



**Peter Haynes**

Convener  
Muskoka Hornets

Cell: 416-818-3036  
muskokahornets@rogers.com

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## 2021 Mosquito Rules – Muskoka Hornets Baseball

*Mission Statement: to facilitate a league that is FUN for all participants yet still provides an atmosphere where players can learn the skills necessary to progress and improve as a ball player.*

- 1. PLEASE remember that the league is designed to provide a fair and safe place for all participants. This must be the primary goal.*
- 2. All House League Head Coaches MUST complete the Hornets coach screening process online at [www.hornetsbaseball.ca](http://www.hornetsbaseball.ca) – please go to Coach page and scroll to bottom and click on link. These screenings are paid for by the Hornets organization. Thank you for your cooperation on this matter as it is extremely important to further the goals of point number 1.*
- 3. While this program is house league and based on equal playing time and skill development, it is important to remember that in life there are winners and losers and parents and kids both need to learn this lesson.*
- 4. If after a few weeks of games, you notice an imbalance in terms of team skills, then there may be the need to move a couple players around to improve competitive balance. Please keep me posted where you think changes might be necessary.*

We propose the following rules be followed for the 2021 season:

1. Regular Season - teams bat through the entire line up in first inning and then in subsequent innings bat through the entire line up or until 3 outs are recorded (so, if one team has more players ie 8 vs 7, then the other team with 7 players bats an extra). A different repeat player MUST be chosen each inning this occurs.
2. Opposing teams will use players to pitch. A pitcher will be allowed to pitch until the count reaches 3 balls, after which time one of the coaches from the team at bat will pitch to the batter, over hand. The coach is allowed to throw up to three additional pitches. A hit off the coach is max a double. The goal is to put balls in play, allow the defense to learn how to play the game, and to ensure pitchers remain positive and give more new pitchers a chance to pitch without concern about walkathons.
3. Pitchers can only pitch 1 inning per game.
4. Base running: Leading off is not permitted. If the ball is hit into the outfield and subsequently returned to the infield by standing on one of the bases or by an infielder standing in the infield, then all runners must stop and go to the nearest base. This will be an automatic “time-out”. Runners are not allowed to advance on any overthrow.
5. For recording purposes the maximum run differential will be 7 (if score is 20-5 – will be recorded as 12-5).



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6. Dropped last strike - does not apply – meaning a batter CANNOT reach first base on a strike out.
7. No infield fly rule!
8. Bases are set at 65 feet and the pitching rubber is 44 feet
9. Teams can use a 4<sup>th</sup> outfielder (10 players on the field).

Note: rules subject to change at the discretion of the convener.