

## ATLANTIC COLLEGIATE BASEBALL ASSOCIATION



### PLAYING RULES AND POLICIES

#### 1. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY - ACADEMIC

- 1.1. Only Full-Time students in good standing are eligible to participate in ACBA regular season, play-off or Atlantic Championship play.
- 1.2. Full-time means enrolment in a minimum of three (3) accredited courses at a member institution totaling a minimum of nine (9) credit hours in the semester in which they are competing within the ACBA, unless there are circumstances within their academic program which would warrant an exception to this ruling and in which the university continues to declare this individual a full-time student in that semester (such as graduate students as per 1.2.3, registered special needs students as per 1.2.4, co-op students as per 1.2.5 and exchange students as per 1.2.6) at the time of submission of the Eligibility Certificate.
  - 1.2.1. For returning players, full-time also means having maintained full-time status for the duration of the previous semester of ACBA competition.
  - 1.2.2. Players who have not maintained full-time status may return to league play without having expended a year of eligibility only after completing one semester of full-time study.
  - 1.2.3. An exception to 1.2 (Course Load) and / or 1.3 (Academic standing) is available to an athlete registered as a full-time student in any graduate program offered by a member institution.
  - 1.2.4. An exception to 1.2.1 is in the event that a student has transferred degree programs.

1.2.5. A Special Needs student-athlete must be enrolled in a full-time course load (or full-time equivalent as defined by their institution as a Special Needs Student), or minimum nine credit hours in the semester in which they are competing. A Special Needs student must be formally designated as such by the institution's Special Needs department or equivalent.

1.2.6. A student-athlete registered in a co-op program and on a recognized work term that (i) is a recognized component of their academic program and/or (ii) is recognized for university credit, will be eligible to participate for that institution in that semester and provided the university continues to declare the individual as a full-time student in that term.

1.2.7. A student-athlete officially classified by a member institution as an academic exchange student shall be exempt from the academic standing rule (1.2.2) so that they can be immediately eligible to participate in ACBA competition for one competitive season at the ACBA institution they are attending as an exchange student, subject to all other regulations. An exchange student is a student who is involved in an established academic exchange program between a ACBA member institution and a non- Canadian post-secondary degree-granting institution.

1.2.8. Any athlete officially classified by a member institution as a visiting student, shall be subject to all Eligibility Rules at the institution they are attending as a visiting student. A visiting student is a student who is taking courses at one institution which leads to a degree at another institution.

1.3. Good standing means not on academic or other conduct-related probation as defined by the member institution for which the student is playing.

## 2. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY – DURATION

2.1. A player is eligible to play for five (5) years beginning with their first appearance on any ACBA roster.

2.2. Every year of participation in any other Canadian (e.g. OUA, CCBC) or foreign (e.g. NCAA, NAIA) four-year university league (excluding Summer Collegiate leagues) will count as one year of eligibility in the ACBA.

## 3. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY – PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS

3.1. The ACBA is an amateur baseball league.

3.2. Former professional baseball players must receive reinstatement as an amateur player by Baseball Canada. Proof of reinstatement must be filed with the President before the commencement of the season.

## 4. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY – FOREIGN PLAYERS

4.1. A member institution shall be permitted to use a maximum of six (6) athletes (as listed on the team's Eligibility Certificate) who are not Canadian Citizens or who do not have landed immigrant status in Canada for any ACBA regular season, playoff or Atlantic Championship game.

## 5. ROSTERS

5.1. Up to twenty-five (25) players may appear on any game-day line-up.

5.2. Up to an additional five (5) players may practice and participate in exhibition games, and may be present at any game, in uniform, in the dugout of the member team during any league play.

## 6. ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATE

6.1. A complete Eligibility Certificate bearing the following information must be received by the President of the ACBA electronically by September 20<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 midnight:

6.1.1. First and Last name;

6.1.2. Student number;

6.1.3. Date of Birth;

6.1.4. Program of study/major;

6.1.5. Year of study;

6.1.6. Certification of FT attendance in the previous year for returning players;

6.1.7. The signature of the Head Coach *and* the Athletic Director, Registrar or Designate of the Registrar.

6.2. Up to 30 players may appear on the Eligibility Certificate and must include:

6.2.1. Any player having been listed on the roster of any ACBA game by a member team up to the date of submission;

6.2.2. Any additional player(s) that may participate in future ACBA regular season, playoff or Atlantic Championship play.

6.3. Any player not appearing on the signed Eligibility Certificate but who had appeared in a game up to the time of submission will automatically be ruled an ineligible player and the game(s) in which he participated or was listed on the roster forfeited.

6.4. The Eligibility Certificate will be made available to coaches upon request.

6.5. The President, or a designate appointed by the President, may conduct an audit of any information contained on the Eligibility Certificate.

## 7. ROSTER INFORMATION

7.1. Notwithstanding the information on the Eligibility Certificate, each team will be responsible for providing additional Roster information to the ACBA for purposes of promotion, communication or in anticipation of World Series.

## 8. INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

8.1. Players and teams must comply with all eligibility rules set forth in the Playing Rules and Policies of the League.

8.2. Ineligible players who participate in any league play will be subject to disciplinary action by the Executive.

8.3. Teams and their respective managers who use an ineligible player shall forfeit all games in which that player participated and be subject to further disciplinary action by the Executive including but not limited to:

8.3.1. Suspension from playoff and/or Atlantic Championship participation in the current season;

8.3.2. Suspension from playoff and/or Atlantic Championship participation in future seasons;

8.3.3. Any other disciplinary actions deemed appropriate under the circumstances.

## 9. UNIFORMS

9.1. All teams must have matching hats, jerseys, and pants for every player. Violations are subject to disciplinary action by the Executive.

9.2. The pitcher can only wear white sleeves if every member of the on-field line up is wearing identical attire. If one player has a different colour undershirt, the pitcher will not be allowed to wear the white undershirt.

## 10. COACHES, MANAGERS, OFFICIALS

10.1.1. Certification under the National Coaching Certification program is recommended. Teams should strive to ensure coaches meet or exceed the training requirements of "Provincial Certified" under the current model.

10.1.2. No coach may participate in league play or be part of a member team without approval of the Executive who has been:

10.1.2.1. Convicted of an indictable offence;

10.1.2.2. Expelled or banned from any other baseball association.

## 11. UMPIRES

- 11.1. Only registered umpires shall work in ACBA sanctioned games.
- 11.2. Umpires must be certified under the National Umpire Certification Program as administered by Baseball Canada and their respective provinces.
- 11.3. Umpires should have at least a current Level III certification.
- 11.4. Umpires will report all Incidents and Ejections to the Umpire-in-Chief copied to their local Umpire Assignor.
- 11.5. The Umpire Assignor shall assign umpires for each regular season and play-off game within the respective conference.
- 11.6. A schedule of umpires, including contact information shall be maintained by the Umpire Assignors and Umpire-in-Chief and made available to members.
- 11.7. The Umpire-in-Chief, or a designate appointed by the President, in consultation with the Executive Committee, shall assign umpires for the Atlantic Championship.

## 12. UMPIRE FEES

- 12.1. Umpire game fees will be determined by the ACBA at the AGM subject to Conference requirements. Adjusted rates will normally be required in the event of a solo umpired game, rain-outs, and other exigent circumstances.
- 12.2. Umpire Assignors will receive an honorarium at a rate set out at the annual AGM.
- 12.3. The Umpire-in-Chief will receive an honorarium at a rate set out at the annual AGM.

## 13. UMPIRE DRESS CODE

- 13.1. All umpires shall wear the official umpire uniform as prescribed by Baseball Canada, or their respective province for all regular season, playoff and National Championship games.
- 13.2. For the Atlantic Championship, umpires may be asked to wear uniforms that bear the logo of the Association.

## 14. UMPIRE RESPONSIBILITIES

- 14.1. Pre-game: Umpires arrive at the park 30 minutes before each game, at which point the umpires shall see the home team manager and obtain at least 5 new ACBA sanctioned baseballs for that day's game or games.
  - 14.1.1. Unless otherwise authorized by the Executive, the Umpires will have been pre-paid by the home team through the Umpire Assignor.
  - 14.1.2. At this time, the home team manager shall advise the umpires of any and all delays to the start of the game.

14.2. Post-game: Umpires shall remain on the field until the post-game handshakes have occurred.

14.2.1. They are to file any Incident or Ejection reports as soon as possible immediately following the conclusion of the game to the Umpire-in-Chief.

14.3. On field: The two or three umpire system may be used for all regular season and play-off games.

14.3.1. A minimum three umpire system shall be used at the Atlantic Championship.

## 15. SCHEDULING

15.1. The season shall begin and end at a time specified by the Executive.

15.2. The Association shall create no rule limiting the number of games or practices a member team may participate in provided that this does not interfere with the schedule, play-offs and Atlantic Championship.

15.3. The schedules for each Conference will be drafted by the Vice President in consultation with the Executive and within the parameters set out in this document.

15.4. The conference schedule will normally be set at 16 regular season games.

15.5. The conference schedule will normally include dates reserved for postponements due to weather or field conditions.

15.6. Conference playoffs, qualifying tournaments and the structure of the Atlantic Championship will be communicated to the membership as soon possible (pending field availability) usually no later than May 1<sup>st</sup>.

15.7. After the initial schedule release, teams will receive two weeks to ask for changes, after that the schedule is deemed finalized for the season.

15.8. Each team must play all games, as scheduled.

## 16. CHANGE OF SCHEDULE

16.1. The posted schedule may only be changed in exceptional circumstances and only with the consent of the Conference Commissioner and Executive.

16.1.1. The Conference Commissioner may charge up to \$100, paid to the ACBA, for additional schedule changes outside this timeframe.

16.2. If a schedule change is approved, the Commissioner shall inform the teams involved, the umpire assignor and Umpire-in-Chief, and any other relevant parties.

16.3. The Vice President will have all final schedules - with any outstanding booking conflicts, field conflicts resolved - to the Umpire-in-Chief and Umpire Assignors no later than two weeks preceding the start of the schedule.

## 17. POSTPONEMENT

17.1. Games may be postponed due to inclement weather or adverse field conditions, at the discretion of the home team manager or by decision of the field maintenance official.

17.2. The home team must inform the visiting team, the scheduled umpires, the Executive, the scorekeeper and any other relevant parties if game is postponed for any reason.

17.3. Any disputes concerning postponements shall be brought to the attention of the Executive who may rule the game be played as scheduled.

17.4. Notice should be given at least 3 hours before the scheduled game time or the total of one hour pregame activities plus the appropriate travel time of the visiting team, whichever is greater.

17.5. In the event that the umpires are not properly notified under this rule, the home team shall pay one half of the applicable umpire game fee.

17.6. Teams must reschedule games within 72 hours of the affected game, or be subject to a penalty by the Executive.

## 18. PLAYING RULES

18.1. Unless otherwise stipulated in the Constitution or other rules of this Association the official rules of Baseball Canada shall apply.

18.2. Tobacco Rule- The ACBA has a Strict No Tobacco Policy: defined as no tobacco products being used or visible during play. If discovered by an umpire or appealed by an opposing team and found offending, the Head Coach (not Manager) and player are ejected. A player is ejected for an automatic 2 games, whereas the coach is only suspended for the game in which the offence occurred and any penalties involved with ejections.

## 19. GAMES

### 19.1. PRE-GAME ACTIVITIES

19.1.1. The home team and visiting teams shall alternate use of the field for batting and infield practices.

19.1.2. The home team shall have batting practice first, and take infield first after the away team has taken their batting practice, subsequently the away team infield

will be taken after the home team's infield. The away team is to be off the field five minutes before game time for field maintenance and the plate meeting.

- 19.1.3. Pre-game activities can be adjusted or negated dependent on extenuating circumstances such as travel time, traffic, weather etc. It is at the discretion of the teams to arrange and decide upon the acceptable times for batting and infield practice when they arrive at the field. The ACBA suggested schedule for pre-game is 30 minutes of batting practice for the home team followed by 30 minutes of batting practice for the visiting team, followed by 12 minutes of infield/outfield for the home team and 12 minutes of infield/outfield for the visiting team.
- 19.1.4. Any team that is denied the right to either pre-game activity by the home or away team may protest and appeal the decision by contacting the Executive Committee during the time of denial. If a team is found to be impeding or trying to unfairly disrupt the other team's pre-game they will be assessed a fine assigned by the Executive Committee.
- 19.1.5. The visiting team shall vacate the field ten minutes before the scheduled game time to allow for field maintenance
- 19.1.6. The umpires shall conduct the pregame meeting at the plate five minutes before the scheduled game time.
- 19.1.7. The game shall start on time as scheduled.
- 19.1.8. Any breach of this procedure must be reported to the Executive for possible disciplinary action.
- 19.1.9. In the case of inclement weather, or exceptional circumstances, any and all of the requirements of 18.1.1 through 18.1.8 may be waived in the interest of completing the game(s).
- 19.1.10. In the case of double headers, thirty (30) minutes between games will be allotted for warm-up and field maintenance unless the starting pitcher for game 2 played during the completion of game 1. The coach must communicate to the umpire immediately following the game if the starting pitcher for game 2 is/was playing at the completion of the first game. If the aforementioned pitcher does not start game 2, the offending team will be subject to discipline by the executive committee.

## 19.2. REGULATION GAME

- 19.2.1. An ACBA scorekeeper is to be named for each member institution (team) prior to the start of the season. The home-team scorekeeper is the official scorekeeper for all ACBA games.



- 19.2.2. All games shall consist of either seven (7) innings, unless shortened by a mercy rule, listed in rule 20, or any other rule as defined in the official playing rules of Baseball Canada.
- 19.2.3. Games shall be extended if the game is tied after the scheduled seven (7) innings.
- 19.2.4. There is no ACBA curfew, unless required by a local or municipal law.
- 19.2.5. If a game is suspended, the President, at his discretion and guided by circumstances may apply Rule 4:12 of the official Baseball Canada rules. Arrangements will be made to complete any suspended games, if possible, and determined by the Vice President.
- 19.2.6. ACBA games are officially started as soon as the line-up cards are exchanged.

## 20. MERCY RULE

- 20.1. A game will be considered complete if one team leads by ten (10) or more runs after five or more (5) complete innings in a scheduled seven (7) inning game.
- 20.2. A game will be considered complete if one team leads by fifteen (15) or more runs after four (4) or more complete innings in a scheduled seven (7) inning game.
- 20.3. This mercy rule may be adapted for regular season play on the recommendation of a Commissioner and approved by the Executive. If such an amendment is made it must be posted publicly (usually electronically on the ACBA website).

## 21. OFFICIAL BASEBALLS AND BATS

- 21.1. The Rawlings ROML is the official baseball of the ACBA.
- 21.2. Wood bats, wooden composite, and full composite bats (i.e. Baum Bats) are acceptable for use in the ACBA.

## 22. RAIN OUTS AND CANCELLATIONS

- 22.1. In the event of a rainout it is the responsibility of the home team to inform the Executive of the decision and an acceptable and confirmed make -up date as soon as permitted. ACBA games are finalized as soon as the line-up cards are exchanged. A game must go five and a half innings to be deemed complete in relation to inclement weather issues. It is the discretion of the coaches and field umpire chief to decide on whether or not the game can proceed in the event of a rain delay.
- 22.2. RAIN OUTS CALLED BY UMPIRE: Umpire Assignors are to be informed directly by the home team of any field issues, weather delays, cancellations, or any other relevant information concerning upcoming games. Any information or decision - made by the

ACBA or its membership - that may affect the start time of a scheduled game must be communicated to the assignors as soon as possible.

22.2.1. UMPIRE FEES: If a game is cancelled (by the league or the home team) 2 hours before its scheduled start time, there is no obligation to pay the officials. If a game is cancelled (by the league or the home team) within 2 hours of its start time, the officials are entitled to half their total game fee (if they have not arrived at the park, or are unable to meet-up with a representative of the home team, the home team (or league) will make arrangements through the regional assignor to see that the officials scheduled for that game receive their fee in the most timely manner as possible.

22.2.2. The Umpire Assignors are responsible for holding and dispensing fees in advance of games. Once lineup cards are exchanged, the officials of that game are eligible to receive their full fee.

22.3. RESCHEDULING: Cancelled games must be rescheduled within 72 hours to allow the umpire assignors time to schedule officials for the game. Before officially confirming a rescheduled game with the league, the home team manager must first check with his local umpire assignor to ensure umpire availability.

22.4. A game is suspended if called before or during the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) inning for a seven (7) inning game due to inclement weather. The game will resume at the next available agreed upon scheduling date. A new line up and pitcher may be substituted when the game resumes. However base runners and the score are will be cleared and the game will resume from the previous complete inning of play.

## 23. FOREFEITURES

23.1. A regular season forfeit is defined as a 7-0 victory for the non-offending team, and a 0-7 loss for the offending team for a seven (7) inning game.

23.2. The fine for forfeiting an ACBA scheduled game will be the umpire and scorekeeper fee for the scheduled games.

23.3. In order for a team to forfeit the opposing team must be present at the scheduled field, in communication (present or teleconference) with the assigned umpire, Umpire-in-Chief, and a member of the Executive in order to confirm the forfeit.

23.4. The Executive may refer a member team who forfeits a game for disciplinary action where they believe a forfeiture:

23.4.1. Was conducted in a manner that undermines fair play, competition or sportsmanship;

23.4.2. Brings the ACBA into disrepute;

23.4.3. Is the second forfeiture by a member in one season.

## 24. SPONSORSHIP

- 24.1. Sponsors and benefactors of the ACBA shall have precedence over any and all sponsors of team or member institutions.
- 24.2. Each team will abide by the agreements reached with any and all sponsors or benefactors of the ACBA.
- 24.3. Teams shall terminate any local, conference or regional sponsor or benefactor agreement deemed by the ACBA to be in conflict with, or not in the best interest of, the ACBA.

## 25. SCORING and STREAMING

- 25.1. All membership institutions are required to keep and update a live scoring application (where available) during all league play.
- 25.2. Home teams are required to provide an official team scorer that is responsible for inputting live game scoring data during league games. The scorer of the home team must be available for communication (mobile phone) at any time during their respective home games.

## 26. ATLANTIC CHAMPIONSHIP - QUALIFICATION

- 26.1. The playoff and qualification process shall be set out by the Executive at least thirty (30) days before the start of the season in consultation with the member teams.
- 26.2. The top four (4) teams based on win-percentage during regular season play shall qualify for the Atlantic Championship. In the event that the Host team is not included in the top four (4) teams, the top three (3) teams shall qualify for the Atlantic Championship.
- 26.3. If two (2) or more teams are tied for fourth place upon completion of the regular season, the following procedures shall be implemented, in the order listed, to determine the last qualifying team: 1) Their record among tied teams 2) A one-game play-in among teams remaining in the tiebreaking procedure. Should more than two teams remain tied, the formula of runs against per defensive inning will be used to eliminate any additional teams. Only one play-in game is to be played in any situation.
- 26.4. The host team shall automatically qualify for the Atlantic Championship. If the host team is not among the top four (4) ACBA teams based on winning percentage, they will assume the role of the fourth place qualifier in the Championship.

## 27. ATLANTIC CHAMPIONSHIP - ELIGIBILITY

- 27.1. The Eligibility Certificate shall stand as the official roster for all qualifying teams to the Atlantic Championship. No players may be added or deleted from the Eligibility Certificate after September 20<sup>th</sup>.

27.1.1. Any team found in breach of eligibility rules at the Atlantic Championship will automatically forfeit any game that the ineligible player participated in and the team will be disqualified.

27.2. Where not otherwise specified in this document, all playing rules will be those of the official rules of Baseball Canada.

## 28. ATLANTIC CHAMPIONSHIP - FINANCING AND SPONSORSHIP

28.1. The ACBA is responsible for the following costs at the Atlantic Championship:

28.1.1. Baseballs;

28.1.2. Umpires;

28.1.3. Atlantic Championship banner and Trophy

28.1.4. Awards;

28.1.5. Travel for President, Umpire-in-Chief or Executive members (as required);

28.1.6. Ancillary costs required but not specified above approved by the membership.

28.2. The President may, on behalf of the ACBA, enter into any cost-sharing and revenue generation strategies with a host team or any third-party including sponsors in order assist in the financing of the Atlantic Championship.

28.3. All revenue generated from the Atlantic Championship will be the property of the host team except by separate agreement pursuant 28.2 including but not limited to:

28.3.1. Gate receipts;

28.3.2. Sponsorships;

28.3.3. Concessions;

28.3.4. Licensing and merchandise.

28.3.5. Broadcast, podcast, or any electronic transmission of live games or events.

28.4. There is no prohibition on team sponsors including the hanging of banners or logos on uniforms except where such member sponsorships interfere with sponsorship obligations of the ACBA in general or for the Atlantic Championship in particular, or where they are in contrast to any of the rules and policies outlined in this document.

28.5. The ACBA may direct any member to remove sponsorship or advertisement at the Atlantic Championship for violating the rules and policies of this document.

## 29. ATLANTIC CHAMPIONSHIP – STRUCTURE

29.1. The Atlantic Championship will be managed by the host team, the President and the Umpire-in-Chief.

29.1.1. The President may appoint additional event personnel as required including a tournament Convener.

29.2. The Executive of the ACBA will structure the Atlantic Championship in a manner that adheres to the following principles:

29.2.1. All teams should play a minimum of three (3) games at the Championship.

29.2.2. The tournament will be based on a double-elimination.

29.3. Qualifiers shall be chosen in accordance with the Qualification rules set out in this document.

29.4. All Championship games shall be seven (7) innings, unless shortened by mercy rule.

29.4.1 Championship games postponed for any reason will be continued in full from the point of postponement at a time determined by the Championship host committee.

29.4.2 All runners and the count on the batter will be resumed from the point of postponement

29.4.3 Mound visits are to be reset for the current inning when any postponed game is resumed.

## 30. ATLANTIC CHAMPIONSHIP – CONSIDERING WEATHER AND OTHER UNFORESEEN EVENTS

30.1. The President, in consultation with any other Executive members, or any committee constituted for this purpose, may amend the structure of the Championship under exigent circumstances including but not limited to interruptions due to weather or field conditions and availability.

30.2. In situations where weather affects the structure of the Championship, the first task of the President is to ensure that a championship is held and a winner is proclaimed. In order to achieve this, the President is empowered to:

30.2.1. Shorten the length of games up to a minimum of five (5) innings;

30.2.2. Reschedule games.