.