
MEMORANDUM

TO: MR. DUANE WADE, NORWEST MIDGET LEAGUE
MR. MARV BABIUK, SUNBURST BASEBALL LEAGUE

FROM: JON OKO
PROVINCIAL SUPERVISOR OF UMPIRES

DATE: MAY 3, 2007

CC: MR. JEFF DONNELLY, ASSISTANT SUPERVISOR (NORTH) OF UMPIRES
MR. JOSH CLARK, ASSISTANT SUPERVISOR (SOUTH) OF UMPIRES
MR. TODD DOROTHY, EDMONTON AREA UMPIRE ASSIGNOR (NORWEST)
MR. MATT PAYNE, EDMONTON AREA UMPIRE ASSIGNOR (SUNBURST)
MR. DON BUSKAS, RED DEER UMPIRE ASSIGNOR
MR. DAVE BISANTI, CALGARY AREA UMPIRE ASSIGNOR

****EXPERIMENTAL PACE-OF-GAME RULE****

As you are aware, Baseball Canada has adopted many new rule changes that are in effect beginning in 2007. Attached to this memorandum is the complete list of rule changes per the Official Baseball Rules. I urge all of your clubs to read and become familiar with these rule changes.

I would like to take the opportunity to apprise you specifically of the newly-adopted Rule 6.02(d) (Experimental Pace-of-Game Rule) and explain how umpires will be enforcing this rule in 2007.

Rule 6.02(d) has been added to the Official Baseball Rules. This rule states:

The following experimental rule shall be in effect for all National Association Leagues in 2006:

- (1) The batter shall keep at least one foot in the batter's box throughout the batter's time at bat, unless one of the following exceptions applies, in which case the batter may leave the batter's box but not the dirt area surrounding home plate:
 - (i) The batter swings at a pitch;
 - (ii) The batter is forced out of the batter's box by a pitch;
 - (iii) A member of either team requests and is granted "Time";
 - (iv) A defensive player attempts a play on a runner at any base;
 - (v) The batter feints a bunt;
 - (vi) A wild pitch or passed ball occurs;
 - (vii) The pitcher leaves the dirt area of the pitching mound after receiving the ball; or
 - (viii) The catcher leaves the catcher's box to give defensive signals.

Notwithstanding Rule 6.02(c) , if the batter intentionally leaves the batter's box and delays play, and none of the exceptions listed in Rule 6.02 (d) (1) (i) through (viii) applies, the umpire shall award a strike without the pitcher having to deliver the pitch. The ball shall remain alive. The umpire shall award additional strikes, without the pitcher having to deliver the pitch, if the batter remains outside the batter's box and further delays play.

- (2) The batter may leave the batter's box and the dirt area surrounding home plate when "Time" is called for the purpose of
 - (i) making a substitution; or
 - (ii) a conference by either team.

For the purpose of this rule, umpires in both the Norwest Midget League and Sunburst Baseball League will be instructed to **give a warning only** for all games played in the month of May. As of June 1, umpires will be instructed to enforce the rule as per Rule 6.02(d) of the Official Baseball Rules.

Rationale: This rule is brand new to both players and umpires, and as such it is anticipated that adherence to (and enforcement of) this rule will take some time. While players will need to work on remembering that this rule is in place, umpires will need to focus on recognizing that the rule has been violated. Both participants will need to learn how to adapt.

I would ask that all of you forward this memorandum on to your teams or the umpires who will be officiating games in the Norwest Midget League and/or Sunburst Baseball League during the 2007 season.

Should anyone have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at jon.oko@shaw.ca.