

BANK OF CHINA (HK) 51st FESTIVAL of SPORT
2008 PONY BASEBALL TOURNAMENT BRONCO DIVISION
Tournament Regulations and Rules General

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1.0 Scope

The Tournament Committee is the ultimate authority for the Rules and Regulations concerning all games conducted in tournament under the auspices of Hong Kong Baseball Association.

2.0 Schedule (play single round robin)

Date	Time	Home	Away
21 Mar 2008	10.00 a.m.	A	B
22 Mar 2008	10.00 a.m.	B	C
23 Mar 2008	10.00 a.m.	C	A

Team A = Dodgers

Team B = S. Dragons

Team C = T. Dragons

3.0 Game Rules

3.1 All games shall be played in accordance with the Official Rules of Baseball as current.

3.2 All games will consist of 7 innings. In general, no time limits shall be set for a game and all games shall be played to a conclusion, subject to clause 2.3 and 2.4. In the case where a game is tied after the maximum of innings, the game shall continue as per normal rules of baseball until a result is obtained on equal completed innings.

3.3 Pitchers shall be allowed to pitch no more than 4 innings in a game (as soon as a

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pitcher delivers one pitch to a batter, the pitcher shall be considered as having pitched in one inning).

3.4 Run Difference Rule (Mercy Rule)

3.4.1 If a team is losing by 15 or more runs after having batted at least in 4 innings, the game is ended at that point.

3.4.2 If a team is losing by 10 or more runs after having batted at least in 5 innings, the game is ended at that point.

3.5 Suspended Games

In case a game is stopped because of weather, curfew or other reason, the Tournament Committee has the power to make the decision on whether it shall be ruled a complete game or not.

4.0 Playing Field (Sai Tao Wan Pitch)

4.1 Distance between bases: 70 feet (movable bases);

4.2 Pitching Distance 48 feet (movable plate);

4.3 Home plate to centre of second base: 99 feet;

4.4 Foul line: 225 feet, centre field: 275 feet (set by cones);

4.5 Distance from home plate to backstop: 30 feet (set by fences).

5.0 Determination of Finishing Order.

The ranking of the teams after the round robin shall be according to the wins/loses record of all the games played. If 2 or more teams have an equal number of wins/loses, the determination of the finishing order shall be determined in the following sequence:

(i) the team that took away from any game in the group shall be given the

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- lowest position;
- (ii) the team that won the game between the teams tied shall be given the higher position;
- (iii) fewest runs allowed divided by the number of innings played in defense in the games between teams tied;
- (iv) a coin flip.

6.0 Ground Rules

Practice:

Prior the game starts home team may take 10 minutes fielding practice first then the visit team accordingly.

7.0 Speed-up Rules

The need to speed up the play of games must be constantly stressed to the umpires and coaches, and the following rules must be constantly enforced in an effort to keep the game moving quickly:

- 7.1 The 12 seconds rule for the pitcher must be enforced at all times during the game (with or without runners on base). A “Ball” will be called for a violation of this rule.
- 7.2 The hitter shall be required to remain in the batter’s box unless he/she makes a request for “Time” and the umpire feels that the request is reasonable. Only then shall the umpire grant time out.
- 7.3 The pitcher shall be allowed 5 warm-up pitches between innings and the plate umpire shall ensure that the pitches are thrown without undue delay. Teams shall be directed to have a catcher ready to warm up the pitcher as soon as an inning is completed.

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7.4 When a batter hits a home run, members of his/her team shall not be allowed to contact the hitter until he/she has passed the home plate. Failure to observe this rule will result in a warning and if it occurs again, the manager of that team shall be ejected from the game.

7.5 Coach shall be allowed 3 free trips to the mound during the game to talk with the pitcher (a free trip is one in which the pitcher is not removed from the game). These meeting shall be limited to 30 seconds from the moment the umpire calls “**Time**”.

After the third trip, each subsequent trip to the mound must result in the removal of the pitcher.

If the game goes into extra innings, 1 additional free trip shall be allowed for each extra three innings.

2 trips to the mound in the same inning to the same pitcher must result in the removal of the pitcher.

7.6 Teams are allowed a maximum of 3 offensive meetings per game. An offensive meeting shall be charged any time a coach delays the game for any length of time to talk with an offensive player, whether it be the hitter, base runner or any on deck batter going to the plate, or to another coach.

If the game goes into extra innings, 1 additional offensive meeting shall be permitted for each 3 extra innings.

No offensive trip will be charged if the offense discusses strategy during a delay for which they are not responsible (e.g. trip to the mound, injury, player changed, etc.) providing they cause no further delay.

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8.0 Protests

7.1 When a protest is made by a manager over a suspected misapplication or misinterpretation of official baseball rules, it shall be made to the plate umpire according to the Official Rules of Baseball. When such a protest is made, the chief umpire shall inform the content of the protest to the manager of the opposing team, the audience and the Technical Committee members present.

7.2 The protest shall be submitted in written form within 60 minutes of the end of the game indicating the number(s) of the baseball rule(s) and accompanied by a deposit of HK\$ 500 in cash to the Technical Delegate(s) assigned to work that game.

If the protest occurs on a game-ending play, a desire to submit a protest must be announced by the manager or the team delegate before the umpires leave the field. After consultation with umpires, a decision will be taken immediately by the Technical Delegate(s) before the game is concluded.

Any decision of the Technical Committee regarding the playing rules is final and is not subject to appeal.

9.0 General

In the case of any matter not specifically covered by these Regulations, the Tournament Director, the Technical Committee and the Organizing Committee have the power to jointly agree on any matter, provided all are in agreement.

In the absence of a mutual agreement, the final decision shall rest with Tournament Director.