



14 June 2006

Attention: All Baseball Ontario Representatives
Baseball Ontario Carded Umpires (Level 1, 2, 3 and 4/5)
Baseball Ontario Board of Directors
Baseball Ontario League Representatives
Baseball Ontario Office
RE Baseball Ontario Rule Clarifications and Enforcement

Dear Active Baseball Ontario Member:

At the Board of Directors Meeting on Sunday June 11, 2006, it was brought to the attention of the Baseball Ontario Umpires Committee that the following rules have been inconsistently applied at the various Baseball Ontario sanctioned tournaments throughout the province.

To ensure everyone is on the same page, we have prepared this document for your reference.

This document clarifies the following rules:

Rookie Ball

Calling Time

Minor Mosquito and Mosquito

Lead Offs

*Balk **NEW***

Midget and Junior

Re-entry Rule: The Pitcher

Please do not hesitate to contact us at umpire@baseballontario.com should you require more specific information.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Ed Quinlan".

Ed Quinlan
Supervisor of Umpires/Treasurer

Rookie Ball¹

Calling Time

Time is granted to the defence when the ball has been returned to the infield and *continuous action* has ended. (Continuous Action has ended when the defence is no longer attempting to get an out and all runners have stopped trying to advance or return to their base.)

Important Notes

- The ball does not have to be returned to the pitcher first. Time can be granted if any member of the infield has control of the ball.
- Time should not be called immediately upon request. The umpire should ensure that no runners are attempting to advance.

Minor Mosquito and Mosquito²

Lead Offs

A runner must remain on the base until the ball has left the pitcher's hand. Should the runner leave the base too soon the following will occur:

- At the first occurrence, the umpire will call "Time" and return the runner. The umpire will then issue a warning to the offensive team that any subsequent lead off will result in that player being called out.
- On the second or any subsequent infraction, the umpire will call "Time" declare the offending runner out and return the other runners to their base.

Important Note

Umpires may remind coaches during ground rules, but this reminder is **not** an official warning. If a runner does lead off, the offending team will still receive a warning.

Balk ****NEW****

As there are no lead offs for Minor Mosquito or Mosquito level, the pitcher cannot deceive a runner from trying to advance.

Effective immediately, for Minor Mosquito or Mosquito level only, umpires will not enforce balks (Official Rule 8.05). Should pitchers balk (e.g. double set or not pause) umpires will indicate such infractions to the coach between innings.

Minor Midget, Midget and Junior³

Re-entry Rule: The Pitcher

When a Minor Midget, Midget or Junior team elects not to use a Designated Hitter (DH), the pitcher, once removed, **may** return to play but may not pitch in that game.

However, in the case of a Minor Midget, Midget or Junior team using the DH, the pitcher **is not** eligible to re-enter in the game.

It is the position of Baseball Ontario that for the purposes of re-entry, only the starting 9 players in the Batting Order are eligible to re-enter. The pitcher does not hit when a team uses the DH, and so the pitcher is ineligible to re-enter.

¹ Q3-3(c) Page 62 *OBA Constitution Playing Rules and Regulations*

² P2-12(c) Page 30, *ibid.*

³ P2-6 (a) Page 27, *ibid.*