



BC MINOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

British Columbia Minor Baseball Association
www.bcminorbaseball.org

*Providing Canadian Youth Baseball Programs
Since 1963*

Rally Cap * 9U * 11U * 13U * 15U * 18U * Junior
Men * Challenger

RULE SUBMISSION FORM
MUST BE SUBMITTED TO
rules@bcminorbaseball.org
ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1st
IN ORDER TO BE CONSOLIDATED
AND DISTRIBUTED TO ALL
ASSOCIATIONS AT LEAST 15 DAYS
PRIOR TO THE CURRENT YEAR'S
AGM.

EXISTING RULE #

23.07

Date submitted:

May 20, 2026

**RATIONALE FOR
RULE CHANGE /
ADDITION OR
DELETION:**

(Describe the
problem with the
existing rule and
why, in your
opinion, it should
be changed, added
or deleted)

There is a direct internal contradiction in the current text of Rule 23.07 that causes immediate operational confusion for coaches, division directors, and BCBUA umpires.

The rule states that *"All aspects of Baseball Canada Rule 5.11 apply."* In the core playing rules framework, Baseball Canada Rule 5.11(b) explicitly permits a starting pitcher to simultaneously operate as a dual-role Designated Hitter (the "Ohtani Rule"), allowing them to remain in the game strictly as the DH after being removed from the mound. However, our local trailing sentence (*"If the game pitcher is removed from the game, they do not become a fresh substitute and are not eligible to re-enter"*) is written as a blanket restriction, completely nullifying that national safety and lineup provision.

Player Safety Impact: Without the Ohtani rule explicitly protected, a coach who wants to preserve their top hitter's bat in the lineup is heavily incentivized to exploit standard 9-player re-entry rules by moving a fatigued pitcher directly to a demanding defensive field position (such as shortstop or outfield) rather than safely removing them to the bench. Forcing a youth athlete with a spent pitching arm to make max-effort throws from the field presents a significantly higher risk of overuse injury than letting them sit safely on the bench while fulfilling their role as the DH.

This amendment retains the correct citation to Baseball Canada Rule 5.11, removes internal lineup contradictions by separating standard substitution restrictions from dual-role player allowances, and explicitly adopts a player-safety-first framework across our high-performance single-season tiers (15U AAA, 18U AAA, 18U CP).



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**PROVIDE NEW
WORDING FOR
PROPOSED RULE:**

**(Make your best
effort to re-word the
rule as you see it
needs to be brought
to the floor as a
motion)**

23.07 Designated Hitter Rule

The DH rule shall only be an option in the ~~15UAAA and 18UAAA/CP~~ **15U AAA, 18U AAA, and 18U CP** Divisions. All aspects of [Baseball Canada 5.11 Designated Hitter Rule](#) apply, including the provisions in Rule 5.11(b) governing the primary starting pitcher operating simultaneously as the Designated Hitter (the "Ohtani Rule"). ~~The current game pitcher may only pinch hit for the DH in an offensive inning. A pitching change may only be made in a defensive inning. If the game pitcher is removed from the game, they do not become a fresh substitute and are not eligible to re-enter.~~

- A. If a player is listed on the initial lineup card as both the starting pitcher and the DH, they may remain in the game strictly as the DH after being removed from the mound as a pitcher.
- B. In standard lineups where the pitcher and the DH are separate players, a pitching change may only be made during a defensive inning (except in the case of injury). The current game pitcher may only pinch-hit or pinch-run for the DH during an offensive inning, which immediately terminates the DH role for the remainder of the game.
- C. If a game pitcher is completely removed from the game lineup, they do not become a fresh substitute and are not eligible to re-enter.



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|------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| EXISTING RULE # | 23.07 | |
| Mover: | Motion Moved (Name/Title): | Erik Hope |
| | Association/Board Position: | Rules Committee Co-chair |
| | Contact Email: | rules@bcminorbaseball.org |
| Seconder | Motion Seconded (Name/Title): | Bradley Christianson-Barker |
| | Association/Board Position: | Rules Committee Member |
| | Contact Email: | lm4@bcminorbaseball.org |

**RULES MUST BE MOVED AND SECONDED BY PRESIDENTS OF ASSOCIATIONS OR
BCMBA DIRECTORS ONLY**