

Constitution of the Scarborough Adult Baseball League

1. The name of this organization will be the “Scarborough Adult Baseball League”.
2. The objective of the Scarborough Adult Baseball League (onward referred to as the “League” or the “SABL”) will be:

The establishment of a baseball league for the purposes of managing and operating an annual program of competition among teams comprised of adult baseball players.
3. The activities of the League will be carried on in the city of Toronto, particularly within the former municipality of Scarborough.
4. The League will be an active member of the Scarborough Baseball Association.
5. The activities of the League will be carried out in conformity with its By-Laws. It is up to the Members to police these By-Laws and the Executive Board to enforce these By-Laws.
6. The League will carry out its activities without personal financial gain of its Members, any profits or other monetary benefits will be used in promoting its objective.
7. In the event of League dissolution, all of its remaining assets, after payment of its liabilities, will be distributed evenly among its Teams at the time of dissolution.

By-Law No. 1

Article I- Definitions

- 1.01 In this By-Law and in all other by-laws of the League hereafter passed,
- a) “Member”, is any person who conforms to By-Law No. 5, Article I, Section 1.01;
 - b) “Team” means any adult baseball team that conforms to By-Law No. 4 in order to participate in the SABL;
 - c) “Coach”, means any person who has at that time been recognized by the Executive Board as a person who is eligible to serve as a manager, head coach, or assistant coach of an SABL Team;
 - d) “Player”, means any person who has at that time been recognized by the Executive Board as a person who is eligible to compete in the SABL regular season or playoffs;
 - e) “Executive Board” has the meaning as described in By-Law No. 2, Article I;
 - f) “Chair” means the Executive Board officer who is presiding over a League meeting or committee;

g) “Team Representative” means the individual recognized from time to time by the majority of the Executive Board as the sole voting representative of a Team in the League;

h) “quorum” means the minimum number of Team Representatives that must be present at any of its meetings to make the proceedings of that meeting valid;

i) “Ineligible Person” is someone who cannot participate in the SABL regular season or playoffs;

j) “Motion” a formal proposal made by a Team Representative to take an action. The motion must be seconded by another Team Representative before it can be brought up for debate, and subsequent vote by the Chair;

k) “Resolution” means the outcome of a motion or vote;

l) “OBA” means the Ontario Baseball Association;

m) except where the context otherwise requires, “game” means any sanctioned SABL baseball game.

By-Law No. 2

Executive Board

Article I– Officers

1.01 The property and activities of the League will be managed by the officers of the Executive Board, which will be comprised by individuals serving in the following elected roles:

President
Treasurer
Secretary

1.02 The above officers of the Executive Board will each be elected for a term of two years. Elections will take place during the first Members’ meeting of the year in every even numbered year.

1.03 Any Member is eligible for election or appointment to any office. However, the nomination of any candidate for an office, and the seconding of any nomination, must be made by a Team Representative.

1.04 If an elected officer vacates or is removed from his role before the end of its term, the Executive Board may appoint a replacement from among the Members to serve the remainder of that term.

1.05 Should an issue arise during a season that is not addressed within these By-Laws, the Executive Board will have the authority to make a ruling. An amendment to this Constitution addressing the issue must be brought up for a vote during the first Members’ meeting the following offseason.

1.06 Officers cannot be from the same Team.

Article II– Duties of Officers

- 2.01 The President will be the chief executive officer of the League. They will Chair all League meetings and committees. They will see that all orders and resolutions of the Team Representatives are carried into effect. They will oversee the general and active management of the League and will be the SABL’s contact point for all external persons and organizations. The President will perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Team Representatives.
- 2.02 The Treasurer will, in the absence of the President, perform the duties of the President. They will also have the custody of the funds and securities of the League and will keep full and accurate accounts of all assets, liabilities, receipts, and disbursements of the League. The Treasurer must render a report of the League finances whenever requested by the President or a majority of Team Representatives. The Treasurer will perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the President.
- 2.03 The Secretary will, in the absence of the President and Treasurer, perform the duties of the President. They will serve also act as the official communications liaison for the Executive Board and the League. They will oversee the League email address, website content, and will also attend all Members’ meetings, to record the votes and minutes of all proceedings. The Secretary will perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the President.

Article III – Persons Ineligible for Office

- 3.01 Any Member at any time, may be declared “Ineligible for Office” as a consequence of their failure to abide by and comply with the League’s Constitution and these By-Laws, or as a consequence of conduct considered to be contrary to the best interests of the League and its Members. A Member who has been declared Ineligible for Office may not stand for election, or be appointed, to any office in the League and/or may not serve as a Team Representative. If the Member currently serves in one of these roles, they will be removed from that office and/or will cease to be recognized as a Team Representative.
- a) The motion to declare someone as “Ineligible for Office” requires the affirmative vote of not less than 70% of Team Representatives present at a Members’ meeting. If the particular Member is not represented at the Members’ meeting, or if the vote is taken in the manner prescribed in By-Law No. 3, section 2.06, then within 2 days of the date of passage of the resolution, the Executive Board will advise the Member they have been declared Ineligible for Office by the delivery of a written notice.

By-Law No. 3

Members’ Meetings and Resolutions

Article I – Members’ Meetings

- 1.01 The Executive Board will have the power to call a Members’ meeting at any time and at any location. Generally, however, Members’ meetings will occur monthly in the offseason from January through April and be located within Toronto.

- 1.02 The Executive Board will call a Members' meeting at any other time on the written request of not less than four Team Representatives.
- 1.03 At least Fourteen days' written notice of any Members' meeting will be given to each Team Representative. This notice should also inform Team Representatives about the details of any special business or proposals that are expected to take place during the meeting so that they may discuss with other Members' prior to attending.
- 1.04 In respect to any Members' meeting, the number of Team Representatives present in person at the meeting who represent not less than 70% of SABL Teams will constitute a quorum.
- 1.05 All Officers, Coaches, and Players may attend any Members' meeting. However, the Chair of each meeting will recognize only one individual from each Team as its Team Representative.
- 1.06 When a Team Representative is not able to attend a Members' meeting, they may appoint another Coach or Player from their Team to act as Team Representative for that meeting. Notice of this appointment must be submitted in writing to the Executive Board.

Article II – Resolutions of Team Representatives

- 2.01 Each Team Representative present at a Members' meeting will have the right to exercise one vote in arriving at the resolution of a motion brought up during the meeting.
- 2.02 Votes will be cast by show of hands in any Members' meeting. However, a vote by secret ballot may be requested by any Team Representative.
- 2.03 A majority of the votes cast by the Team Representatives present at a Member's meeting will determine the resolution of each motion.
 - a) except when a higher number of votes is required as per these by-laws.
- 2.04 Where necessary, the Chair will have the tie-breaking vote as long as they are not also serving as a Team Representative.
- 2.05 When an issue emerges at a time judged by the Executive Board to be impracticable to convene a Members' meeting, and the resolution of the matter only requires the affirmative vote of a majority of present Team Representatives. The Secretary, with the approval of the Executive Board, may send written notice to all Team Representatives calling for a vote on the matter. Provided that at least 70% of the total Team Representatives have communicated their votes to the Secretary in writing within 48 hours of the call for votes, the resolution will be as valid as if it had been passed at a Members' meeting.
- 2.06 When an issue emerges at a time judged by the Executive Board to be impracticable to convene a Members' meeting, and the resolution of the matter requires the affirmative vote of more than a majority of present Team Representatives. The Secretary, with the approval of the Executive Board, may send written notice to all Team Representatives calling for a vote on the matter. Provided that the required number of affirmative votes from Team Representatives has been communicated to the Secretary in writing, within 48 hours of the call for votes, the resolution will be as valid as if it had been passed at a Members' meeting.

Article III – Amendment of By-Laws

- 3.01 Any By-Law of the League may be repealed, amended, and/or added to the Constitution. Amendments must be presented in writing and can only be enacted with an affirmative vote during a Members' meeting. In this instance, the required number of affirmative votes by Team Representatives is not less than 66 2/3% of all SABL Teams.

By-Law No. 4

Team Responsibilities

Article I – Teams

- 1.01 An adult baseball team (an "Applicant") may be accepted as a Team into the League by a majority vote of the Team Representatives present at a Members' meeting. In order to provide the Team Representatives with a basis for accepting or rejecting an application to join the League, the Applicant must meet in-person with the Executive Board and submit a roster of committed players and coaches with a description of their experiences. The Executive will then report back to the Team Representatives prior to the vote on the acceptance resolution. Should the Applicant be accepted into the League, they must submit payment of both a Performance Bond as well as a portion of their Team Operating Fee (see section 2.01 of this by law) before a deadline set by the Executive.
- 1.02 A Team may withdraw from the League at any time by delivering to the Executive Board a letter of resignation. In addition, any Team that has not, on or before January 20 of a particular year, submitted payment of a \$500 deposit towards their Annual Team Operating Fee, will be deemed to have withdrawn from the League effective as of January 20 of that year.
- 1.03 A Team may be expelled from the League at any time as a consequence of their failure to abide by and comply with the League's Constitution and these By-Laws, or as a consequence of conduct of persons connected with the Team considered to be contrary to the best interests of the League and its Members.
- a) The motion to expel a Team from the League requires the affirmative vote of not less than 70% of Team Representatives present at a Members' meeting, including those not represented at the Meeting. If the particular Team is not represented at the Members' meeting, or if the vote is taken in the manner prescribed in By-Law No. 3, section 2.06, then within 2 days of the date of passage of the resolution, the Executive Board will advise the Team of its expulsion by the delivery of a written notice to the Team Representative.
- 1.04 Where, partway through a season, a Team has withdrawn from the League in the manner described in section 1.02 of this by-law, or has been expelled from the League in the manner described in section 1.03 of this by-law, the result of each regular-season game played by that Team up to the date of withdrawal or expulsion will stand, and each regular-season game scheduled to be played by the Team, and not yet played prior to the date of withdrawal or expulsion, will be scored as a game forfeited to the opposing Team (see Article I of By-Law No. 6).

Article II – Performance Bond

- 2.01 Every Applicant will remit to the League, upon acceptance to SABL, as described in section 1.01 of this by-law, the sum of \$500.00 as a Performance Bond, plus \$1,000 towards their Annual Team Operating Fee (see Article III of this by-law). At the end of their first completed season, \$200 of their Performance Bond will be refunded.
- 2.02 The League will account for Performance Bonds separately from its operating funds, and will ensure that the total of its cash on hand, its cash in the bank and the cost of its baseball inventories never declines to an amount that is less than the aggregate total of all Team Performance Bonds.
- 2.03 The Association may at any time, by way of a transfer to its operating funds or of a disbursement of funds, draw down the amount of a particular Team's Performance Bond by the amount of any Field Maintenance Fine, Forfeiture Fine, Uniform Fine or other fine/charge that may be assessed against the Team as outlined in these by-laws.
- 2.04 When the Performance Bond of a particular Team has been partially drawn down by any amount, the Executive Board will advise the Team of the amount, and the reasons for the drawdown by notice in writing.
- 2.05 When the Performance Bond of a particular Team has been partially drawn down, they will have until the final day of the regular season to replenish their bond. Should a Team completely exhaust their Performance Bond within a season, they must immediately replenish their bond.
- 2.06 The failure of any Team to replenish their Performance Bond as required by section 2.05 of this by-law, will result in forfeitures. Failure to replenish their bond may also result in expulsion of the Team from the League in the manner described in section 1.04 of this by-law.
- 2.07 In the event of League dissolution, it will return to the Team any balance of their Performance Bond. In addition, where a Team has withdrawn from the League in the manner described in section 1.02 of this by-law or has been expelled from the League in the manner described in section 1.03 of this by-law, the League will return to the Team any balance of their Performance Bond provided that the withdrawal or expulsion takes place between October 1 of a year and January 20 of the following year.

Article III – Annual Team Operating Fees

- 3.01 A returning team's deposit for their Annual Team Operating Fee is due on or before January 20th of each year (see section 1.02 of this by law). The deposit payment of an applicant Team is covered under section 2.01 of this by law.
- 3.02 The next installment, in the amount of \$1,000, towards each team's Annual Team Operating Fee will be due on or before March 20th of each year. Failure to remit this payment will result in a \$300 fine assessed towards the team's Performance Bond and credited towards the League Operating Budget.
- 3.03 The final amount of the annual Team Operating Fee will be determined by a recommendation from the Executive Board, based upon a budget presented at the Members' meeting held in March

of each year, and approved by a majority vote of the Team Representatives present at that meeting.

- 3.04 Every Team must submit payment of the remainder of its annual Team Operating Fee to the League no later than one week prior to the start of the season.
- 3.05 The failure of any Team to remit the Operating Fee as required by section 3.02 of this by-law may result in expulsion of the Team from the League in the manner provided in section 1.03 of this by-law or in forfeits as described in Article I of By-Law No. 6.
- 3.06 In addition, where a Team has withdrawn from the League in the manner described in section 1.02 of this by-law or has been expelled from the League in the manner described in section 1.03 of this by-law, the League will NOT return to the Team any balance of their annual Operating Fee.

Article IV – Field Maintenance

- 4.01 As our fields are operated by the City of Toronto, Teams must abide by the following;
 - a) Field dragging- Two Members from each Team are responsible for dragging the field before each game. Refusal to drag the field is a \$25 fine and will be applied towards the Team's Performance Bond and credited to the offended Team.
 - b) Securing field equipment- L-Screens, Rakes, Draggers, Tarps, and Bases must be properly secured after each scheduled day of play. Both Teams are responsible for this. Failure to secure field equipment is a \$25 fine per team and will be applied towards the Team's Performance Bond.
 - c) Garbage- each Team must clean up their dugout AND the surrounding area (stands, down the line, etc) after every double header. Failure to clean up garbage after games will result in a \$25 fine and will be applied towards the Team's Performance Bond.
 - d) Washrooms- a Team will be fined \$10 for any Player or Coach caught urinating in a park outside of a washroom. This will be applied towards the Team's Performance Bond

Article V – Uniforms

- 5.01 Teams must have full uniforms in place for every game after July 1st of the current season. Full uniforms will be considered a matching jersey, hat and pants. Fines for violating this rule are \$5 per Player/Coach per game and will be applied towards the Team's Performance Bond. Single game fill-in players are not subject to this rule.

Article VI – Umpires

- 6.01 Each game will be officiated by no less than two (2) umpires. Each Team will be responsible for paying one Umpire Fee per game. If, for any reason, one of the two umpires scheduled for a game fails to appear, the fee will be split equally between the two Teams.

- 6.02 In the event a game is postponed after an Umpire Fee has been paid, the League will credit the fee amount towards those Teams' next season's Operating Fees.

Article VII – Postponements

- 7.01 When any game must be postponed before first pitch, due to inclement weather, or for any other reason beyond the control of either participating Team. The Teams will be responsible for coordinating with each other and agreeing to a postponement. Both Teams will be held equally responsible for notifying the scheduled Umpires of any postponement. Failure to notify the Umpires in a timely matter may result in the Teams being required to pay the Umpire Fee.

By-Law No. 5

Membership

Article I – Conditions of Membership

- 1.01 Requirements to be considered a Member of the SABL are as follows;
- a) must be at least 18 years of age prior to January 1st of the current season.
 - b) must comply with all OBA and SABL registration requirements.
 - c) must be in both good disciplinary and financial standing within both the SABL and any other baseball program.

Anyone who does not meet the Conditions of Membership outlined above is considered an “Ineligible Person”.

- 1.02 Any Member that permits the participation of an Ineligible Person in a game will have their Team be charged, by the Executive Board, with a \$100 fine assessed towards their Performance Bond and credited towards the League Operating Budget. The offending Team may also be charged with a forfeit of that game (see Article I of By-Law No. 6).
- 1.03 A Team may declare that a Member is not in good financial standing by submitting the name of that person to the Executive Board, together with a description of the Member's obligation to the Team. The Executive Board will also ask the Member in question to provide their own evidence to the contrary. The Executive Board will then review the documentation, and if accepted will deem the Member as ineligible until the Team declares that the Member is back in good standing.
- 1.04 Any Member at any time, may be expelled from the League as a consequence of their failure to abide by and comply with the League's Constitution and these By-Laws, or as a consequence of conduct considered to be contrary to the best interests of the League and its Members.
- a) The motion to expel someone from the League requires the affirmative vote of not less than 70% of Team Representatives present at a Members' meeting, including those not represented at the Meeting. If the particular Member is not represented at the Members' meeting, or if the vote is taken in the manner prescribed in By-Law No. 3, section 2.06, then, within 2 days of the date of passage of the resolution, the Executive Board will

advise the Member of its expulsion by the delivery of a written notice to the Team Representative.

- 1.05 Any uniformed Member seen consuming drugs and/or alcohol within a City of Toronto park before, during, or after an SABL sanctioned game will be suspended for two games. This suspension will not be subject to appeal.

Article II – Coaches

- 2.01 Coaches are responsible for learning the Official Rules of Baseball, and both OBA and SABL specific rules, and making sure their players are aware of these rules. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their Players. If a Team is consistently causing conflicts with Umpires or other Teams, the Coach(es) may be subject to disciplinary measures, in addition to any specific Members that caused the conflict (see Article II of By-Law No. 6).
- 2.02 A Teams “Official Roster” containing the names of all Players and Coaches must be updated prior to the first game of a season and maintained on the League website throughout the duration of every regular season by a Coach of each Team.
- 2.03 A Team’s Coach is responsible for updating the SABL website after each game is completed. This includes reporting the score(s) and inputting their lineup into the box score in order to verify games played. Failure to do this within two weeks from the date of the game, will result in that game not counting towards a Player’s “Playoff Eligibility” (see Article IV of By-Law No. 7).
- 2.04 A Coach should also verify the lineups inputted by the opposing Team to ensure the proper accounting of games played towards playoff eligibility. If a Coach notices a discrepancy in a box score lineup they must notify the opposing Team Representative and the Executive Board.
- 2.05 Regular Season game stats should be inputted by a Coach no later than two days after the conclusion of the regular season. Missing stats will result in a Player being ineligible for League Awards.

Article III – Players

- 3.01 In order for an eligible Member to participate in a given season, they must be listed as a Player on a Team’s “Official Roster”.
- 3.02 Any Player who appears in a single game during the current season for a Team becomes a Member of that Team, and must be listed by the Coach on the Team’s “Official Roster”.
- 3.03 Once a Member is considered an official Player on a Team, they may not participate in the current season with respect to any other SABL Team unless or until granted an approved “Release”.
 - a) A Team may “Release” a Player during the season by sending written notification to the Executive Board confirming both the release and that the Player is in good financial standing. The Executive Board will then notify all Teams of the approved release.

- b) When a Team has withdrawn or been expelled from the League, as described in sections 1.03 and 1.04 of By-Law No. 4, each Player will be considered released as long as they are in good financial standing at the time of the Team's withdrawal/expulsion.
 - c) Games played with a former Team prior to a release will not count towards a Player's "Playoff Eligibility".
- 3.04 Players are allowed to switch from one SABL Team to another during the offseason freely as long as they are in good financial standing.
- 3.05 Any Player who participates with, or is signed with, a Senior Intercounty team during the current season will be ineligible to play in the current SABL season.

By-Law No. 6

Forfeitures, Disciplinary Matters, and Protests

Article I –Forfeitures

- 1.01 A game may be forfeited to the opposing Team when a Team:
- a) Is unable or refuses to place eight players on the field at the start of a scheduled game time, or at any time during a game;
 - b) If a Team has fewer than the required 8 players at the start of a game time (see Article II of By-Law No. 8), they will be given a 10-minute extension to find an 8th player before being charged with a forfeit.
 - c) Voluntarily removes a Player during a game that results in the Team dropping below a 9-man batting order (see section 5.06 of By-Law No. 8).
 - d) Employs tactics deemed obvious by an umpire designed to delay or shorten the game;
 - e) After warning by the umpire, willfully and persistently violates any rules of the game;
 - f) Fails to obey within a reasonable time, the umpire's order for the removal of a Coach or a Player from the game;
 - g) Fails to submit final payment of their Team Operating Fee by Opening Day;
 - h) Uses an "Ineligible Person" as a Player or Coach actively in a game.
- 1.02 When a game has been forfeited, the forfeiting Team will be charged with a 7-0 loss to the opposing Team and will be assessed a Forfeiture Fine towards the Team's Performance Bond. The Forfeiture Fine will also be awarded to the opposing Team as a credit towards their annual Operating Fee.
- a) Teams will be assessed a fine equal to double the per game umpire fee for any forfeits that occurred on the same day in which game(s) were to be played.
 - b) Teams will be assessed a fine equal to the per game umpire fee for any forfeits that occurred a day or more in advance of the game(s) being played.

c) In the case where a game is to be forfeited due to the participation of an Ineligible Person, the Forfeiture Fine will be assessed as per Article I of By-Law No. 5.

- 1.03 When a game has been forfeited prior to first pitch, no lineups may be recorded on the League website.
- 1.04 When a game has been forfeited after first pitch, lineups and statistics may only be recorded on the League website if the forfeit occurred after the game was considered complete, as per section 4.01 of By-Law No.8.

Article II – Disciplinary Matters

- 2.01 The first time a Player or Coach is ejected from a game, they will be assessed an automatic one-game suspension. This automatic suspension will increase by one game for each subsequent ejection and will continue to increase in all following seasons. However, if a Player completes a season without being ejected, their automatic suspension will be decreased by a game, but can never be less than one.
- 2.02 An automatic suspension must be served immediately and cannot be appealed. If any fill-in player is ejected from a game, a \$50 fine will be applied towards the Team’s Performance Bond in addition to the automatic suspension.
- 2.03 When an ejection has occurred, a Team Representative from both Teams must submit a written “Incident Report” to the Executive Board within 24-hours of the ejection taking place. An Incident Report should include the following;

Date:

Game # (i.e. game 1 or 2 if doubleheader):

Name of the player(s) or coach(es) involved (include their email address if it’s your player):

Description of events involved in the ejection(s):

Did the player(s) continue to cause a disturbance after being ejected?

Name of the umpires:

*The Incident Report cannot be submitted by the Player or Coach who was ejected.

- 2.04 Failure to submit a written Incident Report to the Executive Board within 24-hours of an ejection will result in a \$100 fine and will be applied towards the Team’s Performance Bond.
- 2.05 Three Team Representatives who were not involved in the incident will form a disciplinary committee, chaired by the President, to review those statements (along with any other statements from other witnesses or umpires). The three representative disciplinary committee will have up to 48-hours to determine whether an additional suspension (in addition to the automatic one-game) should be imposed.
- 2.06 If the committee determine that an additional suspension is warranted, the Player or Coach, their Team Representative, and their next opponents' Team Representative will be notified by the

Executive Board, and the Player or Coach must begin serving the additional suspension immediately.

- 2.07 If a Player or Coach wishes to appeal an additional suspension, they must do so via written request to the Executive Board within 24-hours of being notified of the additional suspension.
- 2.08 If a Player or Coach appeals an additional suspension, three other Team Representatives who were not a part of the initial disciplinary committee, and were not involved in the incident, will form an appeal committee chaired by the President. The three representative appeal committee will then have up to 48-hours to review the evidence and determine whether the additional suspension should be upheld, decreased, or INCREASED.
- 2.09 The decision of the appeal committee will be final and not subject to further appeal. The Player or Coach, their Team Representative, and their next opponents' Team Representative will be notified by the Executive Board, and the Player or Coach must begin serving the additional suspension immediately.
- 2.10 The three Team Representatives selected to be on the disciplinary or appeal committees will be on a continuing rolling basis in the order of last year's standings.
- 2.11 A suspended Player or Coach is considered an "Ineligible Person" and cannot get credit for a game played while serving a suspension, however they are eligible to play in a game(s) if an appeal is actively ongoing.
- 2.12 A suspension can carry over into the playoffs or following season.
- 2.13 Any Member may submit an Incident Report for anything they feel may warrant a disciplinary review.

Article III – Protests

- 3.01 When a Team protests the outcome of a game based upon an alleged misapplication of the rules by an Umpire, the protest will not be recognized unless the umpires and the opposing Team are notified that the game is under protest before the next pitch, or play takes place.
- 3.02 Evidence that the protest has been lodged must be entered on the protesting Team's score sheet, accompanied by the signatures of the Umpires and the Coach of the opposing Team.
- 3.03 The team filing the protest must secure a report of the incident from one of the Umpires, and deliver it to the Executive Board, along with their own account of the protest, within 48-hours of the end of the game under protest.
- 3.04 If the Executive Board determines that the protested decision violated the rules, AND adversely affected the protesting Team's chances of winning the game. The Executive Board will require that a game be replayed.
- 3.05 If the Executive Board determines that the protested decision did NOT adversely affect the protesting Team's chances of winning the game. The protesting Team will be assessed a \$50 Protest Fine towards the Team's Performance Bond.

- 3.06 A Team that wishes to protest the regular season or playoff eligibility of a Player, may do so by delivering a written protest to the Executive Board within 24-hours of the protested game. If the Executive Board determines that an ineligible Player participated in a game, it will award a forfeit win to the protesting Team (see Article I of this by-law).
- 3.07 If the Executive Board determines that the Player in question was eligible, the protesting Team will be assessed a \$50 Protest Fine towards the Team's Performance Bond.

By-Law No. 7

Rules of Competition – Organization of Regular Season and Playoffs

Article I –Regular Season Structure

- 1.01 The structure of the regular season schedule will be determined each season by a majority vote of the Team Representatives present at an offseason Member's meeting.
- 1.02 Make-up games will be re-scheduled by the Executive Board in order of their postponement or required re-play. In the event that more games must be re-scheduled than remaining permit time available, the Executive Board will prioritize those Teams with the fewest number of games played to date and/or games remaining.

Article II –Regular Season Standings

- 2.01 Teams will be organized into one or more divisions each season. This will be determined by a majority vote of the Team Representatives present at an offseason Member's meeting.
- 2.02 Teams will be ranked in the standings by a "percentage" made up of following equation. $((\text{Wins} + (\text{Ties}/2))/\text{Games Played})$.
- 2.03 If at the conclusion of the regular season two or more Teams have the same percentage in the standings, the following will be used as tie-breakers for playoff seeding;
- a) total wins; then
 - b) head to head record; then
 - c) head to head run differential; then
 - d) season run differential; then
 - e) if any Teams remain tied at this point, a coin flip will be held to determine seeding.
 - f) a Team with a forfeit loss during the regular season automatically loses all tie-breakers unless they have the same percentage as another Team with a forfeit loss.

Article III –Playoff Structure

- 3.01 The playoff format will be determined each season by a majority vote of the Team Representatives present at an offseason Member’s meeting.
- 3.02 Every eligible Team in the League will make the playoffs.
- 3.03 Playoff Teams are seeded based on the final regular season standings as described in Article II of this by-law.
- 3.04 After each round, the Teams will be reseeded based upon the regular season standings. For example, the top seeded team will always play the bottom seeded team.
- 3.05 During the playoffs, a game may go extra innings if time allows, otherwise the game will end in a tie.
- 3.06 If at the conclusion of a playoff series, the results are evenly split with no clear winner. An extra game will be required in order to determine the series winner.
 - a) Example 1: if a series is 2-2-1 after 5 games, then an extra game is required.
 - b) Example 2: If a series is 2-1-2 after 5 games, then no extra game is required.

Article IV –Playoff Eligibility

- 4.01 In order to be eligible for a Team’s playoff roster, a Player must not be an Ineligible Person, and must be credited with at least 50% (rounded down) of their Team’s total regular season games played in the current season.
 - a) Example, if a Team were to play 31 games in the current season, a Player would need at least 15 games played in order to qualify for playoffs.
- 4.02 To get credit for a “Game Played”, a Player participating in a game must be listed on both their Team’s and the opposing Team’s lineup card and/or scoresheet as per sections 5.01 and 5.03 of By-Law No.8. The game played for the Player must then be recorded on the League website as per section 2.03 of By-Law No. 5.
 - a) A Player may not get credit for a Game Played during a forfeit unless the game adheres to section 1.04 of By-Law No.6.
- 4.03 An injured Player who is not participating in a game may also be credited with a game played by signing their name (print or make legible) to the bottom of the opposing team’s scoresheet sometime between the first and last pitch of EACH game. A Player cannot get credit before or after a game has taken place.
- 4.04 A Player serving a suspension cannot be credited for a game played as per section 2.09 of By-Law No. 6.
- 4.05 Any games played with a former Team in which the Player was released from during the season, will not be counted towards a Player’s playoff eligibility as per section 3.03 of By-Law No.5.

- 4.06 Each team is allowed a maximum of two Senior-AAA OBA players on their playoff roster. In order for these Players to be eligible for the playoffs, they must not be an “Ineligible Person”, and must be credited with at least 67% (rounded down) of their Team’s total regular season games played in the current season.
- a) Example, if a Team were to play 31 games in the current season, a Senior-AAA OBA Player would need at least 20 games played in order to qualify for playoffs.
- 4.07 If a Team wins by forfeit either prior to first pitch or prior to a game becoming official (see section 4.01 of By-Law No. 8), the winning Team’s total regular season games played in the current season may be reduced by one for the purposes of calculating the playoff eligibility of its Players (see sections 4.01 and 4.06 of this Article).
- a) Example, if a Team were to play 31 games in the current season, but two games were won due to forfeit prior to becoming official, a Player’s playoff eligibility would be calculated based on 29 regular season games played.

By-Law No. 8

Rules of Competition – Playing Rules

Article I – Playing Rules

- 1.01 The Official Rules of Baseball and the OBA Playing Rules will apply except where otherwise provided in these rules.

Article II – Minimum Number of Players

- 2.01 The minimum number of Players required to begin an SABL game is 8. If a Team begins playing a game with only 8 players, the 9th spot in their batting order is an automatic out every time it comes up until a 9th Player is added to their lineup as per section 5.03 of this by-law.

Article III – Length of Games

- 3.01 All games will consist of seven innings with a 2-hour time limit. The 2-hour limit begins at the scheduled time of the first pitch.
- 3.02 No new inning may start after the 2-hour time limit has been reached. An inning shall be deemed to have started immediately after the last out in the bottom of the previous inning has occurred.
- a) Extra innings may be played if time remains.
- (i) Each team will begin all extra innings as if it were a normal inning, no runners on base, no outs.
- b) Playoff games may have extended time limits as the schedule and permits allow.

- 3.03 To ensure prompt time of first pitch, both Team Coaches and Umpires must conduct a “plate meeting” 5-minutes prior to the scheduled time of first pitch. The Home Team shall take the field immediately after.
- 3.04 In the case of a double-header when only the first game is postponed or forfeited, the Coach of each Team may agree to an earlier start time for the second game. If the two Coaches cannot agree to an earlier start time, the 2nd game will start at its originally scheduled time.

Article IV – Complete Game/Suspended Game/Mercy Rule

- 4.01 A Suspended Game in the regular season will be considered complete and “official” for standing purposes IF one of the two following conditions are met:
- a) Four innings are completed (or 3.5 innings in the case where the home Team is winning);
 - b) One and a half hours or more has elapsed since the time limit began as per section 3.02 of this by-law, not including any delay due to weather or lighting failure.
- 4.02 If either of the above conditions are not met, the game is considered incomplete and will need to be replayed (entirely started over) on its rescheduled date.
- 4.03 If the Umpires determine that a game should be terminated part way through an inning, but after the game is considered complete. The score of the game will revert to that as of the last complete inning, but all statistics up until the time the game was terminated will stand.
- 4.04 A suspended playoff game must be resumed at the point in which it was suspended and played to normal completion (see section 3.01 of this by-law).
- 4.05 The following mercy rules will be in effect for regular season games only.
- a) If a Team is trailing by 10 or more runs any time after a game is considered complete/official (see section 4.01 of this Article), they may elect to end the game immediately without incurring a forfeit.
 - b) If one hour and forty-five minutes have elapsed since the 2-hour time limit began (not including any delay due to weather or lighting failure), and the difference in the game remains 10 runs or greater, no new inning may be started.

Article V – Lineup Card and Substitutions

- 5.01 The lineup card listing the batting order for a Team must be exchanged with the opposing Team, with a copy also given to the home plate Umpire, prior to the first pitch of a game.
- 5.02 If a Player is at the park at game time and is not listed in the starting lineup, they cannot enter the game.
- a) Example, if a Team has 16 Players present at game time, and only 12 Players in their batting order, the 4 additional Players may not play in the game.

- 5.03 If a Player shows up to the park after lineup cards have been exchanged, they must be immediately inserted into the lineup at the bottom of the batting order.
- a) The addition of any late arriving Player to the batting lineup must be clearly communicated to both the opposing Team and the home plate Umpire. Any delay beyond the 5 minutes to get dressed, will result in the Player not being able to enter the game.
 - b) In the case of multiple late arriving Players, they must be added to the lineup in the order in which they arrived.
- 5.04 Bench substitutions are not allowed.
- 5.05 Defensive substitutions are open, and Players can change defensive positions freely and without limit, except for pitchers.
- a) Pitching substitutions are restricted, once a Player has pitched in a game, they may not re-enter the same game as pitcher. A pitcher is deemed to have entered the game as soon as they throw one warm-up pitch on the mound.
- 5.06 A Team may only remove a Player from the game by either “pinch-hitting” or “pinch-running”. Once removed from a game the Player may not re-enter that game.
- a) In the case of a Player being removed from the game for a pinch-runner, the most recent batter currently in the lineup who failed to get on base should be used as the pinch-runner.
 - (i) Example- Batter #1 strikes out, Batter #2 singles and is then caught stealing, Batter #3 walks. If the team wanted to pinch-run for Batter #3, they would have to use Batter #1.
 - b) In the case of a Player being removed from the game for a pinch-hitter, they are removed from the lineup and the next hitter according to the batting order will come to the plate in their place.
 - (ii) Example- If the 12th batter of a 13-man batting order is removed from the game, the 13th batter is due up.
- 5.07 A Team must clearly communicate the removal of any Player from the game to both the opposing Team and home plate Umpire.
- 5.08 A Team may not voluntarily remove a Player if it results in their Team dropping below a 9-man batting order (except in the case of an injury or ejection). Doing so will result in a forfeit (see Article I of By-Law No. 6).

Article VI – Contact Rule

- 6.01 Malicious contact is to be penalized with an ejection whether committed by an offensive or defensive Player. This applies to home plate and all other bases.
- 6.02 The Umpire will determine whether contact was avoidable or unavoidable, and whether it was considered malicious. Generally, contact should be considered malicious if:

- a) The contact is the result of intentional excessive force, and/or;
 - b) There is intent to injure;
 - c) There is an attempt to dislodge the ball.
- 6.03 Baserunners are generally instructed to slide or attempt to avoid making contact with a fielder in order to prevent themselves from being called for “Interference”, as per the Official Rules of Baseball.
- 6.04 A runner who maliciously runs into another Player is to be declared out, even if the fielder loses possession of the ball. The ball is dead, and all other runners shall return to the last base legally occupied by them at the time of the contact.
- 6.05 If malicious contact is initiated by a runner AFTER they have scored a run, they will be declared safe but will still be automatically ejected.
- 6.06 If contact occurs when a fielder in possession of the ball has blocked the base path or plate, the runner may make contact, slide into or collide with the fielder as long as the runner is making a legitimate attempt to reach the base/plate and the contact is not considered malicious. BY RULE, if a fielder is in position of the ball, they cannot be obstructing the runner’s path.
- 6.07 If contact occurs when a fielder has blocked the base path or plate clearly without possession of the ball, “Obstruction” will be called according to the Official Rules of Baseball. If an obstructed runner then uses this opportunity to collide maliciously with the fielder, they would be declared safe due to the obstruction, but still ejected from the game.

Article VII – Equipment

- 7.01 The SABL conforms to the OBA bat rules for senior levels. Those rules are as follow:
- a) The maximum legal diameter for bats shall be 2 ¾ inches.
 - b) Only wood bats, bamboo bats and wood composite bats will be allowed. Wood composite bats include wood bats with fiberglass sheathing and wood barreled bats with composite handles. Wood composite bats do not include any bat that has any metallic content.
- 7.02 Metal cleats are allowed.
- 7.03 Batters may wear single ear-flapped helmets.
- 7.04 The model of baseball to be used each season will be decided by a majority vote of the Team Representatives present at an offseason Member’s meeting.

Ratified unanimously June 23, 2020

Amended August 25, 2020

Amended January 25, 2022

Amended January 25, 2023

Amended February 26, 2024