

2.04 CLASSIFICATION OF TEAMS

- a) The OBA shall offer for annual competition the following OBA Play-offs:

| Category | 25,000+ Households | Under 25,000 Households |
|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Senior Rookie Ball | AAA, AA, A | B, C, D |
| Minor Mosquito | AAA, AA, A | |
| Mosquito | AAA, AA, A | B, C, D |
| Peewee Girls | AAA | |
| Minor Peewee | AAA, AA, A | |
| Peewee | AAA, AA, A | B, C, D |
| Bantam Girls | AAA | |
| Minor Bantam | AAA, AA, A | |
| Bantam | AAA, AA, A | B, C, D |
| Minor Midget | AAA, AA | |
| Midget | AAA, AA, A | B, C, D |
| Category | All Households | |
| Women | AAA | |
| Junior | A, B, C, D | |
| Senior | A, B, C, D | |

- b) Household numbers are used only to determine categories teams are eligible to participate in. Teams may request higher classification if so desired. A team at a lower household category may be classified at the classification of a larger household category at its request.
- c) For purposes of classification, the number of households will be based on Canada Post data published in January of each year.
- d) Teams signing players outside of their recognized boundaries shall absorb the households of such players for classification purposes."
- e) If any Local Association feels it has a circumstance that does not fall under the provisions of 2.04 a) to d), it has the right to appeal to the O.B.A.
- f) Classifications must be submitted to the OBA Office before the opening of business on the Tuesday immediately following the 3rd Monday of July. Failure to submit such information by the deadline shall result in the applicable team(s) not being classified.
- g) The OBA Office will forward a completed summary of the Affiliated Association's classification information to the appointed Affiliated Association representative for verification of the summarized information. The Affiliated Association representative is responsible for verifying the accuracy of the data, and sending confirmation or corrections to the OBA Office within 3 calendar days of receipt.
- h) The OBA Office shall immediately forward the Affiliated Associations' proposed classifications to the respective Series Chair, who shall be responsible for ensuring that all information provided for each team in the Series is complete and correct. The Series Chair shall ensure that each team is properly classified and review the potential number of entries in the individual classification playoffs.
- i) The Series Chair shall make final recommendations as to team classifications. If the Series Chair moves a team, the Affiliated Association shall be contacted and advised of the change and the reasoning for the change within 24 hours of the Series Chair receiving the classification information. The Affiliated Association shall have until the close of business on the Friday immediately following the 3rd Monday of July to appeal the change to the Series Chair. The classification recommended by the Affiliated Association may be changed by the Series Chair based on the performance of the team, the quality of its competition, and the size of the community.
- j) The Affiliated Association must submit with classification the maximum number of teams it will allow in all categories.
- k) The Classification Committee shall consist of the Overall Series Chair and the Series Chair. The Classification Committee shall meet no later than one week prior to the Civic Holiday weekend to review the recommendations of the Series Chair. The Classification Committee shall also resolve any appeals, to classifications, that are outstanding. The Classification Committee shall present its final recommendations to the Competition Committee no later than one week prior to the Civic Holiday.
- l) The decision of any Affiliated Association with respect to whether a team is, or is not classified, prior to the opening of discussions by the Classification Committee on the classification of all teams in the respective series, shall be

deemed final by the OBA.

- m) Where required for classification purposes, the Affiliated Association must submit to the Classification Committee (on a form approved by the OBA) the schedule and results of the teams in any league play, the won-lost-tied record and any tournament results that the teams may have participated in. Failure to comply with these rules will result in the team being classified at the highest classification available under 2.04 a).
- n)
 - i) Except for OBA Play-offs for Rookie Ball, Minor Mosquito, Girls Baseball and Senior, the number of teams allowed to participate at each classification shall be one per Affiliated Association plus the tournament host. In any series where the number of Affiliated Associations participating plus the tournament host is less than 12, the number of teams which will be allowed to participate would be up to 12 including the tournament host. The OBA Board of Directors shall determine the manner of selection of the additional teams to make up the 12 team tournament. If there are less than 12 teams classified at a classification, all teams will be permitted to participate.
 - ii) At Rookie Ball, Minor Mosquito, Girls Baseball and Senior, each OBA Play-off Tournament shall be open to all teams classified at the category. All teams are eligible to participate, but must fill out the appropriate application. Deadline for entry to these tournaments shall be July 31. Tournaments in excess of 20 teams may require playdowns one week prior to the OBA Play-off Tournament being played.
- o) The OBA Board of Directors shall decide annually the method by which the winner of each OBA Play-off shall be declared. This method shall consist of one of the following:
 - i) home and home style OBA playoffs; or
 - ii) a double loss knock-out tournament with a minimum of 6 teams scheduled to be held no later than the Labour Day weekend; or
 - iii) a round robin tournament; or
 - iv) a combination.
- p) No player may participate with more than 1 team in any 1 series.
- q) Any team classified at the OBA classification meeting must participate in all its OBA Play-offs. If a team fails to fulfil its commitment a \$500.00 fine will be assessed. Local Associations and Affiliated Associations shall be responsible for ensuring payment of such fines assessed against their teams.
- r) Teams appealing their OBA classification as finalized by the OBA Board of Directors are not to be levied the OBA \$500.00 fine if the team declines to compete within 24 hours after the appeals meeting.
- s) The winner of the Senior OBA Elimination Tournament will be declared the OBA Senior A champions.
- t) A Direct Entry not participating in the scheduled play of an Affiliated Association shall be classified at the highest level for which the households of its municipality makes it eligible.
- u) In order to be classified, a team must have played and reported on the Classification Form a minimum of 5 games against other OBA rostered teams.
- v) The winner of the Junior OBA Elimination Tournament will be declared OBA Junior A champions. In years when there is no Junior OBA Elimination Tournament, an open tournament will be held on the Civic Holiday weekend with the winner being declared OBA Junior A champion.
- w) At each age category where the winner of the OBA Elimination Tournament is not deemed an OBA Play-off Champion, the winner of the OBA Elimination Tournament shall be granted an automatic entry into the OBA Play-off Tournament for which teams entering the OBA Elimination Tournament are classified. The OBA Elimination Tournament winners will not be considered the representative of the Affiliated Association to which it belongs and the Affiliated Association shall be entitled to send another of its teams as its representative. OBA Elimination Tournament winners must declare their intentions to the OBA Office and the OBA Play-off Tournament host by August 15.
- x) For Rookie Ball and Girls Baseball, the OBA Play-off Tournament format shall be at the discretion of the OBA Board of Directors each year.
- y) Where several municipalities or Local Associations of C or lower classifications desire to compete in open tournaments at the AA and AAA level, they may choose to register an Affiliated Association approved team for that purpose. Such teams shall not be eligible for OBA Play-offs, and players on such a team are obliged to honour commitments to their Local Association first.