

NATIONAL DIVISION RULES **2020**

GAMES:

- Play two 7-inning games.
- Play two innings at a time.
- Home and visiting teams will be determined by coin-toss.
- Flip-flop if home team is behind by five or more runs in the last inning.
- 7th inning is an open inning. When the score is tied after seven, one extra inning is played. The last batter in the 7th starts the extra inning on second for each team.
- Play 10 or 11 players in the field, 12 if both managers agree.
- If 12 players, the 2 short fielders & infielders cannot play on the same side of a mid-field line from home to second to the outfield.
- 3 ball, 2 strike count and one Courtesy Foul allowed.
- No home run limits.
- If walked, batter can get a pinch runner, then bat again.
- If Pool players are added to rosters, managers will toss a coin for first choice.
- If one team has more players than the other, they will give-up players to balance numbers within one player. (Choice of three.) The goal is to have both teams play with close to even number of players. However, if a team with a large roster wants to keep players they can do so, after the other team has at least eleven.

BASE RUNNING

- To avoid contact and maintain distancing, we will adopt the “Canadian run-through” rule at 2nd and 3rd base as follows:
 - Every play at those bases will be a force play, with the runner able to “run through” the base (just like 1st base).
 - If the runner chooses to attempt advancing to the next base (in case of overthrow, etc.), they must return to and tag the base before advancing.
 - Tagging runners between bases will still be allowed. If the runner does not want to be tagged, he can concede the out by raising his hands.

- Pinch running: a player can only pinch run once per inning. A pinch runner caught on base when it is his turn to bat is out.
- No pinch runners from home, batters must advance themselves to 1st base, and then a pinch runner is allowed. If a situation occurs where a batter needs a pinch runner for one at-bat only, such as a leg cramp, the previous batter out (last out) can pinch run.
- When crossing the Scoring Line, the player's foot must touch the ground, not just cross the line.
- Managers should mark a "Commit Line," 30 ft up the line from home plate.

PITCHING

- Pitching screen required or must use mask and shin pads.
- Top of screen is 12 ft from rubber. Pitcher can stand up to 10 ft behind rubber.
- Arc on pitches- minimum 6 ft. to maximum 12 ft.
- No quick pitch to catch batter when not ready. Pitcher must face batter and hold ball 1 second before pitch. Umpire should call a no pitch.

Modifications to these rules can be made on a single-day basis if managers agree. This should be used in specific situations, not permanently changing the basic rules. For example, bases are slippery due to rain – managers may agree that a runner can step near a bag for safety.

Reviewed 7-2020