**SIMCOE COUNTY SPORTS’ PLAYING REGULATIONS**

**BASEBALL**

**1. Simcoe County Guideline**  League Play

**2. Season:** April to June

**3. Location of Finals and Date:**

 Regional playoffs are to begin two weeks prior to GBSSA

 The location will be determined annually, depending on the standings.

**4. School Classification and**  "Open” Varsity

**5. League Structure and Play:** (including tie-breaking procedures)

 Number of dates in schedule per school: 8 maximum

 Number of dates involved for play-offs: 3 maximum before GBSSA

1. League play will consist of two divisions (East and West). See Appendix L for divisional alignment.
2. A maximum of eight (8) games will be scheduled.
3. Home teams are responsible for

a. payment of umpires

b. payment of any diamond rental fees charged by township/municipality

c. providing bases for the game

d. lining the infield with foul lines (from home plate to grass outfield)

1. Two umpires are to be assigned for all games. Umpires must have a minimum Level 2 certification, be over the age of 18 and not from the participating schools.
2. Approved Baseball Scorebook is mandatory at each game including league games, exhibition games, and tournaments. These **MUST** be filled out and results must be sent to the Centralized Athletic Coordinator by the home team the next day.

**6.** **Play-off Structure and Play**:

 (a) All teams make playoffs. Playoffs will be separated into tier one and tier two formats based on first round results. First round of playoff matchups will be a cross over game between the East and West division.

 (i) The tier one champion will play in the GBSSA championship (best of 3 games) series.

 (ii) The tier two playoff with SCAA championship will be held as per SCAA regulations.

 (b) **The Seeding Committee and the seeding of teams:** See General Guidelines; Part 1, item 7

**7. Start Times:**

 See the General Guidelines;

 Secondary School Athletic Activities Operating Parameters, as per the SCDSB

**8. Dates for Declaring Classification and the Number of Teams:**

 Classification and intent to compete is declared in early March as per the calendar committee deadline.

**9. Convenorship Rotation:**

1. Convenors are appointed for a one-year term.

 The rotation is by volunteer and then by appointment based on school convening roles.

**10. Eligibility:** as per the GBSSA Constitution (BY-LAW 2, Sections 1 to 13).

1. Schools must file completed, signed OFSAA Hub GBSSA eligibility lists (containing the level of competition, names, ages, and birth dates of players, and the required signatures) with the SCAA chair no later than 24 hours prior to the competition. Any player changes require 24-hour notice prior to that player’s first competition. Note that games played by players of schools that have not filed eligibility lists will be declared a forfeit (loss).
2. All players must comply with the GBSSA transfer policy and procedures
3. All players must be under 18 years of age, as of January 1st prior to the start of the school year.

**11.** **Expenses:**

1. During the regular season and playoffs, the home team is responsible for both diamond rentals and for the payment of umpires.
2. For play-offs, the home team is responsible for determining the total cost of the diamond and the umpire(s). This total is to be communicated to and shared equally with the visiting team. The visitors are to bring a cheque in the said amount with them to the game.
3. Each team is responsible for its own travel cost(s).

**12. Rules:**

The Official Baseball Rules, (OBA) shall govern play at the SCAA level with the following exceptions:

* 1. All games will be seven (7) innings except when a team is leading by 10 or more runs after five (5) innings or four and a half (4½) innings if the home team is ahead. Then the mercy rule will apply, and the game is ended.
	2. Tie games will be broken as follows (playoff scenario only):

 The teams will place a runner at second base (last player who made an out) and play extra innings until a winner is declared.

* 1. Any player not in the starting line-up may be used as a courtesy runner. The Courtesy runner may be used for the pitcher or catcher at any time during the game. The courtesy runner is still available to enter the game for another player.

(d) Pitching Restrictions: Once a pitcher has left the mound, he may move to any other position on the field or exit the game. He is not available to pitch again in the same game.

Regular Season / Playoff Elimination Games

A pitcher may pitch a maximum of 75 pitches per game or 100 pitches over

two consecutive days.

If the maximum limit is reached while facing a batter, the pitcher may pitch to the earlier of:

 (i) the completion of that batter, or (ii) the end of the inning.

A pitcher, who pitched 75 or more pitches in one day or 100 pitches over two consecutive days, cannot pitch the next calendar day.

 Special Notes:

(i) When counting pitches, a balk will be considered a pitch if the ball is thrown. (ii) An official pitch count recorder must be identified by the score keeper and must provide the pitch count to either manager or the umpires. (iii) It is the Pitch Count Recorder’s responsibility to inform the home plate umpire that the pitch count limit is reached. If the Pitch Count Recorder fails in this action, it is the responsibility of the defensive team’s manager to remove the pitcher.

 (e) Runners are instructed to slide or attempt to avoid making contact with a fielder. A player who maliciously runs into another player is to be declared out and is to be automatically ejected from the game. No Board of Reference is required.

 (f) This is an all wood bat league. All bats used must conform to the Ontario Baseball Association. Composite bats are permitted. The bat cannot have a diameter at its thickest part of more than 2 5/8 inches.

(g) No “on the field” live batting practice may occur at any diamond/field 6 hours prior to the start of the game. The use of a net/screen or system which allows for off field hitting drills may be used. Whiffle balls, soft toss or t-works may be used for batting practice. The infield is not to be used during warm up. (Note: Live practise involves the use of regulation baseballs)

. (h) Only baseballs approved by Baseball Canada for use by Midget age and up (16 and over) shall be used in High School competition.

 (i) Shoes with metal cleats or rubber molded cleats are permitted.

 (j) Catchers must wear a helmet and mask with adequate throat protection at all times. Note: This includes practice and warm-ups. Coaches must wear at least a mask in all practice and warm up situations.

 (k) The use of all tobacco products, including smokeless tobacco by all on-field participants (players, coaches, managers, trainers, umpires, etc.) is prohibited at all times and is subject to automatic ejection from the game. No Board of Reference is required.

1. No visible jewelry is allowed.
2. Starting positional players can be substituted back into their original spot in the batting order.

**13. Uniforms:**

(a) All competitors are expected to dress in uniforms that are neat, clean and which maintain the integrity of the school's/Association's name, colours and logos. All uniforms must have numbers on the back of the uniform shirt. No sport club insignia on uniforms shall be permitted. A sport club is defined as a community, provincially or nationally based organization whose primary purpose is participation in organized competition in single or multi-sport programs. Sponsorship recognition is permitted to be visible but must conform with the placement guidelines outlined in OFSAA By-Law 6, Section 2(h). Coaches must be uniformly dressed in team colours - no shorts.

 (b) All players and coaches must wear their official team cap.

 (c) Student-athletes must remain fully clothed in the appropriate team uniform in the competition area AND use the designated locker room or change area to change to and from competition attire. Incidents of non-compliance shall be forwarded to the convenor for resolution.

**14.** **Awards:**

 Using the SCAA playoff format (Appendix D), SCAA Champions will be declared at each classification (Tier 1 and Tier 2). An SCAA championship banner will be awarded to each winning team.

**15. Protest Procedure:**

1. Protests may be lodged on situations not under the jurisdiction of the officials or the GBSSA Board of Reference.
2. All protests must be made within 24 hours of the incident, by email, to the centralized athletic coordinator and followed by a written report within 3 school days.
3. The SCAA Jury of Appeal will deal with protests.