

GREATER OTTAWA BASEBALL LEAGUE 19U RULES & REGULATIONS

LAST UPDATED on Sunday, April 29, 2018 - New or Changed Items are in RED.

The GOBL is a wooden bat baseball league for players aged 17, 18 and 19 as of August 31st of the current year. It is a replacement for Little League International's cancelled Big League program, and as such uses the rules of Big League as they last existed in 2016, with local modifications.

The Board of the GOBL consists of the District Administrators of Ontario Districts 2 and 6, and Presidents from any local Leagues which contributes a team to GOBL, and a Convener appointed to oversee the GOBL.

This is a local league. There is no equivalent to Little League's Tournament Play (or "All-Star") structure. **(2017 19U Rule D)**

Official Rule numbers and Page references are for the **2016** Little League Rule Book. There may also be references to the **2017 "19U" Rules, and the D6 Big League Rules**, which have been captured here as well.

GOBL PLAYING RULES: (In same order as in Official rule book)

- 1. Age:** (see **Section IV(a), page 34, amended as follows) (D6 BL Rule 13)**
 - "League Age" is age as of August 31st of the current year.
 - The league is open to players with League Age 17, 18 or 19.
 - Over-age and Under-age exemptions *only* at the discretion of the GOBL Board.
- 2. Call-Ups:** (see **Regulation V(c) page 38, supplemented as follows)**
 - In order to prevent forfeits *only*.
 - May only call up players registered in Little League's Senior program with League Age 16,
 - Can only bring the team's game lineup to a maximum of 10 players.
 - **Each call-up must be approved by the GOBL convener.**
 - **(2017 19U rule G)** A team may borrow players from its opponent if necessary, agreed and possible.
 - Call-ups and borrowed players can't pitch.
 - Same player can only be called up a maximum of 5 times in a season.
- 3. Pitchers:** (see **Regulation VI, pages 39-41)**
 - All Big League pitching rules apply.
 - As per part 'a' of this section, all players (clarification: except "call-ups" and over-age players) are eligible to pitch in a game.
- 4. Bats:** (see **Rule 1.10, pages 61-63, amended as follows, 2017 19U rule A)**
 - All bats must be made completely of wood and also adhere to rule 1.10 regarding size and weight.
- 5. Defensive Substitutions:** (see **Rule 3.03, page 75) (D6 BL Rule 10)**
 - GOBL chooses to override this rule to allow for (almost) unlimited defensive substitution.

- Players can be substituted in the field at any time during the game except for the pitcher.
 - Once the pitcher has been removed, he/she can still play in any other position, but may not re-enter the game as a pitcher.
- 6. Batting Order:** (see **Rule 4.01** and **4.04**, pages **78-79**) (**D6 BL Rule 11**)
- GOBL **ELECTS** to use the "Continuous Batting Order" option, at all age groups and tiers.
 - In Continuation of a suspended game: players present for the first part but not for the continuation will be skipped in the batting order without penalty. Players who were not present in the first part but are now present for the continuation will be added at the bottom of the lineup regardless of where the current spot in the batting order is.
- 7. Ejections:** (see **Rule 4.07**, page **79, clarified as follows**) (**D6 BL Rule 3**)
- If a player or coach is ejected from a game, the player or coach is automatically suspended for the team's next **physically played** GOBL regular or play-off game, and must leave the field as stated in the rule.
 - *GOBL addition:* A player or coach ejected for a second or subsequent time during league play is suspended for the next two games, including play-offs, or as determined by the GOBL Board.
 - Additionally, a disciplinary hearing may be convened by the GOBL Board and further action may be taken. Ejection of players and or coaches from a game will be reported to the Convener immediately following the game. Reporting will be the responsibility of the home plate umpire or the umpire crew chief of that game AND also the manager of the affected team. *(If appropriate, the convener will discuss potential supplementary discipline with the GOBL Board. The GOBL Discipline Code, yet to be ratified, will be used as the basis for consequences.)*
- 8. Game Length and Curfew:** (see **Rule 4.10(a)**, page **80**) (**2017 19U Rule F**) (**D6 BL Rules 7, 8 & 9**)
- GOBL will allow tie scores in its regular season, if the game has reached regulation length and is then called due to curfew or weather. (This overrides Rule 4.12).
 - All games are scheduled to begin promptly at **the time indicated on the schedule**. Typical start times are 6:00 without lights, or 8:15/8:30 with lights, but there are other start times as well. Refer to the schedule.
 - Fifteen minutes grace should be allowed for the arrival of late players. (More time may be granted at the umpires' and opposing team's discretion).
 - A time limit is imposed on all GOBL regular season games. No inning is to begin more than **2 hours** after the **scheduled** (*i.e. not "actual"*) start time.
 - Games may be ended earlier (especially in May) **at the sole discretion of the umpire**, due to darkness.
 - No inning should begin unless there is a reasonable expectation of completing that full inning.
 - When there is another game scheduled immediately following the current game, whether it be another GOBL game or another league's game, we must respect that booking. Umpires are asked to stop play and clear the field & dugouts at least 5 minutes before the start time of the next game.
 - On a field with lights where another team has a permit for a subsequent game or practice, the Little League game must end at least 10 minutes before the start time on the next game permit.

- For a late game on a field with lights on an automatic timer, a curfew is imposed: the game must end at least 10 minutes before the time the lights are scheduled to turn off.
- If an inning is incomplete when darkness, rain or curfew ends the game, then the score reverts to the last complete inning UNLESS the home team is at bat and has tied or gone ahead during this partial inning, in which case the score at the time the game is called stands.
- The curfew or time limit does NOT apply to the GOBL play-off games, which must be played through to completion and a winner is determined. However, playoff games may still end 'early' if called by the umpire on account of darkness or rain, or because the lights go off, or another game is scheduled.

9. Mercy Rule: (see **Rule 4.10(e), page 81, 2017 19U Rule B**)

- GOBL *ELECTS* to use this optional mercy rule.
 - If after 5 innings (4 1/2 innings with the home team ahead) one team is leading by 10 or more runs, the game shall be declared over.
- GOBL *DECLINES* to use the new option for 2018: There will be no use of the 15-run rule.
- The official score is the score at the time the Mercy Rule takes effect, even if the coaches choose to play out the game as exhibition or practice.
- There is no "per inning" run limit.

10. Lineup Size: (see **Rules 4.16 and 4.17, page 84**) (**2017 19U Rule G**) (**D6 BL Rule 4**)

- There will be no maximum number of players allowed per game, so all players on the roster may be dressed for a game. We do make a change to allow for teams to play with as few as 8 players.
- A coach must never ask a healthy player to miss a game for any reason.
- GOBL, in the interest of preventing forfeits, has decided to override rule 4.16 and allow an 8 player minimum. A team must have eight (8) players dressed to play the game.
- There will be no automatic out for a 9th player when playing with an 8 player lineup.
- 16-year-old Senior League players may be called up, subject to rule 2 above, and players may be "borrowed" from the opponent if necessary and possible, to bring the total lineup to a maximum of 10. Otherwise, having fewer than 8 players present will result in a game forfeiture.
- If, during the game, an injury or ejection causes the number of available players to fall to 8 players, the remaining eight (8) players dressed will continue to play the game. There will be no automatic out for a 9th player no longer in the game due to the injury or ejection.
- If, during the game, an injury or ejection causes the number of available players to fall below 8, this will result in a forfeit regardless of the point in the game or the score at the time.

11. Avoiding Contact: (see **Rule 7.08(a)(3), page 98**) (**D6 BL Rule 5**)

- In order to prevent injuries, contact between players must be avoided. Failure to do so may result in the offending player being ejected from the game. Any intentional contact or attempt at intentional contact will result in immediate ejection from the game and the offending player will be subject to rule 7 above

12. Safety: (**D6 BL Rule 6**)

- Any player warming up a pitcher must wear a regulation face mask and helmet. Only a player may warm up a pitcher.

GOBL REGULATIONS:

- 1. Play Nicely:** Keep it friendly. It is in the best interest of everyone involved to be cooperative with each other.
- 2. Season: (2017 19U Rule C)**
 - **One season:** Runs from mid-May to early August, playoffs to end by mid-August.
- 3. Convener:**
 - 1.** A Convener oversees the operation of GOBL, and that convener should not be a team coach. It should be someone who can communicate via email any day of the week. The convener will be responsible for:
 - Creating the regular season schedule;
 - Communicating information to the teams;
 - Making sure each team promptly enters their game scores, pitch count, and participation data at the appropriate web site;
 - Assisting the coaches involved in rescheduling rained out games;
 - Keeping Official Standings (an effort will be made to ensure the web site is correct, but the convener will be the final arbiter);
 - Scheduling and Overseeing the play-offs; and
 - Delivering the trophies to the final game, arranging the presentations, and the taking of pictures of the finalists to be put on the INTERLOCK web site.
 - **Handling the approval of call-up requests.**
- 4. Teams:**
 - Any league in Districts 2 and 6 can enter one or more teams into GOBL.
 - Teams from Districts 7 and 8 will be considered for entry into GOBL play on a case-by-case basis.
 - Minimum roster size 12, maximum roster size 20. Exemptions only at the discretion of the GOBL Board.
 - "Taxi squad" allowed.
- 5. Registration #1:**
 - All players must be officially registered during the current season
- 6. Registration #2:**
 - All players on the regular roster and/or taxi squad must be registered by May 30.
- 7. Fees:**
 - **\$100.00** per team per season, used to cover the cost of trophies or other mementos. Cheques should be made payable to: Ontario District 2 Little League.
- 8. Schedule:**
 - Each team will get an 18 to 24 game regular season, unless the team starts late.

- Conveners will attempt to schedule each team twice per week, one home game and one away game, subject to holidays, weather, field availability, etc.
- The GOBL Board reserves the option to set the start time of weekday games according to sunset time. Suggestions could be as early as 5:30 PM for May 1 to May 18, 6:00 PM for May 19 to July 27, and 5:30 PM for July 28th onwards.

9. Home Team Responsibilities: (2017 19U Rule E)

- Supply at least 2 approved leather game balls (such as 80CC as used in Senior League play);
- Set up the field with bases;
- Arrange (and pay) for a home plate umpire and at least one base umpire;
- **(2016 BL Rule 2)** Home team coaches are to notify the convener and the visiting team's manager and umpire scheduler no later than one hour prior to game time, if their game cannot be played due to field or weather conditions. If no notification and the umpires arrive at the field, and the game had been cancelled or postponed the umpires WILL BE paid.
- Home teams may have the choice of dugouts they will use for their home games.
- The home team will provide the OFFICIAL SCORER. Both teams shall track their own scores and pitch counts and report them to the web site (see section 10 below). Scorekeepers should confer during the game, but in case of an irresolvable difference, the home team's scorekeeper will prevail.

10. Reporting Game Results: (D6 BL Rule 16)

- At the end of each game, the coaches are to compare and verify each other's score and pitching records.
- Each team is to select an individual who will visit the District 2 web site, <http://d2llontario.ca>, **as soon as possible after each game**, to enter score, pitch counts, and player participation. The representatives of **both teams must submit the results as each team can only enter the results for their half of the game.**

11. Rain-Outs and Re-Scheduling Games: (D6 BL Rule 1) (D6 BL Rule 15)

- Do NOT ask another team to reschedule a game because your team cannot field a full team for whatever reason besides Tournament Play or Rain, however good you think that reason is.
- Rained out games or games not played as scheduled are to be made up as soon as conveniently possible to the two teams. The two coaches, with the help of the convener if necessary, should reschedule a rained out game, preferably within one week. (All games must be completed by the regular season end date as per the "Schedules" section, above). If agreement cannot be achieved by two coaches and the convener on the time and location, the convener will decide accordingly.

12. Standings: (2017 19U Rule H) (D6 BL Rule 14)

- The official standings will be kept by the convener. Every effort will be made to make sure that the standings that appear on the website are correct.
- Team standings will be determined on the basis of points.
 - Three points will be awarded for a win (including a win by forfeit).
 - Two points will be awarded for a tie.
 - One point will be awarded for a loss.
 - No points will be awarded for a loss by forfeit.

- A tie-breaker in the standings is the number of wins, followed by the head-to-head results between the tied teams.
- If a game is not played because one of the teams was unable to field at least 8 players, then this will be a forfeit with a score of 7-0
- Please note that games cancelled for any other reason except RAIN will be forfeits.
- **(D6 BL Rule 1)** Any game not completed by the end of the season is likely to be considered a "no-game", with neither team getting any points.

13. Play-offs: (2017 19U Rule C)

- The Convener will set the playoff format. The usual recommendation is that all playoffs are single elimination, no "reshuffling" between rounds.
- In divisions with more than 7 teams, teams will be divided into an "A" side and a "B" side at the Convener's discretion.
- All play-off games are sudden death. Extra innings must be played if the game ends in a tie. Tied games cut short by darkness, curfew or rain must be continued as soon as possible.
- The team with the higher place finish in the regular season will be the home team for any play-off game.
- **Play-off Eligibility:** GOBL play-offs have a player regular season games-played requirement of 40%. Appeals may be made to the GOBL Board. NO allowance will be made for games missed due to participation in other (non-GOBL, non-Little League) baseball programs.

14. Protests, Ejections and Other Incidents: (D6 BL Rule 12)

- Please attempt to avoid protests.
- Protests will only be considered when based on a violation or interpretation of a playing rule or use of an ineligible player. No protests will be considered based on an umpire's judgement call.
- Every Protest, Ejection and other Incident must be reported the same evening it happens.
- **Protests:** Please see Official Rule 4.19 regarding protests. By that rule, protests are allowed, though we **actively discourage** them in GOBL play. In the event of a protest, the umpires will deal with it on field as per rule 4.19. Play will not be suspended for a protest; teams will simply do what the umpire directs them to do, and the protest will be treated as incidents for review (by the Protest/Incident Committee) after the game is over.
- **If the manager does not register his/her official protest with the umpire at the proper time, the protest will not be heard.**

15. Lightning & Storms:

- For games where lightning and severe storms may be imminent, umpires and coaches must abide by the Little League Canada **Policy O-4.0 on Weather**. **Here is a link to that policy:** [http://d2llontario.ca/SMaLL/Documents/Current/LL_Canada_-4.0_-_Weather_Policy_-_REVISED_\(Nov_2016\).pdf](http://d2llontario.ca/SMaLL/Documents/Current/LL_Canada_-4.0_-_Weather_Policy_-_REVISED_(Nov_2016).pdf)
- **Simply put: if either thunder is heard or lightning is seen, the game needs to be suspended and the 30 minute delay process begun.**