

Leamington District Minor Baseball Association By-Laws 2025

Contents

1. PLAYER REGISTRATION.....	1
2. ASSOCIATIONS.....	1
3. CONDUCT.....	2
4. ANTI-BULLYING POLICY.....	3
5. SCHEDULES/CANCELLATIONS.....	3
6. TRAVEL TEAMS.....	4
7. COACHES'.....	4
8. FEES.....	5
9. TEAM ROSTERS.....	5
10. CONVENOR DUTIES.....	6
11. UMPIRES.....	6
12. FUNDRAISERS.....	7
13. SELECT TEAM PROGRAM.....	7

1. PLAYER REGISTRATION

- 1.1 All players must register prior to March 31st of each playing year in order to be guaranteed a roster spot in the division they qualify for.
- 1.2 Registration fees will be set in December of each year following review of the yearly budget presented by the President of the association at the November meeting prior to start of the year.
- 1.3 Registration will be offered online and at a minimum of three physical sign up locations offered from January to March of each playing year.
- 1.4 Late registration will incur an additional cost and will only be offered if the division the player is registering for can accommodate the player.

2. ASSOCIATIONS

- 2.1 Leamington District Minor Baseball Association, herein LDMBA, travel teams will adhere to the constitutions and by-laws of the Sun Parlour Baseball Association, herein SPBA, and Baseball Ontario Constitutions, and By-laws.

A member of the LDMBA executive will be deemed Travel Convenor and will attend the monthly SPBA meetings and that person will be given the right to vote on behalf of LDMBA and will provide a monthly report to the LDMBA

executive. Where the Travel Convenor cannot attend an SPBA meeting any available executive member may attend on LDMBA behalf.

- 2.2 LDMBA boys' house league teams at the 11U level and up will play under the South Shore Interlock Baseball Association, herein SSIBA.
- 2.3 A member of the LDMBA executive will be deemed Overall Boys Convenor and will attend the SSIBA meetings and that person will be given the right to vote on behalf of LDMBA and provide reports back to the LDMBA executive.

Where the Overall Boys Convenor cannot attend any available executive member may attend on LDMBA behalf.

- 2.4 LDMBA will provide a house league division at the rookie age group and below and will offer these divisions at the local level and will operate based on rules set out each year by the division convenor.
- 2.5 Girls Softball will be play in the Essex County Interlock league and will adhere to the rules and policies set forth for that league.
A member of the LDMBA executive will be deemed Overall Girls Convenor and will attend the Girls Softball meetings and that person will be given the right to vote on behalf of LDMBA and provide reports back to the LDMBA executive. Where the Overall Girls Convenor cannot attend a meeting any available executive member may attend on LDMBA behalf.
- 2.6 Select Ontario Baseball Association, herein SOBA, will be recognized as a credible entity with LDMBA.

3. CONDUCT

- 3.1 Abusive behaviour, language and/or arguing by players, coaches, managers and/or spectators will not be tolerated at any LDMBA sanctioned practice, game, tournament or championship, and may result in the ejection of any such offending person.
- 3.2 Coaches and/or managers are responsible for the conduct of their players and parents. Umpires shall not engage any spectator/player and ask the appropriate coach/manager to deal with the situation.
- 3.3 Any player, coach or manager that is ejected from a game is automatically suspended from the team's next scheduled game, regardless of whether it is a league or tournament game.
 - 3.3.1.1 Any ejections of a coach(s) or player(s) must be reported by the offending team within 24 hours of the occurrence to their respective LDMBA convenor (and prior to the team's next game); copying the opposing team's head coach and the LDMBA President. Any coach failing to report an ejection may be subject to a disciplinary review.
 - 3.3.1.2 Upon notification the Disciplinary Committee will investigate the situation and report back with any further disciplinary actions they feel necessary based on the severity of the circumstances.
 - 3.3.2 A second ejection carries an automatic suspension of three (3) games.
 - 3.3.3 A third ejection in a season, a coach will be automatically suspended indefinitely pending a hearing of the LDMBA

Executive. Suspensions shall apply to all games including league games, all tournaments, Baseball Ontario Tournament games and Baseball Ontario Provincial Championships. The coach/manager of the offending team shall be required to provide the LDMBA with a schedule of games to be covered by the suspension.

- 3.3.4 Any coach or player participating in a game in which he is supposed to be serving a suspension shall automatically be suspended for the remainder of the season.
- 3.4 A coach is subject to a \$100.00 fine for the following:
 - 3.4.1 A second ejection, and each subsequent ejection.
 - 3.4.2 Knowingly participating in a game in which he is suspended, or
 - 3.4.3 Knowingly allows a suspended player to play during his suspension period
- 3.5 LDMBA Secretary shall maintain the records of any disciplinary hearings for all coaches, players or managers that have had LDMBA disciplinary committee hearings.
- 3.6 Any coach or manager making remarks to ball players of an opposing team with the purpose of hindering their play shall be warned by the umpire and may be removed from the game. On the second offence, the offending person will be removed from the game by the umpire.
- 3.7 All player and coach ejections must be reported to the Local Association Rep, the respective LDMBA Division Convenor, the LDMBA President.
- 3.8 **NO TOBACCO OR ALCOHOL PRODUCTS:** Players and coaches listed on the lineup card must refrain from smoking or using tobacco and/or consuming alcohol products during all games in and around the ball diamond and umpires will be asked to enforce this rule.
- 3.9 All spectators must comply with the local park rules. Failure to comply with park rules may lead to a spectator being asked to leave the park per Section 4.b. Any spectator that engages in conduct that is violent or abusive may be asked to leave the park per Section 4.b. The umpire may choose to not put the ball in play until the offending fan(s) is/are removed.
- 3.10 Any unsportsmanlike conduct by a player, manager or coach that leads to ejection from a game may be subject to further suspension upon review by the LDMBA Disciplinary Committee.
- 3.11 In the event that an alleged offense by a coach or player is so serious so as to possibly jeopardize the safety of others, or has resulted in an investigation by a police force as defined by the Police Services Act R.S.O.1990 C.P.15, the LDMBA Executive Board may immediately remove the alleged offender from LDMBA activities, pending an investigation of the offense in accordance with this policy.

4. ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

- 4.1 All children and young people have the right to go about their daily lives without the fear of being threatened, assaulted or harassed. No one should underestimate the impact that bullying can have on a person's life. It can cause high levels of distress, affecting young people's well-being, behaviour, academic and social development right through into adulthood. LDMBA is committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our players and volunteers. All types of bullying are unacceptable with LDMBA and will not be tolerated. All

members should feel safe in reporting if they witness any type of bullying behaviour. When brought to our attention, prompt and effective action will be taken. This means that anyone who is aware of any type of bullying taking place they are expected to tell a member of the board either directly or via a coaching volunteer or parent.

4.2 Bullying generally takes one of four forms:

- Indirect: being unfriendly, spreading rumours, excluding, tormenting
- Physical: pushing, kicking, hitting, punching, slapping or any form of violence
- Verbal: name-calling, teasing, threats, sarcasm
- Cyber: All areas of internet misuse, such as nasty and/or threatening emails, misuse of blogs, gaming websites, internet chat rooms and instant messaging. Mobile threats by text messaging & calls. Misuse of associated technology, i.e. camera and video facilities

4.3 Objectives of this policy:

- All board members, coaches, volunteers, players and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is.
- Players and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported
- If bullying is suspected or reported, the incident will be dealt with immediately by the member who has been approached. A clear and precise account of the incident will be recorded and given to the board of LDMBA. The discipline committee will interview all concerned and will record the incident. Parents will be kept informed and punitive measures will be used as appropriate and in consultation with all parties concerned. If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted.
- Disciplinary Members contact information will be posted on our website www.leafingtonminorbaseball.com for reporting purposes.
- The following disciplinary steps can be taken:
 - i) Minor fixed-term exclusion
 - ii) Major fixed-term exclusion
 - iii) Permanent exclusion.

5. SCHEDULES/CANCELLATIONS

5.1 All LDMBA game cancellations must be given to the division convenor with 24 hours notice. Cancellations due to weather must be provided to the convenor of the division at the earliest convenience.

5.2 Coaches with games that are cancelled are asked to do everything they can to reschedule a make-up game. Home game requests go through the division convenor with a requested date and time. After the request a confirmation of diamond availability and umpire availability will be given to the convenor by the LDMBA scheduler within 48 hours.

5.3 The Town of Leafington will notify the President of LDMBA by 3:00pm of a day if the diamonds will be shut down because of diamond conditions. The message will be posted to the website and via the Weather Alerts application provided to those that sign up.

5.4 LDMBA is responsible for determining diamond conditions after 3:00pm, Monday to Friday and on all weekends. The board member designated as

Chief Grounds Crew will consult where possible with the hired grounds crew employees to make the decision of whether to close the diamonds. Any closures will be communicated as per 4.3 above.

6. TRAVEL TEAMS

- 6.1 The LDMBA may field teams where feasible at all levels of travel offered by OBA and SOBA.
- 6.2 The LDMBA travel teams will participate in the Baseball Ontario Championships and SOBA Championships where feasible.
- 6.3 The LDMBA will establish a Coach Selection Committee to select coaches for the travel teams, the selections will occur in August of each year for the subsequent playing year.
- 6.4 The Head Coach selected for the travel teams will be asked to convene try outs in September/October prior to the next playing year.
At the request of any member, in good standing, any division from U8 to U14 may be evaluated to see if a Minor program offering is warranted after the first Major team tryout for that division. The evaluation will be done by a Program Committee, consisting of any 3 executive board members, voted on by the entire executive board, in cooperation with the coach(s) selected to coach the division team(s) for the upcoming season. The Program Committee will consider the following;
 - i) Can LDMBA offer both a Major and Minor program at a competitive level with each team comprising a minimum of 11 players.
 - ii) Are 2 board approved coaching staffs available for a Major and Minor team operation.
 - iii) If LDMBA cannot field a team at both the Major and Minor levels they will determine if the Major numbers in that division are such that LDMBA recommends a Minor program in order to maintain long term sustainability for future teams.

6.4.1 Any Major aged player effected by a decision to offer a Minor only program in his/her division may be granted a release to play baseball in any association of their choosing. The player requesting the release must have attended the division tryouts to the satisfaction of the Program Committee.

6.4.2 The decision to offer a Minor program over a Major program in any given year is valid for that year only. The program offerings will be evaluated each year at the tryouts as per section 6.4.

6.4.3 The U18 division, being unique in that it comprises 3 age groups, will always offer a Major and Minor team in order to keep travel player numbers in this age group at a maximum. This tactic will help try and sustain a Junior program within LDMBA. All Minor aged players in the Midget division will be asked to attend a tryout for the Minor only team first; where a Minor team cannot be fielded due to numbers or lack of coaching those players will be allowed to try out for the Midget Major team. Where a Major team cannot be fielded due to numbers or lack of coaching those players will be granted a release to try out for any association of their choosing, given that the player requesting the release

attended LDMBA's Major team's tryouts. At least 1 Minor tryout must occur prior to the Major team commencing tryouts in order to provide a fair opportunity for Minor aged players to make the Major team should LDMBA not be able to offer a Minor program.

- 6.5 Try outs for the following years teams must adhere to the timelines written in the SPBA By-Laws which are currently written as;
Non AAA teams can start tryouts at any point after the teams are eliminated from the 2018 Baseball Ontario Provincials. All players that a local doesn't hold there playing rights to must receive a release in the coaches hand before the player can take the field. This release must then be filed with the local register and SPBA register within 24 hours. A local association does not have to grant any releases.
Any changes that occur to the SPBA By-Laws regarding tryouts will be immediately reviewed by the current LDMBA executive and voted to amend at the next scheduled meeting for LDMBA.
- 6.6 The Head coach for the travel teams will be allowed to determine how many players they carry on their team for the playing year, the player fees will be adjusted per team budget based on the number of players.
- 6.7 Alternate players, herein APs, can be signed to the travel team roster and used at the discretion of the head coach. The obligation of the AP is to his local house team first should there be a conflict in schedule.
- 6.8 If any coach disallows his players from trying out for any Sun Parlour All-Star Team, he/she may face disciplinary actions.
- 6.9 LDMBA shall supply each team with hats, jerseys and pants for all players.
- 6.10 LDMBA shall supply each travel team with an equipment bag, appropriately sized catcher gear, an adequate amount of practice balls and adequate team bats. Any equipment needed beyond that can be requested in writing to the LDMBA equipment manager and shall be decided on at the subsequent LDMBA executive meeting.
- 6.11 The schedule of the LDMBA travel teams is at the discretion of the head coach and is determined at the SPBA scheduling meeting in April of each playing year. A home game budget and tournament budget will be provided to each coach in March of the playing year, the cost of any games or tournaments scheduled beyond the budget is the responsibility of the head coach.
- 6.12 LDMBA travel coaches must adhere to SPBA release rules should a player from outside our association request to try out for an LDMBA travel team.

7 COACHES'

- 7.6 All Coaches at the travel level shall be certified as per the Baseball Ontario and Baseball Canada guidelines. Coaches and Assistant Coaches of LDMBA travel teams will be reimbursed by LDMBA for any costs incurred in becoming a certified coach for Baseball Ontario.
- 7.7 Coaches at the local level shall be determined by the selected convenor of the division. There are no formal qualifications required to coach at the local level.
- 7.8 All coaches are expected to adhere to the Code of Conduct policies as stated in Section 3 of the LDMBA By-Laws.
- 7.9 Coaches are not to engage with umpires after a game or during a game with suggestions of how to umpire. LDMBA will provide an online feedback loop in which you may record the umpire jersey number and provide suggestions in how to better an umpire. The Umpire In-Chief will use this feedback in training our umpires. This is not to be used in questioning judgement calls but for real situations that can better an umpires abilities on the diamond.

8 FEES

- 8.6 All LDMBA players will pay a registration fee based on the yearly budget set by the President of LDMBA in November prior to the playing season.
- 8.7 Those fees will cover the costs of diamond rental, insurance, grounds crew and equipment needed, uniforms, umpire fees, team equipment, player awards and wind up costs.
- 8.8 Any team wishing to use the lights on Diamond 7 at the Kinsmen diamonds can request to do so and the team will be responsible for the extra cost set out by the Town of Leamington, currently for 2024 the rate is \$55+HST.
- 8.9 Travel teams and select teams will incur extra fees based on budgets set out to operate those individual teams.
- 8.10 Sponsorships will be solicited each year and be put directly towards reducing the operation costs of LDMBA. Travel teams will be responsible for obtaining their own sponsorships , local league sponsorships and select team sponsorships will be sought by the board.
- 8.11 All late registrations, those occurring past the March 31st deadline will incur a \$25 late registration fee .
- 8.12 Cancellation fee of \$25 will be subtracted from any requested refund that occurs prior to a player participating in any team activity.
- 8.13 No refund will be provided after a player has participated in a game or practice of the playing year.

9 TEAM ROSTERS

- 9.6 Rosters shall be completed by the first Monday in May.
- 9.7 Roster submissions for travel players should include the following:
 - 9.7.1 Birth Certificate or other legal documentation showing the birth date of any new player including players that may be moving from one roster to another,
 - 9.7.2 Releases from the player's Local Association and/or Affiliate and/or Permission to Transfers granted by the SPBA Executive.
- 9.8 House rosters shall be determined in a way that makes all LDMBA teams in that division of equal calibre based on the best ability of the convenor of the division. If the convenor feels an evaluation day is needed he/she will request the help of the coaches of that division in determining player rankings.
- 9.9 Player requests to play with certain other players or with certain coaches will be heard by convenors but not guaranteed. The convenor will base the decision with precedence being given to section 8.3 above.
- 9.10 Travel Roster changes may be made up to the OBA deadline of June 30. No players may be added to the roster after this date.
- 9.11 House Roster changes may be made upon request to the board and based on needs of the team should they lose players to injury or departure of any reason. Fees will be determined by the board based on the remaining amount games in the season.

10 CONVENOR DUTIES

- 10.6 House division convenors are to choose appropriate head coaches for the number of teams in their division.
- 10.7 Convenors are to select teams with equal numbers and equal calibre to the best of their abilities. The convenor may request an evaluation day with the help of the chosen coaches to help determine player abilities.
- 10.8 Convenors will be given division access to the LDMBA website where they are requested to input the schedules for all the LDMBA teams in their division.
- 10.9 Convenors are to provide each coach within their division their contact information so the coaches can relay discipline information, schedule changes request and other requests to the LDMBA executive. Requests by coaches to LDMBA will only be heard if channeled through their division convenors.
- 10.10 When LDMBA is granted a host tournament for a convenors division it is requested that the convenor be available for the duration of the tournament weekend. Where circumstances prevent this a capable coach from that division will be asked to step in as convenor for the tournament weekend.

11 UMPIRES

- 11.6 LDMBA shall employ an Umpire In-Chief for each season. This position shall be determined by majority vote should more than one person request the position. A meeting will be held where each candidate will be asked to present their experience prior to the vote occurring.
- 11.7 The rate of pay for the Umpire In-Chief shall be \$2 per LDMBA game that is booked throughout the season.
- 11.8 The Umpire In-Chief is responsible for the training, development, discipline and scheduling of the LDMBA umpires for all games and tournaments hosted by LDMBA.
- 11.9 Each umpire within LDMBA will be required to have a visible number on their umpire uniform. This number will be used in communicating feedback from coaches to the umpire in-chief via an online feedback form. The umpire in-chief will use this information to better train LDMBA umpires.
- 11.10 Pay structure will be based on the level of the umpire and will be determined at the budget meeting in November prior to the season start, the rate will be competitive based on knowledge of other surrounding associations.
- 11.11 LDMBA umpires are responsible for any costs incurred in becoming a certified umpire with Baseball Ontario.
- 11.12 LDMBA, when feasible, will offer a softball training course by a certified Slo-Pitch National or Slo-Pitch Ontario trained umpire. The Overall Girls Convenor, the Umpire In-Chief and other knowledge coaches will be requested to attend such training to ensure our umpires are knowledgeable on the softball rules.
- 11.13 For U16 rep travel and above LDMBA will request the use of the services of the Windsor Umpire Association.
- 11.14 It is expected that the Umpire In-Chief, to the best of their ability, schedule umpires for games based on the appropriate umpire level. i.e. Level 3 will not be asked to umpire Mosquito or below and Level 1 will not be asked to umpire Peewee or above.
- 11.15 All umpires are required to adhere to the Code of Conduct policies as stated in Section 3 of the LDMBA By-Laws.

12 FUNDRAISERS/GRANTS

- 12.6 All Fundraiser events prior to occurring must be approved by the LDMBA executive.
- 12.7 The organizer(s) of the event must present any costs that may be incurred by LDMBA and potential revenue so the executive can evaluate the risks versus reward.
- 12.8 Fundraiser monies will not be used to decrease the overall operating expenses of LDMBA for a playing season. The monies raised will be used to invest in better programs, invest in better equipment or can be requested to support the endeavours of a specific program within LDMBA.
- 12.9 Any successful grant money obtained by the LDMBA shall be used based on recommendations by any LDMBA executive member and approved by a majority vote.

13 SELECT TEAMS PROGRAM

- 13.6 LDMBA, where feasible, will offer a select team program in all divisions.
- 13.7 The select team coach may request to run a full season select team to operate within the SOBA. This request will be based on a major travel team being fulfilled and a healthy house league program maintained. Under this program the select team players would not play on a house league team. These players would be eligible to be on the LDMBA travel team roster and used as APs at the discretion of the select team coach.
- 13.8 Any player wishing to play on a full time select team must have tried out for the LDMBA travel team for that players' level. If the player is released from the LDMBA travel team they then may try out for the select team.
- 13.9 Should a select team not operate on a full time basis a coach may run a part time program whereby the players are assigned first to a house league team and secondly play for a select team. This team can schedule games throughout the season as long as there are no conflicts with the house league schedule. This team would be eligible to participate in the SSIBA select tournament that occurs in August of every season.
- 13.10 All select teams will be required to cover their operating costs based on a supplied budget that shows all planned games, practices, uniforms and tournaments less any sponsorships collected. The fees will be decided by equally dividing the operating cost total by the number of players on the team.