

PART A – ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

A1 Preamble

1. This organization shall be known as the Southern Counties Baseball Association, known hereon in as SCBA.
2. This association shall work in harmony with, and under the jurisdiction of, the Ontario Baseball Association, known hereon in as OBA.
3. Where provision is not made in this constitution for certain contingencies, the rules and regulations of the parent body, the OBA, shall apply and govern.
4. This constitution and bylaws of the Association as shown in this book are intended as a general guide and cannot specifically cover each situation that may arise. Therefore, the Board of Directors, in regular and special meetings, with a quorum and a majority vote, will have the authority to interpret and decide to the best of their ability with regard to all these circumstances or any specific case, any matters pertaining to any and all clauses contained herein and that their decision shall be final.

A2 Aims

1. The promotion, regulation, and protection of amateur baseball within the defined territory of the SCBA as defined by the OBA.
2. To institute and regulate competition, for the SCBA championships.
3. To institute and regulate competition for determining the SCBA representatives into the OBA championships.

A3 Membership

1. Membership in this organization shall consist of such baseball teams and organizations which agree to abide by and comply with the constitution, bylaws, and rules of the SCBA.
2. Recognized Local Associations within SCBA currently consist of Aylmer, Caledonia, Delhi, Hagersville, Ingersoll, Norfolk (Langton, Walsingham), Six Nations (Oneida), Port Dover, Simcoe and Tillsonburg.
3. All existing and new teams and organizations must notify the secretary in writing, with a list of one contact person per team at the March meeting.
4. The Executive & Board of Directors can grant temporary membership to a new association prior to the Annual General Meeting, provided all requirements of the Constitution & Baseball Ontario have been met.
5. The Board of Directors of the Minor Section shall consist of the Minor Executive and the appointed Minor Directors and shall be empowered to accept or reject applications from Minor teams for membership, with reason in writing.
6. The Board of Directors of the Senior Section shall consist of the Senior Executive and the appointed Senior Directors and shall be empowered to accept or reject applications from Senior teams for membership, with reason in writing.
7. Any affiliated team or association wishing to have teams play in another league or association other than the SCBA for the upcoming season, shall submit their request in writing to the SCBA Secretary by February 1st, for consideration at the February SCBA Meeting. This also applies to those teams which have been approved to host a Tier 1 team as per the SCBA Tier 1 Policy. Any such approval shall be for one season only.
8. If a new Local Association is formed within SCBA (or re-formed after years of dormancy), players who reside closer to the main town of the new Local have the option to play for that Local without release from the Local that holds the playing rights. This option remains in force for two playing seasons that the player could play for a team in the new Local.

A4 Executive Officers

1. There shall be an Executive and Board of Directors for the Minor Section and an Executive and Board of Directors for the Senior Section. Whereas there is consensus amongst the local associations, the Executive and Board of Directors can be amalgamated into one Executive and one Board of Directors.
2. The executives shall be comprised of officers as follows: Immediate Past President, President, Vice-President, Secretary, Minor Treasurer, Senior Treasurer, OBA Representative, Umpire-in-Chief, Registrar and Awards & All Star Coordinator.
3. These officers shall be elected at the annual meeting by a simple majority vote, except for the Immediate Past President who by virtue of his/her office shall automatically be a member of the executive of this Association.
4. The positions of Game Schedulers and Conveners are appointed positions and are to be filled as soon after the Annual General Meeting as possible.

A5 Directors

1. Directors may be appointed by the organizations and teams within the Association as follows:
 - a) Each team playing in the Senior League shall be entitled to appoint one Director.
 - b) Each Local Association shall appoint Directors to the SCBA Board of Directors based on the number of OBA rostered teams in its Minor organization, based on the following chart:

<u>Teams</u>	<u>Directors</u>
1 – 2	1
3 – 5	2
6 +	3

2. A director, with the approval of the organization or team he/she represents, may appoint a substitute to act and vote in his/her stead at meetings.

A6 Duties of Officers

1. The **Past President** shall:
 - a) Join the discussions and use the wisdom of his/her experience to offer suggestions.
 - b) Have one vote on all matters.
2. The **President** shall:
 - a) Preside at all meetings.
 - b) May call a meeting if a certain situation warrants and prepare an agenda.
 - c) Have the power to suspend for one game, any player guilty of offensive language, rowdiness, or insubordination.
 - d) Have the power to expel, with a simple majority of the Executive, any player or team from the Association.
 - e) Shall have a vote to break ties only.
 - f) Call an Annual Meeting each year.
 - g) Have signing powers for both sections.
3. The **Vice-President** shall:
 - a) Call all meetings pertaining to their particular section.
 - b) Prepare an agenda and calendar of all meetings in his/her section.
 - c) Have one vote on all matters.

A6 Duties of Officers (continued)

4. The **Secretary** shall:
 - a) Record the minutes and keep a record of same.
 - b) Inform all persons concerned of all decisions made by the Association.
 - c) Perform all the duties expected of a Secretary of a local association by the OBA.
 - d) Have one vote on all matters.
 - e) Send a copy of the meeting minutes through the OBA Representative to the OBA office.

5. The **Treasurer** shall:
 - a) Keep a record of all funds of their particular section, pay the bills, and have signing powers along with the President for their particular sections.
 - b) Present at each meeting, including the Annual Meeting a financial statement and copies of bank statements.
 - c) The Minor Treasurer has one vote on all matters pertaining to the Minor Section, and the Senior Treasurer has one vote on all matters pertaining to the Senior Section.

6. The **Umpire-In-Chief** shall:
 - a) Preside as chair of all umpire meetings.
 - b) Coordinate with each local, a game evaluation of at least one home game, where a Level 1 umpire(s) is officiating.
 - c) Call a meeting of umpires if a certain situation warrants and prepare an agenda.
 - d) Rule on all matters of dispute related to the interpretation of Southern Counties Baseball Association or the Ontario Baseball Association. Alternate in their absence will be the Vice-President.
 - e) Have the power to suspend for one game, any player or coach guilty of offensive language, rowdyism, or insubordination against an umpire's warning(s).
 - f) Have the power to request from the local government authority the restriction of a member of the public, who is guilty of offensive language, rowdyism, or insubordination against an umpire's warning(s), from a specific or all Southern Counties baseball facilities.
 - g) Have the power to expel, with a simple majority of the Executive, any coach from the Association.
 - h) Have one vote on all matters.

7. The **Awards & All-Star Coordinator** shall:
 - a) Develop and maintain an up-to-date Special Teams policy regarding the nomination of coaches, selection of teams and establishment of critical deadlines & dates.
 - b) Coordinate the process of establishing Summer Games, All Star, or Affiliate Elite Teams.
 - c) Coordinate the process of collecting nominations & making recommendations to the Executive for annual awards or special recognition as determined by the Constitution or Board.
 - d) Coordinate corporate sponsorship to help offset team fees.
 - e) Have one vote on all matters.

8. The **Registrar** shall:
 - a) Be responsible for registering all players, coaches, and managers of all teams in their particular sections and issuing and collecting all OBA Rosters for same.
 - b) Shall notify the Executive, for consideration of actions to be taken if an approved roster requires to be amended for any reason after the deadline set for final rosters to be filed with Baseball Ontario. This notice shall also be given to the local and the head coach of said team.
 - c) Have one vote on all matters.

A6 Duties of Officers (continued)

9. The **OBA Representative** shall:
 - a) Attend all OBA sanctioned Board of Directors meetings (a list will be provided)
 - b) Attend all SCBA meetings.
 - c) Act as liaison between the OBA and SCBA.
 - d) Have one vote on all matters.

10. The **Directors** shall:
 - a) Represent their respective teams or organizations at meetings.
 - b) Perform all duties as directed by the Executive.
 - c) Have one vote on all matters, pertaining to their section.
 - d) In the Senior Section only, have the power to suspend players for periods longer than one game with a simple majority of the Executive.

11. Each member of the Board of Directors of each Section shall have one vote only on each issue at meetings, except as hereinafter set out in the rules concerning conflict of interest.

12. **All members of the Board of Directors** of each Section of this Association shall hold office until:
 - a) He/she is unable to carry out his/her duties due to illness.
 - b) He/she refuses to carry out his/her duties or misses three consecutive meetings.
 - c) He/she resigns from office.
 - d) A new Board is formed at the Annual Meeting.

PART B - MEETINGS

B1 General Meetings

1. At General Meetings, each member of the Board of Directors shall be entitled to one vote on all matters, with exception to matters related to Tier 1 teams; refer to D4.4.
2. A meeting shall be held each year before the start of the season to draw up schedules for all leagues operated by SCBA. The date will be set early in the new year. Each association will present at these meetings, in writing, preferred days for home games and any dates that they are unable to play in the coming season.
3. Executive or General Meetings may be called any time by the President or his/her designate or by any member of the Executive if he/she has the support, in writing, of two members of the executive.
4. A quorum of any General Meeting shall be 5 Board members, of which at least 3 must be an Executive Member.
5. When an item of business at any Executive, General, special, or Annual Meeting pertains to a specific team(s) or organization(s) such officers, directors, or delegates representing said teams or organizations, shall be required to declare a conflict of interest and refrain from discussions, resolution of the particular item of business and shall be required to excuse themselves from the meeting during the time the matter is under consideration.
6. Any organization member of the Minor Section or Senior Section of the SCBA who misses three consecutive meetings of the Association, forfeits the voting privileges of all teams and organization which they represent and shall cease to be a voting member. To become a voting member in good standing and have voting privileges reinstated, the member or new appointee must attend and Executive meeting and receive the approval of the majority of the Executive.
7. At least one representative of each member Local Association is required to attend each Executive Meeting. Barring extenuating circumstances, a Local Association shall be fined \$50 if it is not represented at an Executive Meeting. Each Association will be allowed one grace. An Executive member of the Board may choose to vote on behalf of her/his Local Association if she/he attends at least 50% of the meetings of the Local Association.

B2 Annual Meetings

1. An Annual Meeting will be held each year, by the end of November, at a date determined by the Board of Directors. Any amendments to the constitution, bylaws, or playing rules that are to be debated at the Annual Meeting are to be submitted in writing to the Secretary three weeks prior to the Annual Meeting. OBA Convention delegates may also be appointed at this meeting. Determination of number of votes is set forth in OBA Constitution.
2. At Annual Meetings any affiliated approved rostered REP team, in good standing and represented, shall be entitled to one voting delegate, notwithstanding provisions specifically related to voting on approval of Tier 1 team(s) and related matters, as specified in D4.4.
3. Items pertaining to the Senior League shall be voted on by the Executive and delegates representing Senior teams. Items pertaining to the Minor Leagues shall be voted on by the Executive and delegates representing minor teams. Each member of the Executive shall be entitled to one vote on all matters which pertain to their Section. A majority shall be 60% of those present and qualified to vote.

PART C - ACCOUNTS AND FEES

C1 General Account

1. All funds of the two Sections of the Association shall be kept in on a separate ledger, in a chartered bank accounts subject to withdrawal by the appropriate Treasurer. Where such funds are kept in a separate bank account should one section become inactive, the funds may be combined in one account, but they must be held "in reserve", in case the section becomes active again.
2. The Secretary is to be paid an honorarium, the amount to be established each year at the Annual Meeting.
3. The annual entry fees shall be established at the Annual Meeting.
4. The receipts collected at home ball games shall belong to the home team.

C2 Bond Account

1. Each team playing in the Senior league shall post a bond of \$500, payable in installments at the discretion of the Executive, with \$200 their 1st and 2nd year, and \$100 their 3rd year, and each Minor organization shall post a bond of \$500 with the Treasurer, to be held in trust, and shall forfeit such bond or part thereof, if ordered to do so by the Section Executive as the result of an upheld appeal by a team or organization claiming expenses incurred because of the nonattendance of a team at a scheduled or rescheduled game, or as the result of an upheld protest by an offended team.
2. Any bond which has been depleted as a result of a decision by the appropriate Executive must be replenished to its full value before the offending team will be allowed to participate in any further games.
3. All funds received in payment of association bonds shall be maintained in separate deposit accounts from the operating funds in the name of SCBA Minor Section - in Trust and the SCBA- Senior Section - in Trust.
4. Application for refund of an association's bond (not in good standing) must be made within two years, less any outstanding fines.
5. The President together with the appropriate Treasurer must authorize all payments or withdrawals from the account and only in circumstances as set forth in these articles. Separate records for these accounts are to be maintained and the funds are not to be used to defray any normal operating expenses of either Section of the SCBA.
6. Entry fees and bonds must be paid in full by the date of the respective scheduling meeting. Failure to meet this requirement will deny teams or associations the opportunity to be scheduled for the coming season until said fees are paid.

C3 Team Entry

1. At the February SCBA Executive meeting, each Local Association will declare its intent to form or not form a team in each Series. The list of these proposed declared teams is not a commitment and may be updated up unto the scheduling meeting in April. Each Local Registrar will receive a copy of this list and apply the SCBA playing rights policies accordingly during Local registration.
2. The April SCBA Executive Meeting shall be the Scheduling Meeting. Each Local Association will:
 - a) Declare its teams and pay the associated SCBA team entry fee and bond if required.
 - b) A cheque made out to SCBA, for OBA Insurance payment.
 - c) Submit a summary of diamond availability and preferred game nights for each team.
 - d) Submit team tournament schedules, if available.
 - e) Declare preferences for interlocking play, if any. (i.e., games against other leagues, such as London and District Baseball Association (LDBA) or Intercounty Baseball Association (ICBA))
3. Any changes after the deadline date for declaration of a team (refer to C3.2(a)) will be subject to a \$100 fine to the Local Association.
4. The team entry fee (SCBA Affiliation fee) will be determined by the Board of Directors each year.
5. Association bonds must be posted as follows:
 - a) Minor - \$500 per Association
 - b) Senior League Teams \$500 per team
6. Forfeiture of all or part of the performance bond will be the result of:
 - a) Failure to field a team at a scheduled game without notifying the other team. The bond or part of it will be used to reimburse the offended team for expenses incurred, as per fee schedule revised annually at the schedule meeting.
 - b) In the Minor section, the home team not fielding a team, a fine of \$25 will be deducted from their bond and paid to the visiting team.
 - c) In the Senior section, if the home team fails to field a team a fine of \$75 will be deducted from their bond with \$50 going to the visiting team and \$25 going to the League's General Account.
 - d) In the Senior section, if the visiting team does not field a team, a fine of \$75 will be deducted from their bond with \$25 going to the League General Account and \$50 plus the expenses of the home team incurred payable to the home team.

C4 HOUSE LEAGUE & SELECT PLAYERS & TEAMS

1. House League Players can be rostered on a REP roster provided they are identified on their Baseball Ontario profile as an AP player.
2. A select player can be called up to play REP, provided the coach provides proof of the player being properly rostered to a Select roster.
3. In order to field a select team within SCBA and participate in the regular schedule and playoffs, the local association must already have a REP team in the same division. Any exception to this must be approved by SCBA Executive.

PART D - BOUNDARY AND PLAYING RIGHTS POLICY FOR SCBA**D1 Definitions**

1. **Local Association**: when referring to a Local Association as a geographic location, the interpretation is the main village or town of the Local Association. It is often the same name as the Local Association. When it is not the same, the SCBA Executive will designate the main town of the Local Association.
2. **Active Centre**: a Local Association that operates a team in a given series.
3. **Resident**: a player who resides within the urban area of the main town of the Local Association, specifically, the player has a residential address in town.
4. **Non-resident**: a player who does not reside within the urban area of the main town of the Local Association. The player has a rural address (R R #) or a residential address in a village or town that is not the main town of any Local Association but is within SCBA territory.
5. **Distance**: when referring to distance for closest team, distance shall be interpreted as the distance from the player's home to the relevant teams' home baseball diamond as the crow flies.

D2 SCBA Residency Policies

1. **Player Must Play In Hometown**: A player who has an urban address within the main community of the Local Association must register with that Local. If there is a doubt as to what the community is the "main" community, then the SCBA Board of Directors will determine it.
2. **Internal 5km Rule**: If a player has a rural address (R. R. #, etc) or resides in a community that is NOT the "main" community of any Local Association, then the player may sign with the closest Local Association to his/her residence **OR** with any other SCBA Local Association that is not more than 5 km.

EXAMPLE:

If a player lives 4km from town A, 7km from town B & 11km from Town C, then the player may play in either town A or Town B, but not Town C as it is more than 5 km further than Town A (nearest see D1: Definitions (5) for determining distance).

3. **External 5km Rule** – If a player has a rural address, (R.R. #, etc) or resides in a community that is NOT the "main" community of any Local Association, then the player may sign with any SCBA Local per the above internal 5km rule **OR** may sign with a Local Association outside the Affiliate boundaries of SCBA under the following condition: If the distance to the closest SCBA Local Association is 5km or more further than the Local Association in another affiliate, the player may play in the other affiliate after securing an Affiliate release.

EXAMPLE:

If a player lives 16 km from town A in another affiliate, & lives 20km from town B in the boundaries of SCBA, then the player will play for Town B in SCBA. If town B were more than 5km than 21km away, then the player could play in Town A without release (see |D1 Definitions (5) for determining distance).

D2 SCBA Residency Policies (continued)

4. Once a player signs with a Local Association, the player shall remain a member of that Local Association unless:
 - a) The original signing was not legitimate, and it was later discovered that the player should have signed elsewhere.
 - b) The player's family makes a legitimate move, and the new residence does not qualify the player to continue to play for that local. NOTE: The player may elect to play for the original but is not obliged to.
 - c) The player is properly released according to SCBA and OBA rules.

D3 Internal Permission to Tryout

Permission to Tryout forms are only permitted between local associations within the SCBA Affiliate boundaries. For any player looking to play outside of SCBA Boundaries a Local Association and Affiliate Association Release is required (See Section D4)

1. If a player wishes to practice or tryout with a SCBA team that does not hold their playing rights, the player must first secure a written permission to tryout from the SCBA Local Association that does hold their playing rights. The local association will issue the written permission to tryout to the Coach of that team and the player requesting such. The format of the permission to tryout is set forth by SCBA.

<p><u>Explanation:</u> For the purposes of this rule, minor (e.g., 7U, 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U) is not defined as a separate series from major (e.g., 9U, 11U, 13U, 15U, 18U). If a combined minor/major program is offered by a Local Association, then the Local Association is considered to have a team at the particular series. The player is expected to return to his/her Local Association.</p>

2. If the Local Association that holds playing rights does not plan to operate a team in the player's age group, playing rights are transferred for that year to the Local Association(s) for which the player qualifies under the SCBA residency policy.
3. This policy applies to all players trying out for Tier 1 or Tier 2 teams.
4. The permission cannot be withheld by the Local Association, if the player does not need a release to play for the other Local Association, according to the SCBA internal Release Policy.
5. Families seeking a Permission to Tryout form must contact the Local Association that holds their playing rights. The written permission must be presented to the coach or other representative of the other Local Association before the player can practice or tryout.
6. Any disputes may be appealed to Southern Counties.

D4 Release Policies

All release requests will be considered individually on its own merits. If a release is granted based on misleading or false information, SCBA reserves the right to revoke the release.

For Reference Only - Affiliate (External) Release***Adopted January 31st, 2021***

Subject to revision from time to time, as needed.

Different Policies govern releases depending on whether the release is from one SCBA local to another SCBA local (internal release), or whether it is from SCBA to another affiliate (external release).

The information in this table, does not form part of the SCBA Constitution. It is a summary of the process that the SCBA follows when considering the Affiliate Release Policy. As a policy it is amended from time to time.

Process:

1. If a SCBA player wishes to play for a Local Association, in an OBA Affiliate other than the SCBA, the player must first request a Release from the Local Association that holds their playing rights.
2. If the request for an Affiliate Release is denied by the Local Association, that decision may be appealed to the SCBA Executive.
3. If granted by the Local Association, then a request for an Affiliate Release must be made in writing to the SCBA Secretary. Notwithstanding the External 5km Rule, the SCBA policy is to deny an Affiliate Release.
4. To appeal the local, and/or SCBA decision, to deny an Affiliate Release, the parent and/or guardian of the player must submit in writing, to the SCBA Secretary, the justification for said request. They are also required to submit;
 - a) summary of facts & the reason why an Affiliate Release should be approved for the player,
 - b) all related correspondence between all parties involved in the local decision rendered, and
 - c) **a non-refundable \$100 processing fee.**
5. All documentation must be received by the SCBA Secretary five (5) days prior to the date of the Appeal Hearing. No additional materials can be tabled after this date.
6. If the release is denied by the SCBA, then it may be appealed to the OBA.

Policy:

1. SCBA will NOT grant an Affiliate Release to a 11U Player or younger, unless there are exceptional circumstances. A player's ability is NOT considered exceptional circumstances.
2. For 13U Players or older, a player may be released to play for a recognized Tier 1 program, if there is no Tier 1 team in SCBA that is no more than 5km. further from the player's residence than the association he wishes to play for (external 5km rule is applied to Tier 1 teams).
3. Affiliate Releases will not be granted if a player has the option to play locally within Southern Counties, with a team of the same Tier 2 designation, unless there are exceptional circumstances. A player's ability is NOT considered exceptional circumstances.
4. The external 5km rule will apply in most other cases, based on what teams are in a given series.
5. All external releases must be approved by the SCBA Board and reported to the SCBA registrar, or its designate(s).

D5 Internal Release Policy

1. If a player wishes to join a different Local Association within SCBA, the player must procure a permission to tryout from the Local that holds playing rights, and from any other local that is closer to the player's residence than the Local Association he wishes to play for, see D1: Definitions (5) for determining distance.
2. A 11U Player or older may play on loan with another Local Association within SCBA that operates a recognized Tier 1 team (recognized by the SCBA Board) in the player's age group. No release is required, but playing rights remain with the home local. A permission to tryout form must be obtained each year to allow the player to tryout.
3. If a local Association operates a Tier 1 and not a Tier 2 team in a given series, then some players from the Local that operates the Tier 1 team may not be selected for the Tier 1 team or may not wish to play for it. These players may play on loan to another SCBA local according to the Internal 5km rule. There is no transfer of playing rights and a written Permission to Tryout form must be obtained each year.
4. If more than one Local Association operates a recognized Tier 1 team, then the internal 5km rule applies between those locals.
5. All internal releases must be reported and approved by the SCBA registrar. The release will be included on the players OBA online file, including the date and authorizing party.

D6 Tier 1 Policy & Voting

1. The SCBA Tier 1 Policy (appended to the Constitution) will set forth the process for determination & designation of a Local Association as a host for a SCBA Tier 1 team(s).
2. A Local Association can submit an application to the SCBA Executive for consideration to host a Tier 1 team(s) provided they have adhered to the SCBA Tier 1 Policy.
3. A Local Association cannot declare a Tier 1 team before receiving written approval by the SCBA Executive.
4. In consideration and awarding of a Tier 1 team, in addition to any other matters related specifically to Tier 1 team(s), each Executive member will be designated one vote, as will each local in good standing.

PART E - THE SEASON

E1 General

1. All SCBA local teams planning to play in the SCBA championship, have to play each of the other SCBA local teams during the regular season.
2. Classification play (if necessary) will commence at a time that will enable it to be completed before the OBA deadline.
3. League championship play-offs will begin after completion of the regular schedule and after classification play is completed unless the teams involved in League play-offs are not involved in classification play. It is the position of the Minor Executive and the Minor Convenors that the SCBA Minor play-offs should be completed before the Labour Day weekend.

E2 Player Signing, OBA Rosters, and Registrar's Duties:

1. By January 1st all Local Associations will provide the SCBA Registrar with the name, telephone number, address and email address of their local registrars, so that they can be entered into and granted access to the OBA web site data base to register their local players.
2. Upon registration with the Local Association, players must provide a mailing address, email address (if available) and any other information required to register the player on the OBA web site data base. If the player is located outside of a main centre, or a rural address, a precise location description, including 911 number, road and distance from nearest crossroad. Any potentially ineligible players (i.e. may need a release from another association) must be discussed with the SCBA Registrar before the player takes part in any practices or games.
3. A player must sign in the Local Association that holds playing rights. A player may change Local Associations according to the SCBA Boundary and Playing Rights Policy, without release, if the local team folds; does not card "rep", or the player is not included on the team roster. If a player signs with a Local Association that does not hold playing rights and participates in a practice or game, then the player and coach are subject to suspension and the Local Association is subject to a fine of up to \$200 per player. The player must then sign with the local team that holds playing rights, pending a release request, if any.
4. A player (or parent/guardian) may request a permission to tryout from the Local Association that holds playing rights. **This must be done no later than April 30th.** All permission to tryout must be reported to the SCBA Registrar and approved by the SCBA Executive. The Local Association shall provide the SCBA Registrar with a copy of the permission to tryout. **Any permission to tryout request not made by April 30th will be denied,** subject to appeal to the SCBA Executive.
5. Where a Local Association has filed its intent to form a team and that intent remains in force and players have been given notice of the opportunity to register and fails to do so by the later of: (1) the last registration date of the Local Association, or (2) **April 1st**, then a player is not eligible to sign with another Local Association within Southern Counties for "rep" ball, if the Local Association team folds due to lack of players. This is subject to appeal to the SCBA Executive.
6. Not later than one week in advance of the SCBA Coaches' Meeting, Local Registrars shall complete the first draft of the team rosters and enter the required information into the OBA web site data base. This draft may be an expanded roster, if all cuts have not been made. At this point, parent/player signatures are not required. Problems and questions should be dealt with before the Coaches' Meeting.
7. SCBA will hold annually on a date to be determined, a Coaches Meeting, which a representative from each SCBA team must attend. Failure to attend will result in a \$50 fine being levied against the offending association.
8. At the Coaches' Meeting, the original of the team roster, signed by the parent/guardian (for players under 18 years old), and a copy will be submitted to the SCBA Registrar. Necessary supporting birth documentation will also be included. The Registrar will check the hard copy with the previously sent version. If there are no problems, the Registrar will sign the original and give it to the coach. The Registrar will retain the copy. Subsequent additions and changes can be handled through email or by the Local Registrar entering the information into the OBA web site data base.
9. The SCBA Registrar is the approving authority that will submit on a local's behalf their team roster(s) to OBA. Where issues or concerns are identified by the SCBA Registrar, they shall notify the SCBA Executive to consider the matter & make a binding decision.
10. Each team's roster with parent/guardian signature and necessary birth documentation must be completed in full and in the possession of the SCBA Registrar prior to the team's first scheduled regular season game.
11. Failure to comply will result in the forfeiture of each scheduled game and a \$5 per day fine to the Local Association, starting the day after the first scheduled game for each team that does not comply. Birth record documentation must be submitted only if the player is 21 years or younger and does not have an OBA Identification number. Documentation is normally a photocopy of the Birth Certificate (see OBA Rule P 1-2 for details.) Each Local Association must have its own Registrar, who is the sole contact for the SCBA Registrar.

E2 Player Signing, OBA Rosters, and Registrar's Duties (continued)

12. Only players listed on a team's roster will be allowed to play for the team, except players from an eligible younger series within the same Local Association may play up, according to OBA Rule P 1-5 a & b, provided they have the permission of the Local Association. If the team in the younger series plays in the same league as the team in the older series, players cannot be called up for league or SCBA championship games.
13. Any eligible player may be added to the team's roster before the June 30th OBA deadline. The information for any player signed late, including parent/guardian signature, must be in the possession of the SCBA Registrar before the player can play.
14. The SCBA Registrar will approve all submitted rosters on the OBA web site data base after the June 30th OBA final submission deadline.
15. Once the stamped OBA rosters are available, the SCBA Registrar will sign and distribute them to the Local Associations.

E3 Series Convenors

1. A convenor will be appointed for each SCBA series. A Series Convenor cannot be a person with a direct relationship to that specific series locally. For example, they cannot be a coach, a manager or a parent of a child playing within that series. Whereas no volunteers step forward to accept the duties of a series convenor, the President will appoint an Association to assign a person from within their membership.

The duties of these Convenors will be:

- a) Create, and post on the SCBA website, a regular season schedule for the series they are convening no later than the 3rd weekend in May.
- b) To set up the play-offs for their respective series by the 3rd weekend in June.
- c) To collect the official scoresheets and game cards from the Home Team Coach, which shall include players full names and assigned jersey number. APlayers must be identified as such on the game card. The Home Coach will forward this information to the Series Convenor within 24 hours of completion of a scheduled or make-up game. Before posting to the SCBA website the Series Convenor will verify that the Visiting Coach has signed off on the official scoresheet, which shall include pitch counts. Failure of the Home Coach to forward this information within 24 hours of completion of the game to the Series Convenor will result in a fine of \$50 to Home Coach Association. Each Team within that series will be allowed one grace.
- d) To verify the game results and post on the SCBA website, including score and pitch counts, within 48 hours of receipt of the official scoresheet from the Home Coach.
- e) In the Minor section, to assist with classifications at such meetings.
- f) To comply with rescheduling/make-up games.
- g) Arbitrate any disputes of the rules.
- h) Assist the SCBA Executive in determining any supplementary disciplinary action against team, coaches or players.
- i) Failure to perform any of the defined duties will result in a fine of \$50 to Series Convenors Association. Each Series Convenor will be allowed one grace.

E4 Tournament Hosting

1. Any Local Association wishing to host an OBA sanctioned tournament must submit to the OBA the appropriate fee and the Host Application form, signed by the SCBA Secretary.
2. Permission to play in tournaments outside SCBA must be obtained in writing from the SCBA Secretary and submitted to the Tournament Convenor.
3. Verbal permission must be obtained from the Secretary to play in Exhibition games outside of SCBA.

E5 Rescheduling/Make-up Games

1. When a game is postponed, the Home Team must advise the Series Convenor within 48 hours of the reason of the postponement. If the home team is not an SCBA team, the visiting team must notify the Series Convenor.
2. Within 7 days, the home team must propose a suitable date for the game to be played. Once a re-scheduled date is agreed on, the Series Convenor must be notified.
3. If, within 2 weeks from the scheduled date of the postponed game, the teams have not set a rescheduled date, then the Series Convenor will at his/her sole discretion determine the time and place for the game to be played. This timing may be compressed at the end of the season and during playoffs.
4. Violation of this section or failure to comply with the Series Convenor will result in a forfeiture by the offending team or teams. Also see (e) below.
5. Each team must fulfill as much of its regular season commitment as possible to qualify for Classification in the OBA Championship and to qualify for the SCBA Championship. Questionable situations will be reviewed by the Series Convenor and the SCBA Executive. A team completing less than 80% of its regular season commitment, including Interlock games, will be automatically reviewed at the Classification meeting and at the end of the regular season. Both forfeits and games not played will be considered.
6. If a team forfeits 3 games in a season, it shall be suspended for the remainder of the season and forfeit \$100 bond. The Local Association has 7 days to replace the bond. Failure to field a team at the beginning of the game is the forfeiture that will be used to calculate the 3-forfeiture rule.

E6 Protests

1. All protests must be filed personally and in writing to the Secretary within 48 hours of the scheduled time of the game that is being protested and must be accompanied by a deposit of fifty dollars (\$50) per protested item. The Secretary will inform the protested team immediately.
2. The President will arrange a hearing with seven (7) days of the time that the Secretary is notified of the protest. The President will appoint a Protest Committee of three unbiased people and inform the teams of the time and place of the hearing at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.
3. Both teams and the umpires of the game in question will be invited to attend the meeting to give accounts. The committee's decision will be final.
4. If the protest is refused, the \$50 fee submitted by the protesting team will be forfeited; if upheld, the \$50 will be returned. Also, if the protest is upheld, the protested team may be fined. Such a decision is to be made by the Executive. The protest committee will be asked to order what follow-up action, if any, is to be enforced (eg. Replay the game, or continue the game from a certain point, etc.) All fines levied are to be paid before the team plays its next game. Mileage will be paid to the protest committee members at a rate determined by the board annually.
5. The protest committee will be comprised of one appointed person from each local association. Three impartial members of this committee will sit on each protest. Fee must be received at time of protest, even at tournaments. Protests at a tournament cannot be overturned. Costs will be paid by the losing association.
6. If a protest is made to the OBA a fee of \$100 (if the OBA upholds SCBA decision) be paid by protesting association to SCBA to cover any cost incurred. To be taken from bond account and must be replenished before the team's next game.

E7 Classification

1. Teams of the same classification may be obliged to play to determine our representative to the OBA play-offs. These teams must be eligible according to the SCBA and the OBA rules.
2. All classification information for each Local Association (League Record, tournament Records etc.) are to be submitted to SCBA Executive by June 30th. When considering approval of a classification request, the members present should be guided by the team record (league and tournament) and its ability to be competitive at a given classification.

E7 **Classification** (continued)

3. Classification will be **determined by the board, ideally in early July**. If play-offs are necessary, the scheduling will be (time permitting):
 - a) If two teams - single best-of-three series.
 - b) If three teams - the team with the highest SCBA standing at the time of the final classification being released by the OBA, will receive the bye, while the next two highest teams in the SCBA standings play a best-of-three series. The winner will meet the team which received the bye in a best-of-three series if only one classification spot is available to SCBA.
 - c) If four teams - the team first in the standings will meet the team fourth in the standing in a best-of-three series as will the second and third place teams, standings used at the time of the final classification being released by the OBA. The winners will meet in a best-of-three series, if only one classification spot is available to SCBA.
 - d) If five or more teams - the winner will be determined in a double-elimination tournament.
Tournament entry fees will be determined by the Executive annually.
4. In classification play, tie games will be played in their entirety.
5. Classification play will begin at the first available park of the teams involved. Series convenor is to come up with a method to determine which team hosts the third game, prior to the series start.
6. Classification play (if necessary) is a priority as we must declare our classifications to the OBA by the OBA provided deadline.
7. Minor and Senior Classifications will be set as follows:
 - a) The Executive, Series Convenors and Directors will meet at the July meeting to set team classifications. Following this meeting, teams will be advised on the decisions as soon as possible.
 - b) To appeal the classification, a team or association must appeal to the appropriate Secretary within 72 hours of the July classification meeting. The Section Executive will hold a special meeting to hear the appeal(s).
 - c) Decisions by the Executive are final.
 - d) Decisions by the OBA are absolute.
8. In classification play OBA rules supersede SCBA rules.
9. The use of two (2) or more OBA carded umpires is required for classification play.
10. In the Minor series, each team must have fulfilled as much of its regular season commitments as humanly possible (questionable situations will be solved by the Executive) to qualify for league play-offs and OBA classification. League play-offs must not be delayed while teams finish regular season games that will make no difference in the standing. Because of drastically varied number of teams entered at the various minor levels from year to year, a special meeting will be held annually with the Executive and the Minor Convenors to classify all Minor teams. The right to appeal will be as described in Rule 6 under "Classification".
11. Any team in the minor division failing to meet their OBA classification commitment within SCBA shall be fined \$150.
Example: This will happen only when a team has put its name in for classification and then backs out of a 2 of 3 round or tournament. Teams will have until midnight of the day of the SCBA classification meeting to back out without liability of fine. They must notify their Series Convenor.
12. If a local SCBA team does not fulfill their regular season commitment, because they have decided to play outside of a SCBA league (e.g. LDBA or ICBA), the lowest classification that team would be able to classify at is the "B" classification.

E8 Championships – League Playoffs

1. SCBA championship playoff games will play in accordance with the SCBA rules followed during the regular season.
2. Where a local association is offering to host a SCBA League Playoff for a division series, where there will be 6 or more participating teams, that local must schedule the tournament utilizing a minimum of 2 diamonds. The tournament schedule, with the assigned diamonds, is required to be approved by the Series Convenor at least two weeks prior to the tournament date.
3. The league standings will be determined on the basis of points: 2 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, 0 points for a loss. The team with the most points will be declared Regular Season Champions. Ties in the standings will be broken by:
 - a) Tied teams, record against one another.
 - b) Overall winning percentage (# points divided by # of possible points)
 - c) Tied teams, best run differential in head-to-head games.
 - d) A coin flip.

In order for a team to qualify for a League Championship, it must have fulfilled as much of the regular season commitment as is humanly possible.

4. Subject to the annual decision of the Board, either a tournament or playoff format may be used to determine the SCBA Champion in each series. This decision will be made at the annual scheduling meeting and will include the setting of the location of the series and the entry fee. When possible, a tournament featuring all SCBA teams will be used in the 11U and 13U series.

In the situation where a tournament is utilized, it will be an OBA-style double elimination tournament involving all league teams. Teams will be seeded according to standings and the first-round pairings should match the highest and lowest progressively. A match up of the 1 and 2 seeds in the second round should be avoided, if possible.

5. Time limits are not permitted in tournament or playoff games. A curfew must be stated at ground rules.
6. For Classification Playoffs, each series shall be 2 out of 3, played at the first available park, with the higher seed hosting any deciding game. This decision will be made by the Executive, with input from the Series Convenor when applicable, with ample time before declaration of classification.
7. Time limits are not permitted for classification playoff games. A curfew must be stated at ground rules.

E9 Awards

1. In each series, the first-place team after the Regular Season will receive a pennant.
2. The SCBA Championship team in each series will receive a trophy and each player on the team will receive an award to be determined annually by the Executive. Subject to the annual approval of the Executive, each member of the "runner-up" team will receive an award.
3. Individual Player, Coach, Volunteer and Umpire Awards will be issued in accordance with the SCBA Awards Policy, approved prior to the start of the next season.

E10 Elite & Special Teams

1. The manager of any SCBA "Elite" or "Special" team is instructed to hold tryouts open to any eligible player. A Special team would include the 15U Summer Games team and the All-Star teams that continue playing into the fall.
2. The President & Registrar of each SCBA local must be notified by the Elite or Special teams' manager at least 30 days in advance of the date of the first tryout.
3. The Awards & All-Star Coordinator shall maintain an up-to-date Special Teams & Award policy, to be reviewed, at minimum, annually at the SCBA Annual General Meeting, and as additionally required from time to time.

PART F - RULES

F1 Uniforms and Equipment

1. SCBA will follow the OBA rules regarding uniforms and equipment. All team personnel have thirty calendar days from the first scheduled game to fulfill the uniform requirement.
2. No players or coaches will be allowed to wear shorts while playing or coaching.
3. SCBA will follow the OBA rules regarding the wearing jewelry.
4. Shoes with metal cleats are prohibited below the 15U series.
5. If a player purposely removes a helmet (all series) or unbuckles the chin strap (11U to 15U) while running the bases, the runner will be called out.
6. **Penalties:** if a team or player persists in violating the uniform and equipment rules, the manager, coach and player(s) are subject to ejection.

F2 Playing Rules

1. The following rules apply to league games played between SCBA centers and to SCBA Championship play. Where no rule is specified, OBA rules and the Official Rules of Baseball apply. OBA rules apply in classification play and in OBA sanctioned tournaments.
2. **9U to Junior** shall play OBA rules for each respective series.
3. **Senior** shall play OBA rules, except that in Senior league play, the use of a Designated Runner is allowed for the catcher and/or pitcher after he reaches base safely and the play has been completed. The designated runner or runners must be named before the game. If a designated runner enters the game, the catcher and/or pitcher must run for himself the rest of the games. Use of a DR is optional. Game length in the Senior league is 9 innings in SCBA play.

F3 Pitching Rules

1. OBA Pitching rules as described in Rule P 2-10 apply as written for each series.

F4 Mercy Rule

1. SCBA will follow the rules set forth by Baseball Ontario on Mercy Rules for each series.

F5 Time Limits

1. In SCBA league play, approved time limits are as follows:
 - a) **9U – 1 Hour & 45 Minutes**
 - b) **11U, 13U, 15U, 18U – 2 Hours**
2. Time limits and/or curfew must be stated at Ground Rules.
3. The home plate umpire shall announce the time of the first pitch to both benches.
4. The interpretation of the time limit is no new inning shall start after the time limit is reached. A new inning starts after the last out of the inning just completed.
5. It is the responsibility of the umpire to keep the game moving and avoid unwarranted delays. Teams are instructed to use a coach or substitute player to warm up the pitcher at the start of an inning if the catcher is not immediately available. If, in the judgement of the umpire, a team employs unwarranted delaying tactics in order to reach time limit, the umpire shall announce to each bench the extra time added to the time limit and warn the offending manager that any further unwarranted delay will result in ejection.

F6 Ejections

1. Any player, coach, or manager ejected by an umpire during a SCBA league, tournament or playoff game is suspended for one game. This is the next game played by the team (SCBA game or OBA playoff or tournament.) The player, coach, manager, and Local Association may be subject to further suspension or discipline, depending on the severity of the circumstances leading to the ejection.
2. All ejections must be noted on the SCBA Game Card, with an explanation from the umpire. A note of any suspended players, coaches, or managers should be made on the SCBA Game Card for the game(s) they are suspended.
3. If the Local Association wishes to appeal any additional discipline (cannot appeal the automatic one game suspension) it may do so by notifying the Series Convenor and posting a \$50 bond. The reports of the various parties will be heard by 3 neutral SCBA members (at least one to be an Executive member) and the Committee's decision will be final. Travel costs (as described under "Protests") may also be levied.
4. OBA rules for Ejection (Rule P 2-4) apply to OBA sanctioned tournaments, classification play and OBA Championships. Any ejections from OBA play must be reported to the Series Convenor. The SCBA reserves the right to further suspend or discipline a player, coach, or manager as a result of an ejection at an OBA sanctioned game.

F7 Regulation/Suspended Games

1. That no SCBA league game scheduled for the weekday shall start **before 6pm**.
2. Once the game has started, it is the decision of the home plate umpire to call or delay the game.
3. If a **SCBA league game** is called due to weather, darkness or light failure, the Official Rules of Baseball (ORB) shall apply as follows:
 - a) If it is not a regulation length game per the ORB, then the game shall be replayed in its entirety.
 - b) A regulation game result will stand, even if it is a tie.
 - c) If it is a "suspended" game per the ORB, the game will be considered complete with the score reverting to the score at the end of the last complete inning. Delaying tactics will not be tolerated.
4. If a **home and home style SCBA playoff game** is called due to weather, darkness or light failure, the ORB shall apply as follows:
 - a) If it is not a regulation length game per the ORB, then the game shall be suspended and resumed later from the point of delay.
 - b) A regulation game result will stand. If a regulation length game is tied, the game will be considered "suspended" and will be resumed later from the point of delay.
 - c) If it is a suspended game per the ORB, then the game shall be resumed later from the point of delay.
5. If a **tournament style SCBA championship game** is delayed due to curfew, weather, darkness or light failure prior to completion, the game shall be resumed later from the point of the delay. Shortened games are not permitted in tournament play, even if the game is regulation length. **Note:** a game called due to time limit is a complete game, regardless of number of innings played.

PART G - GAME RESPONSIBILITIES**G1 Home team**

1. **Umpires:** the home team must supply OBA carded umpires, who are, at minimum, the equivalent of a 12U Player, for regular league games and play-off games and classification games. OBA game rules require OBA carded umpires. If umpires are not available at game time, the home team has one-half hour to secure same and begin the game. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture.

A conflict of interest for an umpire should be avoided to prevent a direct relative umpiring their child. Neither a head coach, assistant, manager, or player should be used as an umpire for a regular season game.

2. **Diamond Condition:** the home team is responsible for having the diamond in good condition before each game. This includes having the lines marked, the bases properly pegged, the grass cut, the field free of debris, and the mound and backstop in proper condition.
3. The home team must be off the diamond to allow the visitors time for infield etc. 20 minutes before game time.
4. **Baseballs:** The home team will supply to the umpires, two new and one used (acceptable to the umpires) approved baseballs at the start of the game. The home team will also have new or acceptable used baseballs to put into the game in order to prevent delays. Approved baseballs are those listed in the current OBA Playing Rules and Regulations.
5. In the **Senior Section**, a certain baseball for league play will be adopted annually at the Senior Scheduling meeting by a simple majority vote.
6. Lineup Card - the Home team must
 - a) List the players, coaches and their jersey numbers on the lineup card. The lineup card must be signed by the team managers. The lineup card must be completed before the game. Players on the team's roster may be added at any time during the game but must be documented on the lineup card.
 - b) Ensure that the details of any ejections have been reported to the Series Convenor. Minimum detail required is the name and/or number of the person(s) ejected and the reason for the ejection.
 - c) Ensure that the details of anyone serving a suspension are noted on the official scoresheet. Minimum detail is the name and number of the person suspended, plus a notation like "game 1 of 2".
 - d) Report the final score, and any pitch counts, to the Series Convenor within 24 hours. Failure to do so may result in forfeiture or fines.
 - e) Home team will act as official pitch counter and official score keeper.
7. **Ground Rules:** to be presented to the umpires and visiting team five (5) minutes before game time. As part of ground rules, the time limit, if any, must be stated.
8. **Notification:** the home team must notify the visiting team of the postponement of a game due to weather conditions, as soon as possible. Proper notification is considered one of the following;
 - a) personally talk to the coach/manager of the other team; or
 - b) talk to someone of responsible age who will give the message to the coach/manager; or
 - c) send a text or email to both the coach and manager, and receive a reply acknowledging such, or
 - d) call at least two coaches/manager and leave at least one message on an answering machine.

G2 Visiting Team

1. The visiting team should be ready to take the field 20 minutes before the scheduled game time and must vacate the diamond five (5) minutes before the scheduled game time.
2. List the players, coaches, and their jersey numbers on the lineup card. The lineup card must be signed by the team managers. The lineup card must be completed before the game. Players on the team's roster may be added at any time during the game but must be documented on the lineup card.
3. Ensure that the details of anyone serving a suspension are noted on the scoresheet. Minimum detail is the name and number of the person suspended, plus a notation like "game 1 of 2".

G2 Visiting Team (continued)

4. Report for the purpose of verification, the final score, and any pitch counts, to the Series Convenor within 24 hours. Failure to do so may result in forfeiture. Any actions will be determined by the Series Convenor in consultation with the SCBA Executive.

G3 Both Teams

1. All clubs must have roster lists available for all.
2. Clubs have 15 minutes grace period after the scheduled game time to field 9 legal players. After this grace period, according to the umpire's time, if a team cannot field 9 players, the game will be forfeited to the team which has enough legal players to play.

G4 Managers' Responsibilities

1. The home team must notify the Series Convenor of the game results, and pitch count if applicable, and any ejections within 24 hours of the completion of the game. The SCBA team must also notify the Convenor within 48 hours of the same for any interlocking game (home or away), exhibition, tournament, **11U, 13U, 15U, 18U – 2 Hours 11U, 13U, 15U, 18U – 2 Hours** and any other non-league games.