



# Cloverdale Minor Baseball

## Tadpole Rules (Spring Season)

### GENERAL RULES

1. Full uniform and hats that are supplied by the league must be worn to all games - shirts are to be tucked in. It is mandatory that all players wear athletic supporters. Base runners, batter, and on-deck batter must wear batting helmets with chinstraps properly attached. Players may wear running shoes or molded rubber cleats.
2. No gum, spitz, etc. is allowed anywhere on the field including the dugout. Each team is responsible to cleanup their dugouts after the game.
3. The Home team is responsible to prepare the diamond, line the field and fill in any depressions, before the game. After the game they are to rake the infield, home plate and pitching mound areas and make sure all equipment used during the game is returned to the bins and locked up. **Bases should be left in place when another game follows.** No children are allowed in equipment room or bins.
4. The Home team occupies the dugout behind third base.
5. Before a game, each Head Coach must give a copy of his batting line-up to the opposing team and the home plate Umpire.
6. Coaches are to make notes on Umpires performances (both plate and field) and forward to the Umpire-In-Chief or Umpire Allocator with any pointers that can help their future games.
7. During a game, Coaches or parents cannot position themselves on the outside of the backstop behind the umpire in order to coach the team. Loss of game can occur if after a warning the problem still exists. During game play if the defensive coaches are on the playing field they can only be in foul territory near their dugout or past their dugout towards the outfield.
8. Coaches are responsible for the behaviour of their team players, fans and parents during games and to make sure that there is no abuse of the equipment.
9. A Tadpole player may be called up to play on a Mosquito team a maximum of 3 games plus one tournament. The Tadpole & Mosquito Coordinators plus the players Coach must be notified of the name of the player being called up, to ensure that the player is eligible to be called up. The player must receive the same treatment as regular players, must not play more innings than a regular team player and must not pitch.

### ENDING THE GAME

1. Games must start within 15 minutes of the scheduled start time.
2. It is solely the umpire's discretion when to call the game due to darkness (should call open inning when light begins to fade), or for field or weather conditions.
3. No new innings to begin after 2 hours and 15 minutes from the time of the first pitch. The decision on whether or not to have another inning is based on the time of the 3rd out of an inning. For example if the 3rd out of the 5th inning occurs at the 2 hour and 14 minute mark, a 6th inning will be played. Any delay starting the next inning will not alter this decision (i.e. while discussing whether there should be another inning). This time limit applies to all games regardless of light conditions, following games, etc.
4. Games postponed due to rain will be rescheduled by the division coordinator, if there is time available in the schedule.

### PLAYING FIELD



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1. Bases shall be 60 feet apart and shall be held by a base spike to avoid injury. The Pitching Machine is to be set up at the 42-foot rubber. All 1<sup>st</sup> year Pitchers must pitch from 40 feet and all 2<sup>nd</sup> year Pitchers must pitch from 42 feet, measured from the point of home plate.
2. The batters box is to be 3ft. wide x 6ft. long and the inside line 6" away from the side of the plate. It shall extend 3ft. in front of and 3ft. behind the center of the plate.

### GAME RULES

1. The length of a Tadpole game shall be 5 innings as follows:
  - Beginning of Season - April 30<sup>th</sup>
    - 1 pitching inning (3 run max) at start of game
    - 4 machine innings (5 run max)
  - May 1<sup>st</sup> - End of Season
    - 2 pitching innings (3 run max) at start of game
    - 3 machine innings (5 run max)
2. During playoffs only the 5<sup>th</sup> inning will be declared an "open" inning, and will have a 10 run max limit rather than the normal limit of 5 runs.
3. Four complete innings with no less than 9 players on the field for each team will constitute a legal game.
4. A team's turn at bat will consist of 3 outs or when the run limit has been met for the inning.
5. Score is kept at this level. If a game is a tie at the end of the game, it will remain a tie. There is no mercy rule in this division.
6. All players will be included in the batting order. Players will be listed in the order they are to bat. Players arriving late will be added to the end of the batting order. Any player not present by their first at bat will be removed from the line up and not permitted to enter the game.
7. Ten players allowed on the field per inning. The 10<sup>th</sup> player must play an outfield position. The outfielders should not overtake an infielder's position, instead they should be taught to cover behind the play.
8. No player can play more than 2 innings in the same position in one game, with the exception of the catcher, who may play 3 innings. Also, for the development of players, all players must play the infield for a minimum of 2 innings and outfield for a minimum of 1 inning per game. Any team that for any reason is proven to be in violation of this rule will forfeit the game.
8. All players must sit one inning before a player can sit a second inning and no player can sit more than 2 innings per game except for disciplinary reason. The Coach must inform the Umpire and the Coach of the opposing team of any disciplinary actions or if a player must leave the game early for any reason.
9. A coach or parents will operate the pitching machine (no players).
10. Before May 1<sup>st</sup> the pitching machine speed is set on setting #7, on May 1<sup>st</sup> until the end of the season the speed is set on setting #8. The front two feet of the pitching machine should be even with the 42-foot pitching rubber. Any changes to the pitching speed must be agreed upon by coaches of both teams. Each pitch delivered by the pitching machine is considered a strike unless the machine produces an obviously wild pitch: this will be decided by the Umpire and will not be called a strike. Players are allowed 3 strikes as per standard baseball rules. Unlimited foul balls are allowed-the player is called "out" if after 2 strikes the player leaves the next pitch or



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swings and misses the next pitched ball cleanly. The pitching machine cannot be altered in speed or position until the end of each inning.

11. The offensive team will operate the pitching machine. The ball must be held up before putting it into the machine so that the batter and the catcher know the ball is coming. The pitching machine operator cannot communicate with the base runners but can communicate with the hitter. The Pitcher must hand the ball to the pitching machine operator.
12. If a batted ball hits the machine or machine operator, it is ruled a "dead ball" and the batter gets a base. The base runners advance one base only. If a hit ball hits the cord of the pitching machine it is a "live ball". If a thrown ball hits the batting machine during "live play" then the ball is ruled a "dead ball" and each base runner including the batter advances one base.
13. The pitching innings are to be the first 1 or 2 innings of each game. A Pitcher can pitch a maximum of 2 innings per calendar week and only 1 inning per game during the pitching innings. This includes pitching in league games, playoffs, postponed, suspended, tournaments or exhibition games. A calendar week runs from Monday 12:01am to Monday 12:00am (midnight Sunday night).
14. No "Balk Balls" will be called against the pitcher.
15. A "walk" only applies during the pitching innings.
16. There is no bunting in Tadpole; a bunt is considered a strike.
17. The batter cannot run on the third strike dropped by the catcher.
18. If a pitcher hits a batter or batters three (3) times the pitcher is to be replaced by another player. One trip to the mound by Coaches per inning – per pitcher. A pitcher is removed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> trip to the mound by Coaches. A pitcher withdrawn from the mound, but who stays in the game at another position shall not be permitted to return to the mound as a pitcher in the same game.
19. A batter who is hit by any pitched ball shall advance to first base.
20. On a pitched ball the catcher must throw the ball to the pitcher who is to remain in the circle unless the ball is overthrown to him.
21. Defensive player cannot run with the ball more than 10 feet to put an opposing player out, unless his/her team mates are not in a position to complete the play. If the defensive player does run more than 10 feet the Umpire will rule the runner safe.
22. On a hit ball only, any ball thrown to 1<sup>st</sup> base or 3<sup>rd</sup> base that goes out of the playing area is ruled a dead ball, base runners will advance 1 base.
23. Until May 1st the base runner may only advance 1 base on an overthrow to any infield position, to encourage the players to try to make a play.
24. If the ball is thrown back to any infield position, and that infielder has control of the ball, and the base runners are not fully committed to advancing a base, the play is ruled dead and the runner cannot advance to the next base.
25. Leadoffs are not allowed. The ball must cross home plate before any base runner(s) can leave the base(s). When a base runner leaves the base before the pitch crosses home plate and the batter DOES NOT hit the ball, the Umpire shall call "Leadoff" and the base runner must return to the base and No Out is called. When a base runner leaves the base before the pitch crosses home plate and the batter DOES hit the ball, the base runner is automatically out. The batter will be allowed to advance as normal.



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26. Stealing to 3rd base is the only base that may be stolen during a game. When stealing to 3rd base, the runner may not advance to home base on an over-thrown or under-thrown ball from the catcher. A player on 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> base may only advance on a hit or walk, when applicable.
27. Any base runner that overruns another base runner is declared out.
28. On plays at first base, if the first baseman touches the ball with any part of his body or glove runners may not advance more than the base they were originally headed to.
29. No head first slides allowed, runner will be called out. Slide or Avoid Rule is in effect. If a play is being made, or is about to be made, it is MANDATORY for players of all age groups to slide or make an effort to avoid a collision at all bases and home plate. Failure to do either will result in an automatic out. The ball is dead and no runners may advance beyond the base that was last legally acquired. An umpire will have the option of ejection if the incident warrants such a measure.
29. The infield fly rule does not apply.
30. Catcher interference rule is in effect. No pitch is to be called. One warning is to be issued to the catcher and if interference occurs again the batter will be awarded 1<sup>st</sup> base.
31. With the introduction of pitchers in Tadpole, the game slows down. The Umpires have been instructed to use a liberal strike zone to speed up the game and encourage the players to try and hit the ball rather than draw a walk.
32. The Umpire will call interference on a defensive player if the bag or plate is not partly exposed. The runner will be awarded the base.
33. Calling the players out for throwing the bat will be at the umpire's discretion. If the batter is called out no base runner will advance.
34. If a player has started the game and must leave before it is over, he/she will be deleted from the line-up and no outs will occur. If a player is injured during the game and cannot continue, he/she will not be considered an out in any further at bats.
35. All BC Minor Baseball rules will be in effect but CMBA rules take precedence.

### PLAYOFFS

1. All Tadpole teams compete in the playoffs.
2. Playoff format is all teams divided into even pools, with top two teams from each pool advancing to semi-finals, with the semi-final winners competing in a final game.
3. Trophies or medals will be awarded for the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place. (Two-3<sup>rd</sup> places will be given if needed)

### ALL-STAR GAME

- An All-Star game will be held on "Fun Day" after the awards ceremony. Each team in the division is to submit the names of two 2<sup>nd</sup> year players to their divisional coordinator for this game. The Coaches of the top two teams in the year-end tournament will coach each team.