

**Stratford Nationals**  
**2019 Major Rookie Tournament Rules**

All teams are guaranteed 3 games weather permitting.

Tournament headquarters will be located at Packham Road Diamonds in Stratford

Tournament Rules

The rules of Major League Baseball and the Ontario Baseball Association RQ2 The Approved Playing Rules of Rookie Ball will apply with the following notes;

1. OBA line-up cards and score sheets will be used. The home team is the official scorekeeper. The scorekeeper will sit in a designated area at each of the two diamonds where only they are allowed to sit. Area will be designated behind home plate and sectioned off. Lineups should be exchanged at least 10 minutes before game time.
2. Home and away team for each game in the round robin will be decided by coin toss. The coin toss will take place 15 minutes before game time. A member of each coaching staff must be present for the coin toss. At the conclusion of the coin toss the home team will be given the official score sheet. This must be signed by both teams and returned to the tournament official at that diamond immediately after the game has been completed. The team traveling the furthest will make the call on the coin toss. Coin tosses will take place at each park by an onsite convener. For all playoff action the higher seed will be the home team.
3. In case of rain and/or other delays the tournament schedule may be revised at the Convener's discretion. A cell phone contact from each team will be required at registration prior to the first game.
4. Games will be 7 innings in length. No new inning will start after 1 hour 45 minutes have elapsed from the time of the first pitch. The umpire should notify both teams and the scorekeeper of the time of the first pitch. The semi-finals will adhere to the same time limit while the Championship game will be 7 innings with no time limit. RQ2.3(g) A 7-inning game will be considered an official game after 5 innings of play or 4 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead. If a game is stopped for weather, light failure, or park curfew after becoming an official game, it is over. If a game is stopped prior to becoming an official game it is suspended and will be resumed from the point of suspension.
5. Tie games will be allowed to stand in pool play. There will be no extra innings in pool play.
6. There will be no pre-game warm ups permitted on the infield
7. In all OBA games an 18 run mercy rule will apply after 3 innings (2 ½ if the home team is ahead), a 15 run mercy rule will apply after 4 innings (3 ½ if the home team is ahead) and 10 run mercy rule will apply after 5 innings (4 ½ if the home team is ahead).
8. The decision of the umpire is final. Protests will be resolved on the field by the protest committee / park convener.
9. The score of a forfeited game will be recorded as 7-0 and 5 innings for tie breaking purposes.
10. The playoffs will consist of the following format;  
The top 2 seeds in each division will advance to semi-final games with the winner of group A playing second place from group B and the winner of group B playing second place from group A. The two semi-final winners will play in the final.

In the case of any tie needing to be broken the following will be used (OBA rule rp7.3 (w) and (x))

#### SECTION RP7.3

w) In tournaments where tie breaking rules are required, the following tie breaking rules will be used for each placement independently:

- i. Teams with a forfeit loss are ineligible for tiebreakers
- ii. head to head record among tied teams;
- iii. team with the smallest runs against ratio (runs allowed / number of defensive innings played) in games among tied teams;
- iv. team with the smallest runs against ratio (runs allowed / number of defensive innings played) in all games;
- v. team with the highest runs for ratio (runs scored / number of offensive innings played) in games among tied teams;
- vi. team with the highest runs for ratio (runs scored / number of offensive i  
nnings played) in all games;
- vii. coin toss

x) When there are 3 or more teams tied, the tiebreakers will exclude RP7.3 (w) (ii). After the winner of that tie breaker is determined, the tiebreakers will continue, if necessary, excluding RP7.3 (w) (ii) as long as there are 3 or more teams tied. When only 2 teams remain, the tiebreaker will start at RP7.3 (w) (i).

11. For registration purposes teams must have a copy of their affiliate approved or OBA approved roster but do not have to leave a copy with the convener. The 4 digit team number will be required and the convener will log that number at check-in prior to each team's first game.
12. Managers and coaches are responsible for the conduct of anyone involved with their team throughout the tournament including coaches, players and fans.
13. The Stratford Minor Baseball Association accepts no responsibility for any injuries, damages or losses to anyone during the tournament.
14. Teams are asked to retrieve foul balls hit during games. No time will be added for any delays due to lack of baseballs.
15. Teams are asked to conduct post game meetings off the field. Please gather all equipment and personal items as quickly as possible to keep the games on schedule.
16. Coaches shall sign the game sheet immediately following the conclusion of each game.