

BASEBALL – BOYS'

1. SEASON OF PLAY

Boys' = Spring

2. LEVELS OF COMPETITION

Varsity

3. CLASSIFICATION

See the Niagara Catholic Athletic Association constitution.

4. ELIGIBILITY

a) Team/School Eligibility – Eligibility as per Niagara Catholic Athletic Association constitution, SOSSA and OFSAA team/school eligibility requirements and SOSSA and OFSAA's sport specific eligibility requirements.

b) Student Eligibility – Eligibility as per Niagara Catholic Athletic Association constitution, SOSSA and OFSAA student eligibility requirements and SOSSA and OFSAA's sport specific eligibility requirements.

5. ELIGIBILITY SHEET

Eligibility sheets are to be entered in the OFSAA HUB at least 24 hours prior to the team's first game.

6. OFFICIALS

All officials must be accredited.

7. PAYMENT OF OFFICIAL

Both teams are responsible for payment of the umpires for all league and play-off games. The amount will be announced at the start of the season and posted on the Niagara Catholic Athletic Association baseball website page.

If a gate is charged at a Niagara Catholic Athletic Association league or play-off game then all expenses will be paid from the gate (umpires, etc.) and the remainder of the gate will be divided equally between the home and visiting teams.

8. REPORTING SCORES

The home team will input scores and the score sheet on to the Niagara Catholic Athletic Association website by noon the day after the game.

9. UNIFORMS

-All competitors are expected to dress in uniforms that are neat and clean.

-The uniform may have the school's and association name, colours and logo on them.

- 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 OFSAA placement guidelines outlined in OFSAA By-law 6, Section 2h.
- Coaches must be dressed in a team uniform and the uniform must be in team colours – no shorts
- On base coaches must wear a helmet
- All players and coaches must wear their official team cap
- Injuries with visible blood must be treated and covered
- Coaches shall supply all consumable medical supplies (ex. Tape, bandages) for their athletes.

10. RULES

The Official Rules of Baseball shall govern play in the Niagara Catholic Athletic Association with the following exceptions:

- (i) All games will be seven (7) innings, with no new innings starting 1 hour and 45 minutes from first pitch.
- (ii) When a team is leading by 10 or more runs after five (5) innings or four and a half (4.5) innings, if the home team is ahead, a mercy rule shall apply, and the game is ended.
- (iii) Each team is to provide 2 new game balls for each game.

Additional Rules

- (a) A designated hitter may be used for the pitcher as per the Official Rules of Baseball.
- (b) Pitchers are limited to 12 outs per game. Where the 12th out occurs during an inning, the pitcher shall be permitted to finish the inning.
- (c) Teams may opt to utilize 10 batters in the starting line-up. The additional batter shall be deemed as the extra player (EP). The following rules for the EP shall apply;
 - (i). The option to use the EP must be declared when handing in the line-up card prior to the start of the game.
 - (ii). The EP may bat in any place in the batting order.
 - (iii). The EP will be considered a defensive position and eligible for re-entry.
 - (iv). If a team using the EP has any players ejected or injured and it results in the team having less than 10 players in the line-up the game shall continue with 9 players. The batting order will be shifted up to fill the void but otherwise remains the same.

Note: If the player starting in the EP is moved into a defensive position his place in the batting order does not change. The new EP will bat in the place of the player they replaced.

A team may use either an EP, or a designated hitter, but the team may not use both an EP and a designated hitter in the same game. For clarity, a team may also choose not to use either an EP or a designated hitter.

- (d) With two outs, and the catcher on base, the last batter making an out shall be substituted for the catcher-runner.
- (e) Runners are instructed to slide or attempt to slide to avoid contact with a fielder. A player contravening this rule will be called out of the play. Runners are 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 (player or coach) ejected from a game shall be automatically ineligible to participate in the next team game.
- (g) All bats approved by Baseball Canada may be used – wooden bats **or composite bats** only as per OFSAA rules. These bats shall meet the dimensional requirements specified in the Official Rules of Baseball subject to any revisions as specified by Baseball Canada.
- (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 molded cleats are permitted.
- (j) Catchers must always wear a helmet and mask with adequate throat protection. Note: This includes practice and warmups. 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 always prohibited and is subject to automatic ejection from the game.
- (l) No visible jewelry is allowed.

Note: The team which qualifies for OFSAA must also follow the OFSAA specific rules for a pitcher. See the OFSAA Baseball Playing Regulations for more information.

11.ZONE FORMAT

The format for league competition will be determined at the Niagara Catholic Athletic Association spring executive meeting. The sport convenor in consultation with the Niagara Catholic Athletic Association Convenor and the Niagara Catholic Athletic Association executive shall change the format of the league should it be required due to extenuating circumstances (weather, field availability, etc.)

12.ZONE PLAYOFF FORMAT

The format for Zone Playoffs will be determined at the Niagara Catholic Athletic Association spring executive meeting. The sport convenor in consultation with the Niagara Catholic Athletic Association Convenor and the Niagara Catholic Athletic Association executive shall change the format of playoffs should it be required due to extenuating circumstances (weather, field availability, etc.)

Tie games in playoffs will be broken as follows:

The teams will place a runner at second base (last batter who made an out) and play extra innings until a winner is declared.

13.MEDICAL

Coaches shall provide all consumable medical supplies (ie. Tape, band aids) for athletes. The convenor or qualified official will determine suitable time permitted to treat injuries and removal if necessary.

14.APPEALS AND PROTESTS

If a school(s) wish to proceed with a protest, see the Niagara Catholic Athletic Association Constitution for further direction.

15.ADVANCING TO SOSSA

The winner of the Niagara Catholic Athletic Association play off Championship game will be the Zone 2 representative at SOSSA.