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#### **President's Message**

#### Greetings One and All,

Best wishes from the Executive of the WOBA for a great year personally and as well in the world of baseball.

2011 was a good year for the WOBA. The WOBA New Era AAA team out of St. Mary's had an exceptional first year as they ended the season in 2<sup>nd</sup> place and went on to win their league finals as well as placing 4<sup>th</sup> at the OBA's. The WOBA and OBA Championship results are listed at the front of the WOBA booklet as well as on the website.

The West Middlesex tier 2 teams joined with the WOBA teams to form an expanded league. We encountered some growing pains with this venture but we are learning from the past and moving forward on solid ground.

Smaller associations like the WOBA are making more and more noise at the OBA in the hope that they will take rural baseball more seriously. Our OBA Rep. Ron Berlett is constantly making our case known.

This season at least 3 Bulls teams are on the go at this time. Hopefully there will be more teams each year so our kids will be able to play at a higher level without having to leave their centers. Two of our centers are planning to play partial schedules with the ICBA at the tier 2 level and we wish them all the best. Our Bantams will be trying out for the Ontario Summer Games team. The Games are in Toronto this year on the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of August. These are the types of efforts that can give our kids the best of both worlds in baseball, playing in their home centers as well as playing at the A level with the Bulls and the Summer Games Team.

2012 will be a year of hope for some of our centers that are experiencing growth and new enthusiasm. For other centers, this year will be a time of transition as new faces replace the familiar ones and the torch is passed to the next group of volunteers. For other centers it will still be a struggle to field a full slate of teams as you search for your next set of volunteers. Regardless of your center's situation, we wish you good luck this season. We also offer our assistance for setting up clinics and getting you information for programs like Blast Ball and Rally Cap. All you have to do is have your center's rep ask and we will do our best to support you.

Also, remember to use our website. We will post as much information as we can, as well as using it for schedules and game results.

Thank you to everyone for all that you do for the great game of baseball at the local level. The smiles on the faces of our kids make it all worthwhile.

#### Barb Henry

WOBA President on behalf of the WOBA Executive

# **EXECUTIVE**

President	Barb Henry	519-924-3109
OBA Rep	Ron Berlett	519-291-5698
Vice-President North	Peter Kritz	519-364-4752
Vice-President South	Annette Hoggarth	519-524-1731
Treasurer	Pat Beaton	519-396-4904
Registrar	Jaime Fleet	519-364-6665
Secretary	Cathy Berlett	519-291-5698
Director North	Pat Beaton	519-396-4904
Director South	Jeff Keller	519-235-0108

# 2011 OBA Championship Winners & Finalists

<u>Division</u>	Champion	<u>Finalist</u>
Peewee D	Exeter	Amherstburg
Midget D	Mitchell	St Marys
Senior B	Chatham	Mitchell

Check out the website for previous years.

# 2011 WOBA Championship Winners

Senior Rookie Tier 1	St Marys	Listowel
Senior Rookie Tier 2	St Marys B	St Marys A
MosquitoTier 1	St Marys	Lucan
Mosquito Consolation	Clinton	Kincardine
Mosquito Tier 2	Ilderton Blue	St Marys
Peewee Tier 1	Exeter	Listowel
Peewee Tier 2	Grand Bend	Lucan
Bantam	Listowel	Hanover
Midget	Hanover	Listowel

#### 2011 WOBA Award Winners

Umpire of the Year	Bernie Gill
Volunteer of the Year	Annette Hoggarth
Coach of the Year	Rob Hollinger
Team of the Year	Listowel Peewee Legionnaires

Please keep in mind that we would like as many nominations as possible for the various awards. The recipients of these awards could be forwarded on to the OBA for recognition awards.

# WOBA Contact List

<u>Town</u>	<u>Contact</u>	Phone Phone
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Lucan	Mike Thompson	519-227-1517
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Mitchell	Doug Wolfe	519-348-9685 519-348-9365 Fax wolfe@ezlink.on.ca
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Owen Sound	John Kosempel	519-371-9206
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Saugeen Shores	Paul Bolton	
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St Marys	Michael Reid	519-619-9319
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# 2012 Important Dates

January 30	Monday	Executive Meeting Listowel @ 7:30
March 5	Monday	1 <sup>st</sup> WOBA Board of Directors meeting, Listowel Legion @ 7:15
March 31	Saturday	Bond must be updated and/or all fines must be paid to start the season
April 16	Monday	Pre-scheduling meeting – North and South, Listowel Legion
April 30	Monday	Upstairs @ 7:15Tier 1 Scheduling meeting, Listowel Parkview @ 7:15
May 7	Monday	Schedule may begin
May 14	Monday	Tier 2 Scheduling meeting
June 4	Monday	2 <sup>nd</sup> WOBA BOD of Directors meeting, Listowel Legion Upstairs @ 7:15
June 15	Friday	OBA roster sheets and WOBA roster sheets due to Jaime
June 15	Friday	Insurance coverage application deadline-apply online
June 30	Saturday	Last day to add players to the roster
July 3	Tuesday	Classification declaration and playoff commitment submission at WOBA CLASSIFICATION MEETING & 3rd BOD Meeting, Listowel 7:15 at Parkview Gardens
July 9	Monday	Secretary submits classification list to OBA
July 22	Sunday	Classification meeting – OBA Cambridge
August 3-6	Weekend	Qualifiers if necessary
August 9	Friday	End of regular league play for all series
August 10-12	Weekend	Rookie (Major/Minor) Championship and Qualifier, Mosquito Tier 1 and Consolation Championship and Midget WOBA Championship
August 12	Sunday	Last day for Rule Change Proposals to WOBA Secretary
August 17-19	Weekend	Peewee WOBA Championship and Consolation Tournament
August 17-19	Weekend	Junior OBA
August 21	Tuesday	Last Day for OBA Rules Committee Submissions
August 24-26	Weekend	Midget OBA
August 24-26	Weekend	Bantam WOBA Championship and All Tier 2 Championships
August 31-Sept 3	Weekend	OBA Championship Tournaments (except for Junior and Midget)
September 4	Tuesday	Amendments to WOBA or OBA constitution to secretary
September 4	Tuesday	Nominations for WOBA/OBA Awards to WOBA Secretary
September 10	Monday	4 <sup>th</sup> WOBA Board of Directors Meeting – Legion Upstairs @ 7:15
September 28	Friday	Constitution Amendments to OBA Secretary
October 1	Monday	WOBA AGM, Listowel Legion Upstairs @ 7:15 pm
October 12	Friday	Award Nominations to OBA
November 16-18	Weekend	OBA AGM, Nottawasaga Inn, Alliston

# 2012

# **CONSTITUTION OF THE**

# WESTERN ONTARIO BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

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#### CONSTITUTION OF THE WESTERN ONTARIO BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

#### **ARTICLE 1. NAME**

The name of the organization shall be the Western Ontario Baseball Association, which hereinafter shall be referred to as "The Association".

### **ARTICLE 2. PURPOSE**

The objectives of the Association shall be:

- a) To foster and improve baseball in that part of Ontario known as and identified by the Ontario Baseball Association as, Western Ontario.
- b) To protect and promote leadership, sportsmanship, good conduct and the mutual interests of the members.
- c) To institute and regulate competitions within the boundaries governed by the Association for declaring Association Champions and for determining teams (clubs) to represent the Association in the Ontario Championships.

#### **ARTICLE 3. BOUNDARIES**

Within the WOBA, boundaries are to be one-half the distance between adjoining locals. Affiliate's boundaries extend to existing WOBA outer boundaries as stated in the OBA Constitution and Bylaws. See Appendix 7 for map of boundaries.

# **ARTICLE 4. MEMBERSHIP**

- a) Membership in the Association shall be open to such municipalities that have registered at least one team (club) with the Association; provided said team or teams are in good standing.
- b) Members in good standing are those who shall agree to abide by and comply with the Constitution, By-Laws and Rules of the Association, and when necessary the Constitution, By-Laws and Rules of the Ontario Baseball Association. *Membership may be revoked by the Board of Directors for failing to meet the foregoing conditions.*
- c) Each municipality in good standing shall be entitled to have one representative on the Board of Directors of the Association.
- d) When the municipality in good standing does not have a representative at the Annual Meeting or a member at the Board of Directors meeting, that Municipality shall automatically be fined *a sum to be fixed annually by the Board of Directors*.
- e) Each municipality shall post and maintain annually a \$150.00 bond with the WOBA treasurer. This must be updated by March 30 of each year. If a municipality withdraws from the WOBA

between seasons the bond amount shall be maintained for a three-year period, after which the bond shall be forfeited. Any subsequent application for membership to the WOBA will require the bond to be reinstated by the municipality. When a junior or senior team is not affiliated with the local minor baseball association that team shall pay a \$150 bond before it is carded by the WOBA. If a junior or senior team withdraws from WOBA between seasons it will be reimbursed the \$150.00 bond or a part thereof.

- f) When a team from a municipality fails to fulfill an obligation to another municipality, that team shall be assessed a fine to be determined annually by the Board of Directors. A letter, stating the facts, and asking for financial reimbursement must be forwarded to the WOBA secretary within 15 days of the occurrence. If such a letter is not sent, the matter is considered to be closed as of that meeting.
- g) Life membership can be conferred by a majority vote at the annual meeting on the recommendation and approval of the Executive. Criteria for awarding life membership shall be faithful service to the WOBA and a desire on the part of the proposed life member to remain active in the affairs of the WOBA.
- h) Insurance application is to be completed on-line with payment directly to the OBA.
- Registrations for WOBA and OBA competition shall be submitted to the registrar no later than 15 days before the OBA registration deadline. The Board of Directors shall establish registration fees for WOBA and/or OBA competition annually. Teams failing to meet WOBA registration requirements may be declared ineligible for OBA and WOBA competition.

# **ARTICLE 5. PLAYER REGISTRATION AND RELEASES**

WOBA discourages releases in order to allow our own local association the ability to field teams and grow in strength and numbers. We do this to keep competitive baseball available to all. The WOBA does not grant releases of convenience. Players younger than Minor Bantam must play with a team within their Affiliated Association. Players younger than Minor Bantam may be granted releases but only upon the approval of the Local Association, the Affiliated Association and the OBA. If a release is not granted by the Local Association or the Affiliated Association, an appeal may be made to the OBA for a final ruling.

- a) All players wishing to play Tier 1 baseball in WOBA must register with their home association by the end of their registration dates for the upcoming season.
- b) Players with valid releases from the prior year may choose to register with the local association they played with last season or their home association.
- c) If a local association is unsure as to whether they will be fielding a team, a player may apply for a permission to practice form from the local association that would allow the player the opportunity to work-out with another specific team until a decision is made, at which point this form expires.
- d) Local Associations must determine the age categories in which they will be fielding teams by April 15<sup>th</sup>. After this date, players registered in categories where no team is to be fielded or are unsuccessful in making the team in his/her age group are free to seek a position with a team in another centre within WOBA.

**Note:** This is not a release. The player must register with his/her home centre the following year.

- e) If a player has played two consecutive seasons with another local association, as a result of section d) above, and wishes to remain with that team he/she will be considered released.
- f) If a player wishes to play with another local association he/she must first secure a written release from his/her local association. If the release is denied the player has the right to appeal, in writing, to the Registrar of WOBA. The player and the local association will be allowed to present their case in person at the appeal hearing. If the release is denied by WOBA the player may then appeal to the OBA for a final decision.
- g) A player may return to his/her home association at the beginning of any season without a release.
- h) If a player wishes to play with a local association outside the WOBA, the player must first obtain a release from the local association holding the player's playing rights. Once the local association release is obtained, the player must obtain a WOBA release. Both releases must be obtained before a player can practice or play with a team other than the local association that currently holds the player's playing rights.
- i) If a player wishes to obtain a release, a written request must be submitted to the Local Association and to the WOBA Registrar. If the Local Association fails to provide a ruling within 14 days of receipt of the request, the player shall notify the WOBA Registrar. WOBA will convene a hearing within 14 days of receipt of notification that the Local Association has failed to provide a ruling in the required time.

# **ARTICLE 6. EXECUTIVE**

- 1. The executive shall be the Immediate Past President if available, the President, the Vice-President of the North Division, and the Vice-President of the South Division, the Secretary the Treasurer and the Registrar and two Directors elected by the Board of Directors.
- 2. The Executive shall meet as needed. A quorum at an Executive Meeting shall consist of at least four (4) members.
- 3. Any member of the Executive who fails to attend three (3) meetings of the Executive/Board of Directors in a Calendar year without reasonable cause, shall be replaced by appointment upon motion duly made, and after written notification of said action has been forwarded to the affected person.
- A Appointed Members
  - 1. The Immediate Past President shall have the power to vote at all general meeting of the Association, at all meetings of the Executive and at all meetings of the Board of Directors.
  - 2. (i) A Secretary, a Treasurer and a Registrar shall be appointed annually by the President subject to approval of the Executive. One person, two persons, or three different people may hold these three positions.
    - (ii) The term of appointments shall be from the date of the appointments until the next Annual General Meeting; however the Executive reserves the right to terminate these

appointments when it determines that such action is in the best interests of baseball for the Association.

- (iii) An honorarium to be determined annually by the Board of Directors shall be paid to the person appointed to be the registrar and secretary.
- (iv) An Umpire in Chief shall be appointed annually with the 1<sup>st</sup> term to extend until the end of 2013. The Umpire in Chief must be a current, active, carded umpire living within the WOBA boundaries. This is a non-voting advisory position.

#### B Elected Members

- 1. (i) The President, the vice-presidents and the directors at large shall be elected by a majority of the ballots cast at the Annual General Meeting, by a vote of eligible delegates in attendance.
  - (ii) To be a candidate for President, a person must have been a representative of a municipality or have been an executive member in at least one of the previous two years.
- 2. The term of office shall be from the date of the election until the next Annual General Meeting.
- C Duties of the Executive
- a) The Executive shall conduct the following on behalf of the Association:
  - (i) Authorize all expenditures.
  - (ii) Be responsible for an outside review of the Secretary-Treasurer's records; such outside review may only be waived by unanimous vote of the Executive upon Motion duly made.
  - (iii) Create all Special committees and appoint their members.
  - (iv) The Executive shall not exceed the approved budget by more than \$200.00 unless approved by the Board of Directors.
  - (v) Permit or prohibit any or all exhibition games.
  - (vi) Sanction all Baseball played within the defined boundaries.
  - (vii) See to the general welfare of the Association and its members.
  - (viii) Select the Ontario Baseball Association delegates on an annual basis.
  - (ix) Establish the schedule for league play and playoff tournaments. Such schedule shall be published annually as Appendix 8 Important Dates. The Schedule may be altered as needed by a vote of the Board of Directors.
  - (x) The Executive shall establish meeting dates annually.

D Duties of Officers

#### a) THE PRESIDENT

The office of the President shall carry with it the following duties and obligations:

- (i) Preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and Executive.
- (ii) Appoint a representative to the Ontario Baseball Association.
- (iii) Appoint a registrar, a secretary and a treasurer, subject to approval of the Executive.
- (iv) Be an ex-officio member of all Standing and Special Committees.
- (v) To encourage the growth of baseball within the boundaries of the Association.
- (vi) Be a signing officer for the Association.

The President may delegate such duties and obligations to members of the Executive and/or the Board of Directors from time to time as become necessary for the proper functioning of the Association.

#### b) VICE PRESIDENTS NORTH AND SOUTH

- (i) Either Vice-President as determined by the rest of the Executive shall carry out the duties of the President in his/her absence. The President may delegate other duties to the Vice-Presidents.
- (ii) The Vice-President of the Southern and Northern Divisions shall be responsible for communication and administration of baseball affairs in their respective Divisions.

#### c) IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

The Immediate Past President shall be the President of the Association from the previous year. Where the President is re-elected in consecutive years, the Immediate Past President shall remain the same.

#### d) SECRETARY

The Secretary shall conduct the following on behalf of the Association:

- (i) File an accurate record of all proceedings of all meetings.
- (ii) Receive and file all correspondence.
- (iii) Circulate such information as is deemed necessary by the Executive to all Members no later than fourteen (14) days before the Annual General Meeting.
- (iv) Act as a voting member of the Executive.

- (v) Send commitment sheets for playoff intentions. These are to be returned at the classification meeting.
- (vi) Deliver all team classification information to the Ontario Baseball Association in a timely fashion.
- (vii) Inform President of any centre that has missed 2 consecutive meetings so that they can be contacted.
- (viii) Distribute minutes of previous meeting 1 week prior to upcoming meeting.

#### e) THE REGISTRAR

The registrar shall conduct the following on behalf of the Association:

- (i) Receive and file all player registration.
- (ii) Ensure that the Secretary receives a full and complete listing of all players registered each year.
- (iii) Act as a voting member of the Executive.
- (iv) Attend WOBA board meetings. Give reports when necessary.
- (v) Attend pre-scheduling and scheduling meetings. At Scheduling meeting each centre will register their teams and pay their fees. Have registration forms printed and ready for completion.
- (vi) Assist treasurer with registration. Submit registration money to the treasurer. Make a list of teams registered for each centre. This is cross-checked when rostering teams. Verify teams rostered were registered. Junior rookie does not pay. Senior pays OBA only.
- (vii) Make copies of preliminary rosters from website and distribute to coaches at scheduling meeting along with blank OBA and WOBA rosters.
- (viii) Go over the preliminary rosters when they are handed in. Any new player to WOBA must provide a copy of his or her birth certificate. Keep these on file. All preliminary rosters from the locals are to be signed by the parent to verify the information is correct.
- (ix) Update players list from the preliminary roster, enter any new information on the roster to submit to the OBA only after all information is completed and accurate-verify addresses, birthdate registration numbers and release dates. All players need a birth registration number, passport number or statutory declaration (p1.2 in OBA booklet). All coaching information is to be complete. Coaches need to have a CC# or the date and place of the workshop they attended. There is also a coaches list on the website to verify the coaches' certification.
- (x) The registrar provides a signed roster for teams going to tournaments. If the OBA rosters have not been approved, she can print the roster submitted to OBA with WOBA approval until the OBA approves. This is for early tournaments in the year. When rosters are

approved by OBA they will show as such on the website. Return to the town reps, by downloading and emailing. These rosters are to have the player's signature.

(xi) Print a hard copy of all approved rosters and attach to preliminary info received from the locals (preliminary roster, birth certificates). Retain for 7 years.

#### f) TREASURER

The Treasurer shall conduct the following on behalf of the Association:

- (i) Prepare a budget to be submitted to the Executive at the first Executive Meeting of the year.
- (ii) Collect and receipt all monies due and maintain proper accounts and records thereof.
- (iii) Submit all accounts payable to the Executive Committee for approval.
- (iv) Sign and issue all cheques properly countersigned and recorded.
- (v) Present a financial report to each Executive and General Meeting and at each meeting of the Board of Directors.
- (vi) Present a financial report to the first Board of Directors Meeting following the financial year-end.
- (vii) Act as a voting member of the Executive.

#### g) ELECTED DIRECTORS AT LARGE (ONE NORTH, ONE SOUTH)

- (i) Elected Directors shall act as voting members of the Executive.
- (ii) Elected Directors shall carry out duties as assigned by the President

#### 8

#### **ARTICLE 7. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- a) The Board of Directors shall consist of all members of the Executive and one (1) Representative from each municipality in good standing. Centres with Tier 1 attend all meetings. Centres with Tier 2 attend 1<sup>st</sup> Board of Directors meeting, a scheduling meeting, classification and the AGM. They are welcome to attend all meetings if they wish. All executive may cast one vote, all Board of Directors may cast one vote per centre and only if present. There will be only one vote per centre when awarding tournaments and year end honours. The members of the Board of Directors are to share the minutes and business of the BOD meetings with their local executive and coaches.
- b) A quorum of the Board of Directors shall consist of representatives of five or more baseball associations of WOBA in good standing at a meeting advertised by notices being mailed to each association.
- c) Unless otherwise specified in the Constitution, By-Laws or Rules of the Association, all Motions brought before any meeting of the Executive, Board of Directors, Standing or Special Committees of the Association; shall be carried by a simple majority. The Chairperson of any of the above-named committees shall vote only where that vote may create a tie, thus defeating the Motion, or where that vote will break a tie.
- d) Special Meetings shall be called by the President or by a request to the President by a majority of the Executive and/or the Board of Directors.
- e) Any municipality whose Representative fails to attend three (3) consecutive meetings shall be requested, in writing, to select a new Representative prior to the next board of Directors' Meeting.
- f) The Board of Directors shall consider and make changes as required to the Appendices to the WOBA Constitution and to the By-Laws of the WOBA, including, but not limited to, the special playing rules which shall govern play in WOBA league games and WOBA-only tournaments. Such rules and by-laws may set aside or change the rulings of the OBA where such changes are deemed to promote the growth of baseball within the WOBA.

#### **ARTICLE 8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING/SPECIAL MEETINGS OF MEMBERS**

- a) The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held at least 30 days prior to the Ontario Baseball Association AGM.
- b) The Executive shall have the responsibility for selecting the host municipality for any meeting.
- c) All interested persons are eligible to attend the Annual General Meeting and any special meetings of the members.
- d) Member municipalities may name voting delegates based on one delegate per centre that is registered and in good standing with the Association at the time of the Annual General Meeting.
- e) A quorum shall consist of half plus one local associations. Note that publication of a list of important dates shall constitute notice of such meeting.

# THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The president shall preside at the Annual General Meeting.

The Agenda for the Annual General Meeting shall be as follows:

- 1. Call to order and welcome.
- 2. Introduction of special guests.
- 3. Adoption and business arising from the minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting.
- 4. Outline of Resolutions procedure.
- 5. President's Report.
- 6. Secretary/Treasurer/Registrar's Report.
- 7. Special Reports.
- 8. Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws.
- 9. Resolutions; a) to the OBA b) to the WOBA
- 10. Election of Executive.
- 11. Other Business.

Adjournment.

#### **ARTICLE 9. AMENDING THE WOBA CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

- a) Written proposals must be mailed or delivered to the Secretary no later than thirty (30) calendar days prior to the published date of a General Meeting.
- b) Amendments shall require at least a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those voting delegates in attendance.
- c) The Constitution may only be amended at the Annual General Meeting or a properly constituted special general meeting called for the purpose of revising the Constitution.
- d) WOBA by-laws shall form appendices to the Constitution and may be amended as required by the Board of Directors at any properly constituted meeting of the Board.

# ARTICLE 10. THE OBA CONSTITUTION AND CONVENTION

- 1) All proposed amendments to the OBA constitution shall be in the hands of the WOBA secretary by the Wednesday after Labour Day.
- 2) The board of the WOBA shall appoint the four voting delegates to the OBA Annual Meeting based on the following order of volunteering:

- a) President
- b) Vice-Presidents North/South
- c) Registrar
- d) Treasurer
- e) Secretary
- f) Elected Directors
- g) Others
- 3) WOBA shall be responsible to pay the registration fee and the cost of the room for each voting delegate at the OBA AGM.

# **ARTICLE 11. RULES OF ORDER**

The Association at all meetings shall operate under "Robert's Rules of Order".

# Appendix 1

# **BY-LAWS/Rules**

# WESTERN ONTARIO BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

These rules regarding structure of teams, schedules playoffs etc are not to be administered by the game umpire, but are fitting matters for the WOBA Board of Directors. If there is a dispute about one of these rules in a game, the umpire should be notified that the game is under protest, but the umpire should not be asked to arbitrate the dispute.

# (1) Registration of Teams and Players

- a. Before a player plays in any regular season games his/her parent (unless the player is 18 when the roster is signed) must have signed a roster sheet, which has been approved by the W.O.B.A. registrar. This applies to all teams playing WOBA schedules including Tier 2 teams and House League. This certificate must be approved by the OBA before a player is eligible to take part in OBA play either play offs or tournaments. Minor Rookie is not charged for registration.
- b. The WOBA will consider overage players in special circumstances to allow the centre enough players to field a team of 10. These players should be those judged most in need of lower caliber competition and special consideration (i.e. the least accomplished players available from the higher division). They cannot be rostered to any other team. Regardless of the number of players at the game, if overaged players are signed, they are allowed to play in all WOBA games.
  - i) All overage players must be approved by BOD for all teams.
  - ii) Overage players may not pitch.
  - iii) The coach is required to notify the umpire and the opposing coach of an overage player.
- c. i) For Tier 1 WOBA play all coaches must have completed the current online initiation program and at least one coach must have full OBA certification.
  - ii) For Tier 2 play at least one coach must have completed the current online module. It is recommended that all coaches complete the online component.
- d. Where there are 2 teams in a series within an association it is permissible for a coach to draw from the other team's roster provided that a maximum of 11 are playing. The other team must be notified of who the drawn players are. These players are not allowed to pitch.

# (2) Regular Season Play (All games with any WOBA team of same age group)

- a. Game results must be submitted via email link on the website to the webmaster by the home team within 2 days of the game. All infractions of rules (i.e. Ejections) shall be noted by the officials and sent to the Vice Presidents noted in the front of the WOBA handbook. This notification needs to be sent immediately.
- b. For regular season play, 24 hours **VERBAL** (live) notice must be given to the opposing coach if a centre cannot field a team. The fine to be levied will be \$75.00 to be paid to WOBA and forwarded to the non-offending team.

- c. The team cancelling a scheduled game has to reschedule. The home team reschedules on the rainout. This applies until both teams have achieved the required minimum games played.
- d. League play will end for all series on the Thursday prior to the start of the WOBA Championships.
- e. League play is a minimum of 12 games. There is a \$75.00 fine per game when under the 12 game minimum. This is payable to the WOBA.

# (3) Playoffs

- a. Teams must make a commitment (to whichever playoff tournaments they wish to enter) on the classification commitment sheet; the commitment may be changed at the classification meeting. Commitment forms to be handed in on arrival at classification meeting. Classification may be changed by the centre or by vote of the WOBA Board of Directors at the classification meeting. No changes are allowed once the Classification meeting has been adjourned. All classifications are subject to OBA approval. Teams not submitting classification forms at the meeting will not be classified. Once a WOBA Championship tournament has been scheduled any scheduled team not participating shall pay \$200.00 to the host.
- b. If no application to host the playoff tournament has been received by the classification meeting then a centre shall be appointed by the Board of Directors.
- c. Play-off sites will be awarded at the annual meeting of the WOBA, if a municipality has applied by that date. Otherwise play-off sites shall be awarded by vote at Board of Director meetings, up to one (1) month prior to the classification meeting. In order to be considered, a request must be received prior to the start of the meeting. All play-off applications must include a facility report similar to OBA format. All games must be completed prior to the OBA play-offs. This applies to WOBA play-offs only.
- d. The President shall appoint a Convenor for Senior OBA play-off. The senior Playoff convenor shall:
  - (i) Establish a playoff format and schedule for senior playoffs that is consistent with the needs of teams wishing to compete in OBA senior playoffs. The convenor should attempt to establish a schedule that is acceptable to participants, but will have final authority in setting playoff dates and times.
  - (ii) Arbitrate matters under dispute. The convenor's decision in such matters shall be final.
- e. The tournament format, for both OBA qualifiers and Tier 1WOBA play-offs is a double elimination schedule as established by the OBA Constitution. Tournament host is to submit Tournament Schedule to their Vice for approval two weeks before tournament start date.

Tier 2 format will be determined at the Classification meeting. The tournament host is to submit the Tournament schedule to their Vice President for approval two weeks before the tournament start date.

f. Where there are more than 8 teams in an age division there shall be a Consolation tournament as well as a Championship tournament for WOBA. The breakdown of the two tournaments will be established based on regular season record of 12 games. Team pairings for the championship tournaments shall be determined by random draw of the top half vs the bottom half. Standing to be determined by winning percent as reported by July 31<sup>st</sup>.

- g. Entry fees for WOBA play-off tournaments will be established annually by the Board of Directors (See Table of fees)
- h. Playoff tournaments shall be held to decide the OBA reps as well as to declare the WOBA Champion. Major Rookie teams shall compete in one tournament to declare both the WOBA champion and the WOBA rep to the OBA championship tournament.
- i. Applications to host the playoff tournament are to be in the hands of the WOBA Secretary as early as possible.
- j. Banners shall be provided for the WOBA Tier 1Champions (Championship and Consolation) of Rookie Ball, Mosquito, Peewee, Bantam and Midget.
- k. A set of medallions shall be provided for the WOBA Champion and Finalists teams in Championship, Consolation and Tier 2.
- 1. For the qualifier tournaments all teams in a series are eligible provided they have fulfilled their commitment of minimum 12 games played to the league. League standings will not count for pairings. Teams will be drawn from a hat at the classification for pairings.
- m. WOBA Championship tournaments shall be true double knockout. Dates for playoff tournaments shall be established by the Executive and may be altered as needed by a vote of the Board of Directors.
- n. The maximum number of WOBA teams allowed to enter any OBA Championship will be determined by the OBA. If necessary a qualifying tournament will take place.
- o. No WOBA tournament may start earlier than 4 pm on a weekday.
- p. If 2 teams in the same series from the same local have less than 18 players in total they are to bring all players available to the WOBA Championship as 1 team and give all players the opportunity to play.
- q. Players may not play on WOBA teams if they are playing with Non-recognized OBA teams or organizations.
- r. Level 1umpires are allowed to umpire in mosquito and higher playoff and tournament games but only with a level 2 or higher umpire. This rule can be mutually waived by both coaches in an emergency situation.
- s. The following shall be the method of breaking ties for tournament play only when the tournament is not a double elimination tournament.
  - 1. The most wins.
  - 2. The record against each other (2 teams).
  - 3. The record among each other (3 teams).
  - 4. The record against/amongst each other after four innings.
  - 5. Run differential (between tied teams only) for the 1<sup>st</sup> four innings.
  - 6. Flip a coin.

# Appendix 2

#### **Discipline Policy**

**Discipline:** Guidelines for discipline are as follows:

- 1) Minor Infractions: Team members (player, coach or other team official) may be ejected from a game for minor infractions such as foul language or un-sportsmanlike conduct.
  - a. The first such ejection shall be subject to a one game suspension in addition to the game in which the infraction occurs.
  - b. After the second such ejection, the team member will be automatically suspended for 2 games.
  - c. Upon receiving a third and any subsequent ejection in any season, the team member will be subject to a minimum 2 game suspension. In addition, the offending team member will have his case reviewed by the WOBA discipline committee and the discipline committee may impose such penalty as they see fit up to suspension for the remainder of that playing season and playoffs.
- 2) **Profanity:** If a word or phrase that is uttered during a game by any team member is deemed to be profane or offensive by any member of the umpiring crew, and if such profanity is deemed to have been audible to any spectator, then the umpire shall call time and deliver a warning to **both** teams. Any subsequent profanity will result in an immediate ejection subject to the penalties for a minor infraction as per 1) above.
- **3) Major Infractions:** If ejected for uttering a racial slur, fighting or physical abuse, deliberate attempt to injure, gross misconduct, physical or verbal abuse of umpires, or physical interaction (fighting, shoving) with spectators, a mandatory 3 game suspension will be imposed. Upon receiving a second major suspension, in addition to the mandatory 3 game suspension, the offending team member will have his case reviewed by the WOBA discipline committee and the discipline committee may impose such penalty as they see fit up to and including suspension for the remainder of that playing season and playoffs.

**4)** Combinations of major and minor infractions: If a player receives first a major suspension followed by a minor suspension or vice versa, the penalty shall be the penalty for a second occurrence of the second infraction.

5) Any player, coach or other team official, or member of a local association who deliberately breaks or contravenes any rule approved by the WOBA, whether in its own Constitution or accepted as a rule by the WOBA can be guilty of a Gross Infraction. The case will be heard by the WOBA Discipline Committee under the same criteria as a Major Infraction. The Committee will pass their recommendations to a specially convened Executive meeting for final determination. Any decision made by the Executive will remain in effect until ratified by the next Board of Directors meeting.

#### 6) Notifications:

a) Any complaint requiring disciplinary action must be filed with the WOBA secretary within fourteen days of the occurrence of the offense. The Secretary will forward the complaint to the appropriate Vice-President. Late submissions will not be accepted.

b) The coach of the team which has had any team member ejected shall suspend the player for the minimum suspension as per the rule above. Any subsequent action by the Vice-President will either confirm or increase the suspension.

c) Any game infractions resulting in ejections must be reported by the umpire to the Secretary within 48 hours of the ejection.

d) The Secretary will within 24 hours of receiving the complaint inform the appropriate WOBA Vice-President.

e) The responsible Vice-President shall determine whether or not the ejection merits review by the Discipline Committee as per rules 1-5 above. If no Discipline Committee review is required, the Vice-President shall call the coach of the offending team to confirm the penalty.

f) If a Discipline Committee review is necessary the Vice-President shall, at his discretions, interview anyone involved in the complaint. The Discipline Committee will meet to decide whether any further action is required. The Vice-President will notify the coach of the offending team of any penalty imposed by the Discipline Committee.

- 6) Failure to Comply: Any coach who knowingly allows a team member to participate in a game for which he ought to be suspended according to rules 1 to 5 above shall be suspended for a minimum of three games and shall be subject to review by the discipline committee.
- 7) **Discipline Committee:** The responsible Vice-President shall assemble a discipline committee composed of him (her) self, plus the opposite division WOBA Vice-President and the opposite division Director at Large. The decision of the Discipline Committee shall be final, but the discipline committee is expected, as part of its deliberations, to give the coach of the offending team an opportunity to present any mitigating factors he believes might be pertinent.
- 8) **Conflict of Interest:** No discipline committee member shall sit on any suspension deliberations if they are in a position of conflict of interest. They are expected to declare conflict of interest situations such as, but not limited to:
  - a. They are a member of the offending team.
  - b. They are a member of the other team involved in the game.
  - c. They are involved in a tournament in which the offending team is also participating.
  - d. Any other condition that the executive member involved believes would constitute a conflict of interest.

In the event there is a declared conflict of interest, the WOBA president shall determine the composition of the Discipline Committee and may choose to replace the conflicted member or to find another executive member to serve on the committee.

**9) Appeals Procedure:** An appeal is heard strictly on the basis of an error in the interpretation of the rules. Umpire's judgment is not basis for an appeal. The umpire and opposing coach must be advised of your decision to appeal before the 'next pitch' and it should be recorded on the back of the game card. The WOBA Secretary must receive the competed form and a \$50 cheque payable to WOBA within 24 hours of the game in question. The decision to hear the appeal will be based strictly on compliance with providing all of the required information listed below. All additional information will be welcome at the time of the hearing, if the committee determines it is warranted. Should there be no basis for appeal, or inadequate facts and details provided as required, you will be advised in writing, thanking you for your \$50 donation

to the association. Please remember that ejection from a game is the umpire's decision, based on conduct of the ejected person, and in itself, not basis for appeal.

# **REQUIRED INFORMATION**

-Date and time of game

-Park

-Division

-Home team information – Manager and phone #, coach and phone #

-Visiting team information –Manager and phone #, coach and phone #

-Plate umpire – Name and phone #

-Base umpire – Name and phone #

-Game particulars – inning, score, # or outs, count on batter, runners on base -Rule being protested and Reference #

-The reason you think the rule was incorrectly applied

# Appendix 3

# Schedule of Fees and Charges.

As provided for in the WOBA Constitution, the following schedule of fees and charges shall be established and updated annually.

Item	Const'n Ref	2011 Value	2012 Value
Registration Fee WOBA Only	Article 4 (i)	\$125	\$150
Registration Fee OBA Team	Article 4 (i)	\$200 **	\$225
Registrar's/Secretary's Honorarium	Article 6 A 2(iii)	\$1500	1250
WOBA Playoff Tournament Fees	Appendix 1 (3) g	\$75 + \$50 per game	\$75 +\$50 per
Peewee and under **		**	game.
WOBA Playoff Tournament Fees	Appendix 1.(3) g	\$75 + \$60 per game	\$75 + \$60 per
Bantam and Above **		**	game
Insurance (established by OBA)	Article 4 (h)	\$3.10 member	\$3.00 member
		\$6.20 non-member	\$6.00 non-member

Notes- \*\*Regarding payment of fees, teams may be prohibited from playing in the tournaments if cheques are not presented prior to 1<sup>st</sup> game.

# Appendix 4

#### **Schedule of Fines**

	Constitution	Value
Item	Reference	
Fine for Missing Meeting	Article 4 (d)	\$30.00
Failure to Meet Obligation	Article 4 (f)	\$75.00
Failure to Play Minimum Commitment	Appendix 1 (2) e.	\$75.00/game missed from commitment
Failure to Attend Playoff Tournament	Appendix 1(3) a.	\$200.00
Failure to Attend OBA Championship	OBA 2.04 p)	\$500.00
after commitment made		

#### **Appeal Procedure for Fines**

- i) Payment of a WOBA fine is to be made directly to the association to whom the fine is owed within 30 days of receipt of notification of the fine. Outstanding fines will be considered in arrears and will be dealt with by the BOD.
- ii) A written appeal for a WOBA fine must be filed with the WOBA Secretary within 30 days of receipt of notification of the fine. A \$50.00 cheque payable to the WOBA must accompany the appeal in order for it to be considered and reviewed. This payment is refundable if the appeal is successful.
- iii) To appeal an OBA fine, please refer to section 7.02 Appeal of Fines in the OBA Rule Book.

# Appendix 5

#### **Special Playing Rules for WOBA Tier 2**

Special Playing rules are those rules that govern conduct on the field of play, and for which the umpire is expected to be accountable.

#### Rookie Ball

1. Minor Rookie players are 6 and 7 year olds, may have a maximum of 3 overage (8 year olds)

2. Incrediball is to be used for Minor Rookie (Tier 2)

3. In Minor Rookie every batter puts the ball in play. After 5 strikes the batter hits off a tee. There are no strike outs.

- 4. All players on the bench may play in the field.
- 5. An inning will be 7 runs or 3 outs.
- 6. When a batted ball is hit to an infielder the runner may only advance maximum of one base.

# Major Rookie players are 8 and 9 years old, overage (mosquito players) playing cannot pitch. A hardball shall be used in all WOBA and OBA play in Tier 1.

1. When a batted ball remains in the infield, runner may only advance one base. This includes any overthrows to any base, the pitcher or force outs on the bases. On a ball hit to the outfield runners may advance to the next base or bases at their own risk until the ball has returned to the infield. If the runner is more than halfway to the next base they may advance with the risk of being thrown out. If they are not halfway they must return to the base they just passed without risk of being put out.

2. The coach on the field, feeding the pitching machine must wear a regulation batting helmet.

3. It is mandatory that pitchers wear face guards on their helmets.

- 4. The coach running the pitching machine must remain in the circle and not interfere with play in any way.
- 5. An inning will be 7 runs or 3 outs.

Mosquito and Peewee

1. Runners can only advance one base on a pitched ball (Mosquito only).

2. Runs per inning- Mosquito 5, Peewee 6.

3. Player may pitch and catch in the same game to a limit of not more than 3 innings in any one game at Mosquito, not more than 4 innings in a game at Peewee unless he/she has reached the maximum pitch count prior to reaching the max innings

4. Once a pitcher has been removed from the pitching position they may not return to pitch in that game.

5. Each player must play a minimum of three innings per game at Mosquito and Peewee with the exception of late arrivals or players being disciplined by their coach and/or manager.

6. Base runners cannot leave the base until the ball leaves the pitcher's hand. If an infraction occurs, the ball will be declared dead and the runners may not advance. One warning will be issued and for any further infractions thereafter, the runner will be call out. (Each team will receive one warning).

7. In mosquito, runners will not be allowed to steal home. Runs can only be scored when a ball is batted into play or if runner 3 is "forced" to score when the batter is awarded first base.

# **Tier 1 Rules**

Item	Rookie	Mosquito	Peewee	Bantam	Midget
Game Innings	6	6	7	7	7
No New Inning	1.5 hr	1.75 hr	1.75 hr	2 hr	2 hr
Starts After**					
Lead-offs	Contact by	No Lead off till ball	Lead offs	Lead offs	Lead offs
	batter	leaves pitchers hand			
3 <sup>rd</sup> Strike	5 strikes	No	No	No	No
Automatically Out					
Max Runs per	7	6	6	N/A	N/A
inning					
Open Inning	N/A	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A
10 Run Mercy	No	After 4 Innings	After 5 Innings	After 5 Innings	After 5 Innings
Courtesy Runner for	Coaches	Coaches Option	Coaches Option	Coaches Option	Coaches Option
catcher	Option	_	_		_
Warm ups limited	NA	3 pitches	3 pitches	OBA rules	OBA rules
except for new					
pitcher					
Pitcher's Innings	NA	OBA rules	OBA rules	OBA rules	OBA rules
limit in game					
All players must bat	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
All players may bat	N/A	N/A	N/A	Coaches Option	Coaches Option
(coaches option)				-	
Infield Fly Rule	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
applies					
	Overage Players not permitted to pitch				

*Note: \*\*Time and open inning should be discussed at home plate prior to start of the game. Scorekeeper and umpire work together to determine the start time of game.* 

# **Tier 2 Rules**

Item	Rookie	Mosquito	Peewee	
Game Innings	6	6	6	
No New Inning Starts After	1.5 hr	1.5 hr	1.5 hr	
Lead-Offs	Contact by Batter	No lead off till ball leaves	No lead off till ball leaves	
		pitchers hand	pitchers hand	
3 <sup>rd</sup> strike Automatically out	5 strikes	Yes	Yes	
Max Runs per Inning	6	5	6	
Open Inning	N/A	No	No	
10 Run Mercy	N/A	After 4 Innings	After 4 Innings	
Courtesy runner for catcher	Coaches Option	Coaches Option	Coaches Option	
Warm ups limited except for	N/A	3 pitches	3 pitches	
a new pitcher				
Pitch Count	N/A	OBA Rules	OBA Rules	
All players must bat	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Infield Fly Rule Applies	N/A	Yes	Yes	
Overage Players not permitted to pitch				

#### Appendix 6

#### a) OBA Pitch Count Rule

Series	Daily	Maximum Daily
Mosquito	45 **	70
Peewee	55 **	80
Bantam	65 **	90
Midget	75 **	100

If the pitcher has thrown more than the lower limit of daily pitches, he/she cannot pitch the next calendar day-the player must have 2 nights rest. Upon achieving the maximum daily count they must be removed from the pitching position. When the maximum limit is reached the pitcher may finish pitching to the existing batter and then must be removed from the pitching position.

\*\* Where a team has multiple games on the same day, if a pitcher throws more than the lower limit during a game or in combination of one or more games, the pitcher may not pitch again in a subsequent game that day.

Violating the pitch count regulation will result in the offending team forfeiting the game. A second violation by a team will result in the manger/head coach's indefinite suspension (Rule P2-10m) OBA.

If a team has no remaining players eligible to pitch in a game, the opposing coach may designate a player who has yet to pitch in that game. This pitcher may not throw more than 30 pitches.

At Mosquito, Peewee and Bantam pitchers may not pitch on 3 consecutive calendar days.

At Midget pitcher may not pitch on 3 consecutive calendar days unless

- 1. The pitcher threw 30 pitches or less on each of the first 2 days.
- 2. The maximum number of pitches which may be thrown on the  $3^{rd}$  day is 50.

Pitches shall count on the calendar day on which the pitch is thrown. An exception shall be made where a game commences on one day and is played continuously past midnight. In that case, the pitches shall count as being thrown on the day on which the game commenced. In the case where a game is suspended, for whatever reason, on one day and resumed on a second day, pitches shall count on the calendar day on which the pitch is thrown (i.e. both parts of the game shall be considered on separate days). Where weather or other reasons cause the delay or postponement of a game or games, the time of the delay can count towards the nights rest required and can constitute a break in the 3 consecutive day rule.

Any player advancing to play in a higher series shall be restricted to the pitching rule of the series in which he/she is registered.

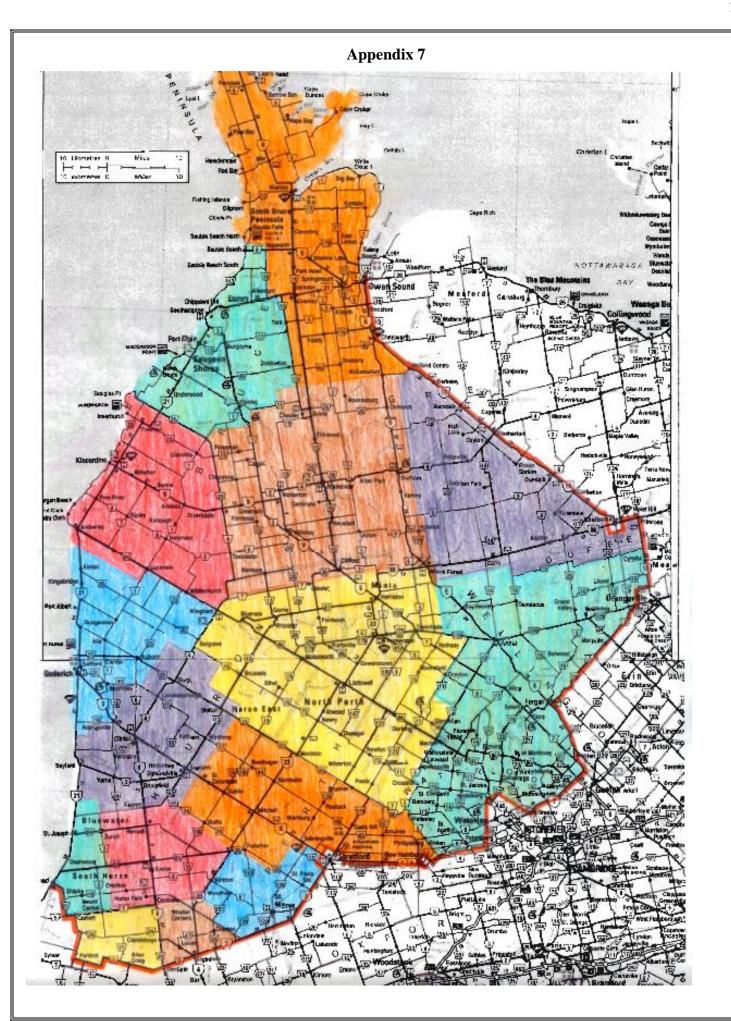
A pitcher once removed from pitching may continue in the game at another position, but shall not be permitted to return to pitch in that game.

An official Pitch Count Recorder must be identified by the scorekeeper and must provide the pitch count to either manager or the umpires upon request. It is the Pitch Count Recorder's responsibility to inform the home plate umpire when the pitch count limit is reached. The Pitch Count Recorder has final authority on the pitch count.

#### b) Illegal Pitch (Curve Ball)

Any breaking ball pitch in which the pitcher deliberately breaks his or her wrist or snaps the elbow in order to induce a forward or side-angled spin on the ball shall be prohibited at all levels Peewee and below in WOBA play.

c) At Mosquito and Peewee, a player may not be a pitcher and catcher in the same game. (OBA P2.10 o))





# Appendix 8 2012 Important Dates

January 30	Monday	Executive Meeting Listowel @ 7:30
March 5	Monday	1 <sup>st</sup> WOBA Board of Directors meeting, Listowel Legion @ 7:15
March 31	Saturday	Bond must be updated and/or all fines must be paid to start the season
April 16	Monday	Pre-scheduling meeting – North and South, Listowel Legion Upstairs @ 7:15
April 30	Monday	Tier 1 Scheduling meeting, Listowel Parkview @ 7:15
May 7	Monday	Schedule may begin
May 14	Monday	Tier 2 Scheduling meeting
June 4	Monday	2 <sup>nd</sup> WOBA Bd of Directors meeting, Listowel Legion Upstairs @ 7:15
June 15	Friday	OBA roster sheets and WOBA roster sheets due to Jaime
June 15	Friday	Insurance coverage application deadline-apply online
June 30	Saturday	Last day to add players to the roster
July 3	Tuesday	Classification declaration and playoff commitment submission at WOBA CLASSIFICATION MEETING & 3rd BOD Meeting, Listowel 7:15 at Parkview Gardens
July 9	Monday	Secretary submits classification list to OBA
July 22	Sunday	Classification meeting – OBA Cambridge
August 3-6	Weekend	Qualifiers if necessary
August 9	Friday	End of regular league play for all series
August 10-12	Weekend	Rookie (Major/Minor) Championship and Qualifier, Mosquito Tier 1 and Consolation Championship and Midget WOBA Championship
August 12	Sunday	Last day for Rule Change Proposals to WOBA Secretary
August 17-19	Weekend	Peewee WOBA Championship and Consolation Tournament
August 17-19	Weekend	Junior OBA
August 21	Tuesday	Last Day for OBA Rules Committee Submissions
August 24-26	Weekend	Midget OBA
August 24-26	Weekend	Bantam WOBA Championship and All Tier 2 Championships
August 31-Sept 3	Weekend	OBA Championship Tournaments (except for Junior and Midget)
September 4	Tuesday	Amendments to WOBA or OBA constitution to secretary
September 4	Tuesday	Nominations for WOBA/OBA Awards to WOBA Secretary
September 10	Monday	4 <sup>th</sup> WOBA Board of Directors Meeting – Legion Upstairs @ 7:15
September 28	Friday	Constitution Amendments to OBA Secretary
October 1	Monday	WOBA AGM, Listowel Legion Upstairs @ 7:15 pm
October 12	Friday	Award Nominations to OBA
November 16-18	Weekend	OBA AGM, Nottawasaga Inn, Alliston
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