

## OFSAA BOYS BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

*The sole basis for the very existence of high school sport is the contribution it makes to the general educational experience of those students who participate.*

### PLAYING REGULATIONS

**1. Date:**

The OFSAA Boys Baseball Championship will be held in the **second full week of June.**

**2. Location:**

The semi-final and final championship games will be held at the Rogers Centre **if possible.** Preliminary playoff games will be held at sites determined by the regional convenors. Convenors, whenever possible, should ensure that all participating teams are rotated throughout all Championship sites during the preliminary rounds of competition.

**3. Tournament Structure and Procedure:**

For a sixteen (18) team structure:

There will be two regional elimination tournaments with 9 teams at each site. **See Appendix A for Schedule. (Appendix A can be found on page F-8)**

The tournaments will use a double knockout format, with the 2 finalists at each site advancing to the OFSAA Championship semi-finals.

**4. Seeding:**

All teams will be assigned to a site with consideration given to geographical location, and an attempt to equitably balance the stronger teams at each site. The placement of teams will be done by the tournament convenor with consultation with the OFSAA coordinator of baseball, and the chair of the baseball Sport Advisor Committee.

**5. Entry:**

**a) Entries shall be accepted from Association convenors or designates only.**

**(b) NO APPLICATION OF ENTRY RULES BELOW SHALL PROVIDE FOR MORE THAN TWO (2) ENTRIES FROM ANY ONE ASSOCIATION.** However, additional entries may be awarded to the host Association provided that the additional entries to the previous Association medallists have been exhausted.

**(c) Each Association may enter one (1) team in the Championship with the exception of the TDSSAA which may enter two (2) teams in Championship. The host Association may have an additional entry at the discretion of the host Association.**

- (d) To facilitate the draw a maximum of three (3) additional entries in that Championship may be accepted on the following basis:
- (i) an additional entry from the host Association (as determined by the Association);
  - (ii) an additional entry from the Association of the previous year's OFSAA Champions;
  - (iii) an additional entry from the Association of the previous year's OFSAA finalists;
  - (iv) an additional entry from the Association of the previous year's bronze medallion winners;
  - (v) an additional entry from the Association of the previous year's antique bronze medallion winners.

To further facilitate the draws, entries may be awarded to the Association medalists from two years prior, provided that the additional entries to the previous year's Association medalists have been exhausted. Additional entries in the Championships shall be selected from:

- (i) the gold medal Association of two years prior;
  - (ii) the silver medal Association of two years prior;
  - (iii) the bronze medal Association of two years prior;
  - (iv) the antique bronze medal Association of two years prior;
- (e) For associations withdrawing a team(s) after the commitment deadline the minimum sanction imposed will be a fine equal to the entry fee. Further, if the withdrawal takes place at a time that impacts on the convener, financially or logistically, a further fine may be issued. This fine may encompass costs incurred by the convener for entry fee, banquet meals, banners, etc. as reviewed and approved by OFSAA. The association and/or school may also be brought forward to the Board of Reference sanctions.

**ENTRY DEADLINES**

<b>Championship Play Begins</b>	<b>Entry Deadline</b>
Monday	The preceding Tuesday @ 11:59 pm
Tuesday	The preceding Wednesday @ 11:59 pm
Wednesday	The preceding Thursday @ 11:59 pm
Thursday	The preceding <b>Saturday @ 11:59 pm</b>
Friday	The preceding Monday @ 11:59 pm
Saturday	The preceding Tuesday @ 11:59 pm

**6. Expenses:**

An Entry Fee shall be charged which shall be sufficient to cover the operating costs of the tournament. This fee shall be determined by the Convenor in consultation with the OFSAA office. Any Association that does not meet its entry commitment after it has declared an entry into the Championship will be required to submit the entry fee and a report will be made to the Board of Reference - Sanctions.

Those schools having entries are responsible for arranging and financing their own travel, meals and accommodation for the event.

## 7. Eligibility:

- (a) To represent a school in any activity co-ordinated by the Federation, a student must:
- (i) be eligible for competition under the Constitution, By-Laws and Standing Rules (Playing Regulations) of the Association to which his school belongs;
  - (ii) be certified as eligible by the Principal of the school;
  - (iii) meet the following age requirement: the individual's birth certificate indicates that he has not reached his 19th birthday by January 1st prior to the start of the school year in which the competition is held;
  - (iv) be in Grades 9-12;
  - (v) be eligible under the OFSAA Transfer Policy; (By-Law 5, Section 4(f)).
  - (vi) be eligible for no more than five (5) consecutive years from date of entry into Grade 9 (By-Law 5, Section 4(g));
  - (vii) have signed the Rules of Behaviour signature form for the competition;
  - (viii) have executed the Federation's "Release of Liability" form.
- (b) No competitor is eligible for the OFSAA Baseball Championship if he has signed with a major league baseball team. Any high school team that includes said player on their eligibility sheet will forfeit all games in which the player's name appears on the game sheet.
- (c) To be eligible for OFSAA Baseball Championship play a team must play in an Association-approved league.

## 8. Rules:

The Official Rules of Baseball shall govern play at the OFSAA Championship with the following exceptions:

- (a) All games will be seven (7) innings except when a team is leading by 10 or more runs after five (5) innings or four and a half (4 ½) innings if the home team is ahead. Then the mercy rule will apply and the game is ended.
- (b) Tie games will be broken as follows:  
The teams will place a runner at second base (last player who made an out) and play extra innings until a winner is declared;
- (c) With two outs, and the catcher on base, the last player making an out shall be substituted for the catcher
- (d) **Each Pitcher shall be subject to Baseball Ontario Pitch Count Limit as Outlined in Appendix B (Appendix B can be found on page F-9)**
- (e) Runners are instructed to slide or attempt to avoid making contact with a fielder. A player who maliciously runs into another player is to be declared out (unless he/she has scored prior to committing the infraction) and is to be automatically ejected from the game.

- (f) Any individual ejected from a game shall be automatically ineligible to participate in his teams next game; subject to review by the Competition Committee.
- (g) **Only solid wood or composite bats will be allowed.**
- (h) Only baseballs approved by Baseball Canada for use by Midget age and up (16 and over) shall be used in High School Competition.
- (i) Shoes with metal cleats or rubber moulded cleats are permitted.
- (j) Catchers must wear a helmet and mask with adequate throat protection at all times. Note: This includes practice and warm-ups. Coaches must wear at least a mask in all practice and warm-up situations.
- (k) The use of all tobacco products, including smokeless tobacco by all on-field participants (players, coaches, managers, trainers, umpires, etc.) is prohibited at all times and is subject to automatic ejection from the game.
- (l) No visible jewelry is allowed.
- (m) **The home team at the regional games and the OFSAA gold medal and bronze medal games will be determined by a coin toss conducted by the site convenor no later than twenty minutes prior to game time. At the OFSAA semi finals each regional champion shall be declared the home team.**

**9. Uniforms:**

- (a) All competitors are expected to dress in uniforms that are neat, clean and which maintain the integrity of the school's/Association's name, colours and logos. All uniforms must have numbers on the back of the uniform shirt. No sport club insignia on uniforms shall be permitted. A sport club is defined as a community, provincially or nationally based organization whose primary purpose is participation in organized competition in single or multi sport programs. Sponsorship recognition is permitted to be visible but must conform with the placement guidelines outlined in By-Law 6, Section 2(h). Coaches must be uniformly dressed in team colours - no shorts.
- (b) All players and coaches must wear their official team cap.
- (c) Student-athletes must remain fully clothed in the appropriate team uniform in the competition area, AND use the designated locker room or change area to change to and from competition attire. Incidents of non-compliance shall be forwarded to the Competition Committee for resolution.

This criteria must be met both on and in the immediate vicinity of the competitive area and during the awards ceremonies.

**9. Awards:**

In accordance with the Blue Jays Prentice Cup tradition, members of the championship team will receive plaques, and the school represented by the championship team, a trophy and an OFSAA pennant. All 4 semi-finalist teams will receive OFSAA medals.

**10. Supervision:** (Reference By-Law 6, Section 1)

*A teacher is defined as a member of the Ontario College of Teachers or a holder of an Ontario Teacher=s Certificate or equivalent.*

- (a) For team sports ("A team consists of all athletes from the same school who qualify for Federation competition as a unit..." {reference By-Law 5, Section 3}), a teacher from the same school, or a retired teacher, as approved by the principal of the school, must accompany and be responsible for the team.
- (b) For individual sports (those sports in which athletes from a school qualify for federation competition as individuals), the principal of the school may designate an adult who is not a teacher to accompany the athletes. In addition, a teacher, or a retired teacher, must be present and on site and designated by the principal to be responsible for the athlete(s).
- (c) For all sports, where the teacher, as indicated in (a) and (b) above, is not of the same sex as the athlete(s), and where the athlete(s) are required or might be required to stay overnight, a supervisory adult, as approved by the principal of the school, of the same sex as the athlete(s), must be present and available at the accommodation site for the duration of their stay in the accommodation.

**11. Registration:**

Registration materials will only be given to the teacher accompanying the team, upon receipt of a completed Rules of Behaviour signature form, signed "Release of Liability" forms and photo forms.

**12. Deportment:** (Reference By-Law 6, Section 2)

- (a) A team is defined as, "All participants representing the same school at an OFSAA Championship event".
- (b) A participant is defined as, "Anyone who has been granted proper authorization to enter a restricted area." "Restricted area" includes "those areas occupied by athletes and to which access by the general public is restricted or prohibited."
- (c) All participants are expected to abide by the, "Rules of Behaviour for Participants to OFSAA Championships". (see Appendix to By-Laws)
- (d) Supervising adults are responsible for the behaviour of participants for the duration of the Championships.
- (e) Teams are open to censure for failure of its participants to abide by the "Rules of Behaviour".
- (f) (i) All coaches are expected to adhere to the Code of Ethics for Coaches to OFSAA Championships. (See Appendix II)

- (ii) School personnel and coaches are expected to adhere to the Statement of Principle on Recruiting. (See Appendix IV)
- (iii) Spectators are expected to adhere to the Code of Behaviour for Spectators. (See Appendix III)
- (iv) All coaches are expected to adhere to the "Return to Play Guidelines". (See Appendix VI)
- (v) School personnel and coaches are expected to adhere to the Policy on dispensing drugs, medication and food supplements. (See Appendix IX)
- (g) All schools entering a Federation Championship shall, by signature of the school principal on the Championship Entry Form, acknowledge responsibility for making restitution for damage resulting from misconduct by their participants.

**13. Social:**

If a special event is arranged, all team members and coaches must attend. At this event each coach and captain shall be introduced.

**Dress Code for Banquets:**

- no person shall wear jeans, shorts or a hat;
- boys shall wear dress pants, a dress shirt and a tie;
- if a themed event is planned by the convenor, then the convenor must apply to the OFSAA office for permission to vacate these rules;
- should there be an instance of improper attire, the Competition Committee shall deal with the matter and forward a report to the OFSAA Board of Reference - Sanctions.

**14. Medical:**

Provision shall be made by the Convenor to have medical assistance in attendance or readily available and to follow appropriate hygienic precautions with regard to bodily fluids (injuries with visible blood must be treated and covered) and communicable diseases. Qualified first-aid personnel and equipment shall be available at the Championship site(s). Coaches shall provide all consumable medical supplies (e.g. tape, bandaids) for their athletes.

**15. Jury of Appeal:**

The Jury of Appeal shall consist of three (3) individuals: the chairperson of the OFSAA Baseball Sport Advisory Committee or designate, a tournament committee member and one (1) other member appointed by the Championship Convenor. The Jury of Appeal shall handle disputes which fall within the realm of:

- (a) Tournament Structure and Procedure;
- (b) Rules and Officials;
- (c) Uniforms and Equipment;
- (d) Scoring.

Tournament structure and procedure concerns shall be addressed no later than the end of the

coaches' meeting.

A dispute must be submitted in writing to the Convenor or Designate together with a \$50.00 fee (refundable if dispute is upheld) within thirty (30) minutes, except as provided within specific sport governing regulations, of the conclusion of the game in which the incident under dispute occurred. Decisions of the Jury of Appeal shall be final.

A report of the Jury of Appeal decisions shall be forwarded to the Board of Reference - Sanctions.

**16. Competition Committee:**

(a) The Competition Committee shall consist of three (3) individuals: the Championship Convenor, or designate; an OFSAA staff or Executive Committee Member, or designate; and the Chairperson of the OFSAA Baseball Sport Advisory Committee, or designate. The Competition Committee shall handle disputes regarding:

- |                                     |                        |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| (i) Eligibility;                    | (iv) Social;           |
| (ii) Deportment;                    | (v) Medical personnel; |
| (iii) Supervision and registration; | (vi) Awards.           |

If a dispute cannot be resolved by the Competition Committee within a reasonable period of time, the event will continue and the dispute may be referred to a Board of Reference - General. (Please note that eligibility under the OFSAA Transfer Policy cannot be addressed at OFSAA events (By-Law 5, Section 4 (f)).

Disputes which fall within the jurisdiction of the Competition Committee must be received in writing to the Convenor or designate, together with a \$50.00 fee (refundable if dispute is upheld) within a reasonable time frame.

Appeals to the decisions of the Competition Committee shall be addressed to the Board of Reference - General.

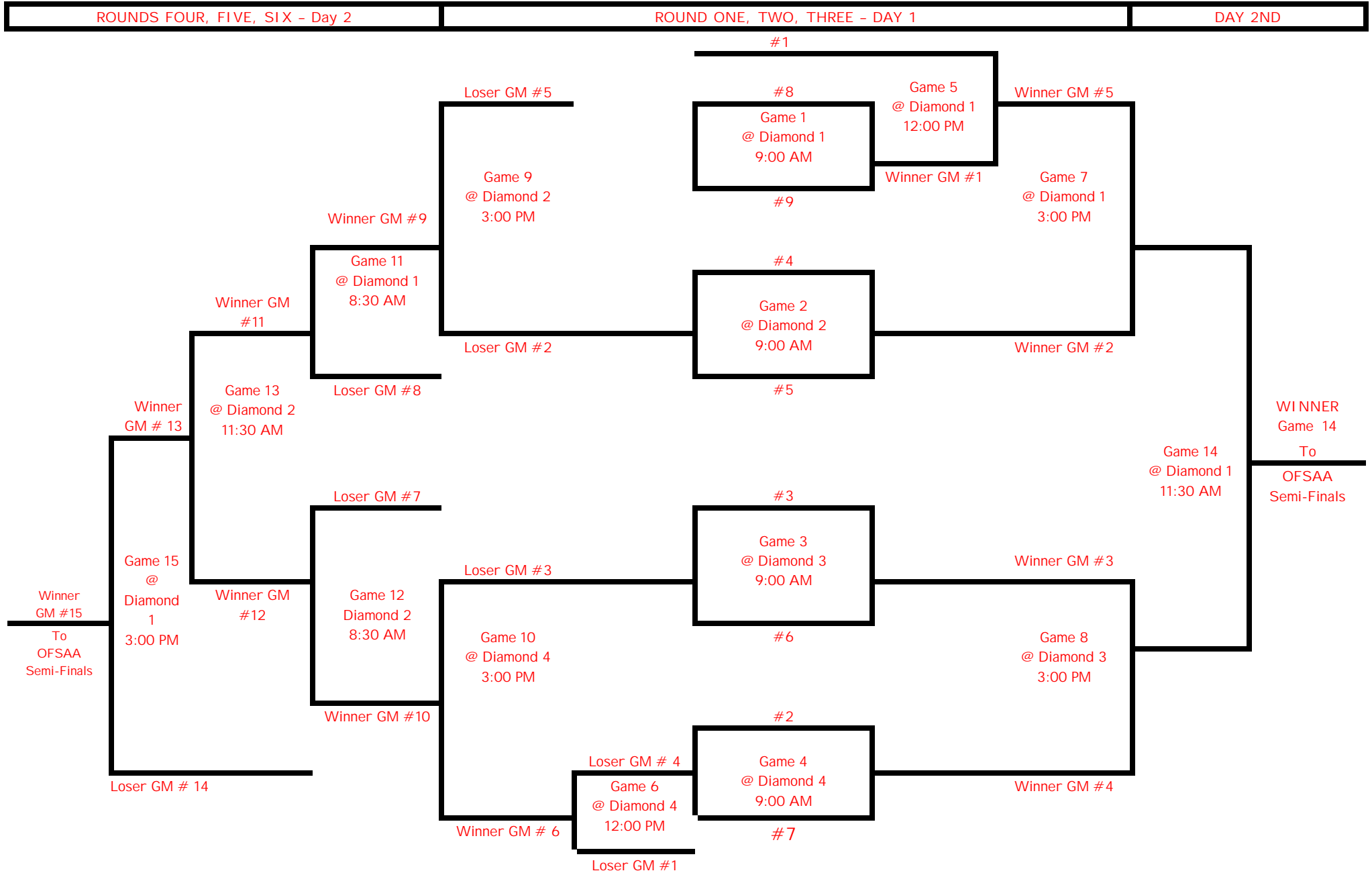
A report of the decisions of the Competition Committee shall be forwarded to the Board of Reference - Sanctions.

(b) The Competition Committee shall be the body empowered to delay/cancel an event(s) due to unforeseen circumstances at the site(s).

***All Federation Championships are non-smoking events.  
This includes the use of all tobacco related products.***

***Participants must obey the Ministry of Education's Code of Conduct.***

APPENDIX A OFSAA BASEBALL PRENTICE CUP REGIONAL – TOURNAMENT DRAW



**Appendix B**

A pitcher, who pitches 75 or more pitches, cannot pitch the next calendar day.

A pitcher, who pitches 100 pitches maximum per day, must be removed.

A pitcher may not pitch on 3 consecutive calendar days unless the pitcher threw 30 pitches or less on each of the first 2 days and the maximum pitches on the 3rd day is 50.

**Pitch Count Limits**

***Action***

- If the maximum limit is reached while facing a batter, the pitcher may pitch to the earlier of
  - (i) the completion of that batter, or
  - (ii) the end of the inning.
- It is the Manager's Responsibility to remove the pitcher from the pitching position and must not wait for the umpire to check the pitch counts

**Special Notes:**

When counting pitches, a balk will be considered a pitch if the ball is thrown.

- 1) An official Pitch Count Recorder must be identified by the score keeper and must provide the pitch count to either manager or the umpires.
- 2) It is the Pitch Count Recorder's responsibility to inform the home plate umpire that the pitch count limit is reached. If Pitch Count Recorder fails in this action, it is still the responsibility of the defensive team's manager to remove the pitcher.
- 3) A player in eligible to pitch or removed from pitching can play in another position

## APPENDIX I NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS TIE BREAKING FORMULA

Should ties occur between the provinces, division standings will be decided according to the following priorities:

1. The team with the best win-loss record in the game(s) between or among the tied teams will place higher in the standings.
2. If the tie still persists, the placement of teams will be dictated by the ratio of number of runs against per defensive inning for games between or among the original tied teams.
3. If the tie persists, the placement of teams will be dictated by the ratio of runs scored per offensive inning for games between or among the original tied teams.
4. If the tie still persists, the team having the best score differential in games played versus the highest placed team not in the tie, followed by comparison against the next highest placed team, etc. will place higher in the standings.

Note: In a three-way tie for first place only one team will be awarded first place using the formula.

Note: When a multiple tie occurs and is only partially resolved, the remaining ties will be resolved by continuing on with the remaining tie-breaking priorities until all 4 priorities have been exhausted. Then and only then will the remaining tied teams return to priority number 1 and proceed through the order again.

Example:

B.C., Ontario (ON) and Newfoundland (NF) all tied after the completion of the Round Robin portion of the tournament.

Priority 1 - BC defeated ON 6-3; NF defeated B.C. 6-4; ON defeated NF 10-8; no tie resolved, move to the next priority.

Priority 2 - BC  $9/14 = .643$ ; ON  $14/14 = 1.000$ ; NF  $14/14 = 1.000$ ; B.C. emerges from the tie but Ontario and Newfoundland remain tied and must move to next priority.

Priority 3 - ON  $13/14 = .929$ ; NF  $14/14 = 1.000$ ; Newfoundland emerges from the tie.

In the event that priorities 2 and 3 are put into effect the following ruling shall apply. When calculating the number of defensive and offensive innings that are to be credited to each team, innings will be calculated on a fractional basis.

Scenario #1 - If the home team wins the game in the bottom of the seventh inning by scoring a run with nobody out, the inning count will be:

Visiting Team - 7 offensive innings and 6 defensive innings

Home Team - 6 offensive innings and 7 defensive innings

Scenario #2 - If the home team wins the game in the bottom of the seventh inning by scoring a run with one out, the inning count will be:

Visiting Team 7 offensive innings and  $6 \frac{1}{3}$  defensive innings

Home Team  $6 \frac{1}{3}$  offensive innings and 7 defensive innings

Scenario #3 - The same application of the rule is used in a mercy rule situation. If the home team is awarded the game by the mercy rule after two outs in the bottom of the fifth inning the inning count will be:

Visiting Team 5 offensive innings and  $4 \frac{2}{3}$  defensive innings

Home Team  $4 \frac{2}{3}$  offensive innings and 5 defensive innings.