



Peter Haynes

Convener
Muskoka Hornets

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2021 Rookie Rules – Muskoka Hornets Baseball

Mission Statement: to facilitate a league that is FUN for all participants yet still provides an atmosphere where players can learn the skills necessary to progress and improve as a ball player.

- 1. PLEASE remember that the league is designed to provide a fair and safe place for all participants. This must be the primary goal.*
- 2. All House League Head Coaches MUST complete the Hornets coach screening process on line at www.hornetsbaseball.ca – please go to Coach page and scroll to bottom and click on link. These screenings are paid for by the Hornets organization. Thank you for your cooperation on this matter as it is extremely important to further the goals of point number 1.*
- 3. While this program is house league and based on equal playing time and skill development, it is important to remember that in life there are winners and losers and parents and kids both need to learn this lesson.*
- 4. If after a few weeks of games, you notice an imbalance in terms of team skills, then there may be the need to move a couple players around to improve competitive balance. Please keep me posted where you think changes might be necessary.*

We propose the following rules be followed for the 2021 season.

1. Regular Season - teams bat through the entire line up each of the first two innings. If time permits, a 3rd inning will be played with three outs to a maximum of once through the order (note: if one team has more players ie 8 vs 7, then the other team with 7 players bats an extra). A different repeat player MUST be chosen each inning when this occurs.
2. Playoffs – first inning is bat through the entire order followed by 3 outs per inning up to max once through the line-up.
3. Each batter will be allowed **five** “hittable” pitches. The umpire has the discretion to award an extra pitch for any ball judged to be not in the strike zone, unless the batter swings at the pitch. A “ticked” fifth strike will be awarded an extra pitch. A subsequent ticked ball will be a strike out. Note: for the regular season, if a hitter is unable to put a ball in play after 5 pitches from the machine, then the T will be used. The goal is to put balls in play and give kids the full baseball experience of running the bases and fielding balls. No catchers.



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4. Batting: Any batted ball that hits the pitching machine, umpire or pitcher will be dead. The batter will be awarded 1st base, all runners return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch unless forced to advance. When the ball is dead, a player must return to their respective base, without penalty. The fielder responsible for balls hit to the area around the pitching machine MUST wear a caged helmet. (Supplied to each team).
5. Base running: Leading off is not permitted. If the ball is hit into the outfield and subsequently returned to the infield by standing on one of the bases or by an infielder standing in the infield, then all runners must stop and go to the nearest base. This will be an automatic "time-out". Runners are not allowed to advance on any overthrow.
6. Bunting is NOT permitted.
7. For recording purposes the maximum run differential will be 7 (if score is 20-5 – will be recorded as 12-5).
8. Dropped last strike - does not apply in that most times there is not a catcher on the field. If a catcher is in place behind the batter, then he or she must wear a catcher's mask.
9. No infield fly rule!
10. Bases are set at 65 feet and pitching machine at 44 feet
11. Teams can use a fourth outfielder (10 players on the field).

Note – rules subject to change at the discretion of the convener.