



Hong Kong Baseball Open League 2019-2020 Event Information and Rules & Regulations



Subvented by Leisure and Cultural Service
Department



Organized by Hong Kong Baseball Association

HONG KONG BASEBALL OPEN LEAGUE 2019-2020

Event Information and Rules & Regulations

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Remarks:

- ✧ Hong Kong Baseball Association (HKBA) reserves the right of final decision on the matters concerned.
- ✧ HKBA reserves the right to alter these rules, as well as the right to interpret, modify, clarify, or otherwise issue official changes to the rules without prior notice.

SECTION 1 – GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 EVENT OUTLINES

Organizer: Hong Kong Baseball Association
 Subvented by: Leisure and Cultural Services Department
 Period: January 2020 to March 2020
 Venue: Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) venues

Please note that the schedule is subject to change due to the availability of venues and inclement weather.

1.2 FORMAT

Men Division: Knock-out (44 Teams)*
 Women Division: Knock-out (12 Teams)*
 Kenko Division: Knock-out (16 Teams)*

*Game format may be changed based on the number of teams registered.

1.3 REGISTRATION

1.3.1 Number of Teams Registered

Men Division: Minimum 3 teams, Maximum 44 Teams
 Women Division: Minimum 3 teams, Maximum 12 Teams
 Kenko Division: Minimum 3 teams, Maximum 16 Teams

1.3.2 Registration Fee

Division	Team Registration Fee	Player Registration Fee For the season of 2019-20 & 2020-21
Men	HK\$ 2,500/team	HK\$ 200/player
Women	HK\$ 2,500/team	HK\$ 200/player
Kenko	HK\$ 2,000/team	HK\$ 200/player

- i. Group accident insurance included.
- ii. Team registration: 7/12/19 – 13/12/19 (https://www.hkbaseball.org/ors_appl.php)
- iii. Player registration: start from 13/12/19 (Only accept players 16 years old or above)
- iv. Players who registered in APEX League are not allowed to register in Open League.
- v. Open League player registration fee is valid for the season of 2019-2020 and the season 2020-2021.

1.3.3 Deposit

Team Deposit: HK\$ 1,000 per team

(All team have to pay for team deposit that will be refunded after finishing the season)

Manager Meeting Deposit: HK\$ 500 per team

(Team Manager Meeting Deposit will be forfeited if the Team Coach/representative absent from the Team Manager Meeting. The refund will be made during the meeting)

1.3.4 Team Registration

1.3.4.1 Each player is restricted from registering on one team in the same season.

1.3.4.2 After processing official registration on one team, a player is not allowed to transfer in the same season.

1.3.4.3 Coaching staff MUST be HKBA registered coach.

1.3.4.4 The maximum number of players on one team is 20 but no less than 12.

1.4 VENUE

- a) Sai Tso Wan Recreation Ground (STW)
- b) Lion Rock Park Baseball Field (LR)
- c) Hin Tin Playground (Hin Tin)
- d) Ho Man Tin East Service Reservoir Playground (HMTE)
- e) Kwong Fuk Football Ground (Kwong Fuk)
- f) or other venues in Hong Kong

1.5 INNINGS & TIME LIMITS

Innings: 7 innings in length, subject to the following rules for game time length limits.

Time Limits: 105 minutes

(No new inning will start after a game's length has reached 105 minutes)

***If two (2) innings have completed, it is a regulation game.**

1.6 RUN DIFFERENCE RULES (MERCY RULES)

If a team is losing by 15 or more runs after having batted at least in two (2) innings, the game end at that point. If a team is losing by 10 or more runs after batted at least in seven (3) innings, the game end at that point.

1.7 PROTESTS DURING GAME

1.7.1 When a manager makes a protest over a suspected misapplication or misinterpretation of official baseball rules, it shall be made to the home 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 staff present.

1.7.2 The protest shall be submitted in written within 2 days, indicating the number of the baseball rule and accompanied by a deposit of HK\$1,000.

1.7.3 Any decision of the Hong Kong Baseball Association - Games Committee regarding the playing rules is final and not subject to appeal.

1.8 PENALTIES

1.8.1 Infraction of specific regulations will automatically occur a fine. The violator will have one month from the date of notification to pay the fine.

1.8.2 All violations fall into one of three categories

A level fines: HK\$1,500

B level fines: HK\$ 1,000

1.8.2.1 The following are examples of A level infraction

- i. Foreign substance/doctored baseball
- ii. Physically aggressive activities against Open League staff (including umpire)
- iii. Illegal / corked bat
- iv. Non-presence of a team in the league after confirming the participation

1.8.2.2 The following are examples of B level infractions

- i. Not leaving the dugout after ejection
- ii. Contacting an umpire
- iii. Throwing equipment in umpire’s direction
- iv. Fighting
- v. Team Personnel ejection
- vi. Intentional throwing at a batter in the head area

1.9 AWARDS

Ranking	Team Award	Individual Award
First place	Trophy	Gold Medal x 20 pcs
Second place	Trophy	Silver Medal x 20 pcs
Third place	Trophy	Bronze Medal x 20 pc

Remarks: Additional medal costs HK\$30 each

SECTION 2 – PLAYING RULES

All rules and regulations based on the Official Baseball Rules and local ground rules.

https://content.mlb.com/documents/2/2/4/305750224/2019_Official_Baseball_Rules_FINAL_.pdf

2.1 STARTING LINE-UP

- 2.1.1 Manager shall submit the line-up at least 30 minutes before the game starts.
- 2.1.2 Line-up shall include the name, uniform number and field position of each player in the starting batting order plus the pitcher.
- 2.1.3 All other players on the approved roster will be considered as possible substitutes for all games.
- 2.1.4 The official Scorer shall have a copy of the approved roster (online roster) of each team. The player has no photo on the online roster is NOT ALLOW to play in any games.
- 2.1.5 The official line-up will be given to the umpire-in-chief at the meeting at home plate just prior to the start of the game, of which a copy shall be given to both the official scorer and the staff in charge of the game.

2.2 BAT

- Men Division: Wooden Bat, Aluminum Bat
- Women Division: Aluminum Bat
- Kenko Division: All kind of bats allowed (except wooden bat)

2.3 OFFICIAL GAME BALL

- Men Division: Hard Ball
- Women Division: Hard Ball
- Kenko Division: Rubber Ball

2.4 PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- 2.4.1 Helmets
 - Double earflap helmets will be mandatory for the hitter and base runners.

2.5 SPEED-UP RULES

The need to speed up the play of Open League 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:

2.4.1 The 12 second rule for the pitcher must be enforced at all times during the game (without men on base).

2.4.2 The hitter shall be required to remain in the batter's box unless he makes a request for "time" and the umpire considers that the request is responsible. Only then shall the umpire grant time out.

2.4.3 The pitcher shall be allowed 8 warm-up pitches between innings and the plate umpire shall ensure that the pitches are thrown without undue delay.

If a team fails to complete the warm up pitches in a reasonable length of time, the umpire may terminate them and call "Play Ball". Teams shall be directed to have a catcher ready to warm up the pitcher as soon as an inning is completed.

2.4.4 When a batter hits a home run, member of his team shall not be allowed to contact the hitter until he has passed the home plate. Failure to observe this result in a warning and in it occurs again, the manager of the team shall be ejected from the game.

2.4.5 Only one infielder at a time can go to the pitcher's mound and only one such trip per inning shall be allowed.

2.4.6 Coaches shall be allowed three free trips to the mound during the game to talk with pitcher (a free trip is one in which the pitcher is not removed from the game). These meetings shall be limited to 30 seconds from the moments the umpire calls "Time". After the third free trip, each subsequent trip to the mound must result in the removal of the pitcher.

If the game goes into extra innings, one additional free trip shall be allowed for each extra three innings. Two trips to the mound in the same inning to the same pitcher must result in the removal of the pitcher.

Only one infielder can go to the mound when the coach does and if one infielder goes

to the mound at the same time as the Coach, it is considered the “infielder’s trip” to the mound for that inning as stated in rule 2.4.5.

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

If the game foes into extra innings, 1 additional “offensive meeting” shall be permitted for each 3 extra innings. If this rule is violated the coach may be ejected.

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

2.5 COLLISION RULE

- 2.5.1 Open League is concerned about unnecessary and violent collisions primarily with the catcher at home plate. The intent of this rule is to encourage base runners and defensive players to avoid such collisions whenever possible.

When there is a collision between a runner and a fielder who clearly is in possession of the ball, the umpire shall judge:

- a. Whether the collision by the runner was avoidable (could the runner have reached the plate without colliding) or unavoidable (the runner’s path to the plate was blocked);
- b. Whether the runner actually was attempting to reach the plate or attempting to dislodge the ball from the fielder; or
- c. Whether the runner was using flagrant contact to maliciously dislodge the ball.

PENALTY:

- i. If the runner attempted to dislodge the ball, the runner shall be declared out even if the fielder loses possession of the ball. The ball is dead and all other base runners shall return to the last base touched at the time of the interference.
- ii. If the fielder blocks the path of the base runner to the plate, the runner may make contact, slide into, or collide with a fielder as long as the runner is making a legitimate attempt to reach the plate.
- iii. If the flagrant or malicious contact by the runner was before the runner’s

touching the plate, the runner shall be declared out and also ejected from the contest. The ball shall be declared dead immediately. All other base runners shall return to the bases they occupied at the time of the pitch.

- iv. If the contact was after a preceding runner had touched home plate, the preceding runner will be ruled safe, the ball becomes dead immediately and all other base runners will return to the base they had last touched prior to the contact.
- v. If the runner is safe and the collision is malicious, the runner shall be ruled safe and ejected from the game.

2.5.2 If the defensive player blocks the plate or base line clearly without possession of the ball, obstruction shall be called. The umpire shall point and call, "That's obstruction." The umpire shall let the play continue until all play has ceased, call time and award any bases that are justified. The obstructed runner is awarded at least one base beyond the base last touched legally before the obstruction.

If the base runner collides flagrantly, the runner shall be declared safe on the obstruction, but will be ejected from the contest. The ball is dead.

2.6 EXTRA-INNING RULE

- 2.6.1 If the game remains tied after the time limits (105 minutes), the following procedures will be implemented during extra innings:
- i. Each team will begin the extra inning (and any subsequent necessary extra innings) with a player on first and second, no outs.
 - ii. To begin the extra inning, representatives from each team will meet at home plate and will indicate (at the same time) to the home plate umpire where the team wishes to begin the batting order. That is, the teams have the option of beginning the extra inning anywhere in the existing batting order that was in effect when the game met the time limits. Note that this is not a new lineup (just potentially a different order), and it may very well be the same lineup that ended the time limits.
- 2.6.2 The rationale for doing so is to ensure that both teams have an equal chance at having what they consider to be their best hitters and base runners in a position to score in the extra inning.
- For example:
- i. If the team decides to have the #1 hitter in the lineup hit first, then the #8 hitter will be placed at 2B and the #9 hitter will be placed at 1B. Furthermore, if the

- team decides to have the #3 hitter in the lineup hit first, then the #1 hitter would be at 2B and the #2 hitter would be at 1B.
- ii. Once those players/runners are determined for the extra inning, the order of any subsequent innings will be determined by how the previous inning ended. That is, if the extra inning ends with the #6 hitter having the last plate appearance (PA), then the 2nd inning of the extra inning begins the #7 hitter at bat, and the #5 hitter at 2B and the #6 hitter at first base.
 - iii. With the exception of beginning the inning with runners on 1B and 2B with no one out, all other official rules will remain in effect during extra innings required to determine a winner.
 - iv. No player re-entry is permitted during extra innings.
 - v. The traditional system of the visiting team hitting in the top of the inning and the home team hitting in the bottom of the inning will remain in effect until a winner is determined.

*One extra inning only, if the game is tight after one extra inning, coin toss will be executed.

SECTION 3 – IMPORTANT INFORMATION

3.1 REARRANGEMENT OF GAME

A fine of HK\$ 1,000 which will be deducted from the deposit automatically shall be applied for teams failing to present sufficient players for a scheduled game.. The team is required to pay additional deposit HK\$1,000 to cover the deducted fines at least 3 days before the next game day, failure to do so will result in the team being blocked to play in the rest of the games and future seasons.

The team shall inform HKBA in writing at least 14 days in advance to avoid to be fined in case of insufficient players presentable for a scheduled game. The score of such game shall be 7-0 loss to the opposing team. In case the team finds it impossible to present sufficient players due to any accidents occurred within 7 days in advance of the scheduled game, the team shall inform HKBA with related documents / materials attached with no delay in order for HKBA to make arrangements accordingly.

If any team requires to change the scheduled game (swapping game time or date only), the team has to contact the other teams to seek agreement, and inform HKBA in written at least 14 days before the scheduled game day. Each team is entitled to change the scheduled game once.

Example:

Remember that if you want to reschedule, you should find another two teams to play on the timeslot on that day.

For example:

20/10/2019 A vs B

26/10/2019 H vs L

31/11/2019 G vs B

If you are team A and you want to reschedule game on 20/10/2019, you have two choices.

- 1. Contact team B, H and L, ask H and L the change the date and time of 20/10/2019**
- 2. Contact G and ask to exchange the date and time with your team.**

~END~