



Ontario Women's Baseball League

Ontario Women's Baseball League

formerly known as

Central Ontario Women's Baseball League

(Organized in 1996)

**WOMEN'S DIVISION GAME RULES
2016 SEASON**

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The Ontario Women's Baseball League (OWBL) Women's Division will be governed by the rules set forth by The Official Rules of Baseball unless noted in this document.

1 GENERAL

- a) Each team manager shall provide the Women's Convener a preliminary roster list by the start of the season and an OBA signed roster by June 30th. Eligibility of call ups for any club shall be governed by the local association. (i.e. because of insurance restrictions, Burlington would be restricted to players registered in BOMBA)
- b) Any other rule deemed necessary during the season or any changes to these rules shall be subject to a 2/3 majority vote of team managers and shall be communicated by email.
- c) The team loop fee for 2016 is \$175.00 payable by June 30th. After this date the loop fee will be \$200.00. Send loop fee to the OWBL Treasurer by cheque (made out to Ontario Women's Baseball) or by e-Transfer to info@ontariowomensbaseball.com.
- d) In addition to regular league play, players may register for the Player Pool, which is an official list of players in the league who are interested in subbing for other teams in the league when they are short on players for a particular game.

2 PLAYING RULES

The Official Rules of Baseball shall govern all games except as provided in the playing rules below.

NOTE: Where there is a change made to The Official Rules of Baseball, the change shall not take effect until the Executive approves the application of the change.

2.1 PLAYER AGE AND CATEGORY

- a) The Ontario Women's Baseball League (OWBL) is a recreational league designed to provide opportunities for female baseball players. Participation in the OWBL is open to female players based on self-identification (gender identity) regardless of medical treatment. We do not police the gender of players. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of all players to determine whether the OWBL is the appropriate league for their playing ability. Trans women are welcome to play in the OWBL.
- b) To be eligible to play in a particular age category, a player must be born during the years indicated beside such category.

PeeWee	2003 - 2005
Bantam	2000 - 2002
Women's	1999 or earlier (Note: These years are to be automatically updated each year.)
- c) Players may play up a division but all subsequent rules are applied to the player's applicable age category

2.2 UNIFORMS/EQUIPMENT

- d) In all games in all OWBL series, all team personnel, including the manager and coaches, must be in complete baseball uniform.

Note: Complete baseball uniform shall consist of:

- corresponding tops or jerseys (with proper numbers),
 - corresponding (similar) baseball caps
 - baseball pants (no shorts)
 - corresponding stirrup or baseball socks.
- e) Provided the teams are completely uniformed the uniformity as laid down by the Official Playing Rules of Baseball will be disregarded and no protest will be considered by the OWBL after the game has been played.
 - f) The on deck batter, batter, base runners and batboy/batgirl must wear a prescribed protective helmet with flaps, covering both ears. This may not be changed except after the inning has been completed, or the player has been retired or has crossed home plate.

- g) All catchers are required to wear a mask with throat protection, helmet, chest protector, shin guards, and a jill.
- h) A team member shall be deemed as "warming up a pitcher" the moment either:
 - i. the pitcher stands on the rubber (on the field or bullpen)
 - ii. the team member assumes a squatting position to receive a thrown ball from the pitcher, regardless of position on the field or bullpen; or
 - iii. the team member assumes a position behind home plate
- i) Any team member serving as a catcher to warm up a pitcher shall wear a mask with throat protection.
- j) The legal diameter for bats shall be a maximum of 2 3/4".
- k) Wooden bats and metal bats with a length to weight difference of -10 or less are permitted.
- l) Pitchers will be allowed to wear Medic-Alert bracelets on the wrist of their pitching arm if such bracelets are locked or cannot be transferred to their non-pitching wrist.
- m) The home team will supply two (2) new baseballs plus any additional good baseballs as needed. The home team shall supply two (2) umpires (at least one is to be certified level 2) through their local association.

2.3 GAME LENGTH

- a) All games in the OWBL shall be 7 complete innings (6 1/2 complete innings if the home team is ahead), or until a winner is declared.
- b) No new inning to start after 2 ¼ hours or local park curfew, whichever comes first. If a new inning is started within the time limit, and curfew occurs before the inning is completed, the score reverts to the last completed inning.
- c) Four (4) innings or 3 ½ innings with the home team leading shall constitute an official game in the case of weather or curfew.
- d) In the event of a tie game at the end of 7 complete innings, extra innings will be played, subject to curfew.
- e) Double-header games may be as few as 5 innings each if agreed upon before the game by coaches of both teams.
- f) In the case of bad weather or other emergency situations, the schedule may be revised at the discretion of the Convener
- g) Home teams should aim to provide at least 3 hours notice prior to the scheduled start of the game to visiting teams for game cancellations due to weather / poor field conditions.
- h) If the game is called prior to becoming an official game, then it is resumed from the point of delay.
- i) Time limits are not permitted in any Play-off games.
- j) In all games an 18 run mercy rule will apply after 3 innings (2 ½ if the home team is ahead) and a 10 run mercy rule will apply after 5 innings (4 ½ if the home team is ahead). A six run mercy rule in any one inning shall be in effect through the first 4 innings.
- k) Where the home team scores to take the lead in the 7th inning, any extra inning or any inning that will be the last inning because of a time limit, the game ends immediately. Similarly, if the home team scores a run that results in a mercy pursuant to i), the game ends immediately with that run.
- l) Winning team's manager / coach will be responsible for reporting game results and any player or manager ejections within 48 hours to the Convener. If the winning team does not report the score within 48 hours, the game will be recorded as a 7-7 tie.

2.4 LINE-UP RULES

- a) Each manager will see that the umpire-in-chief and the opposing manager is provided with a batting order card listing the batting order of his/her players for the commencement of the game. This card shall list (i.e., print legibly) each player's first and last name, and his/her uniform number. It shall also list the coaches and manager including their uniform number. Bona fide players of either team, who arrive after the commencement of the game, may have their names added to the list upon reporting to the umpire-in-chief.
- b) All players present at the game shall be listed on the team's batting lineup in the order desired by the manager/coach and bat in that order. Late arrivals shall be added to the bottom of this batting order.
- c) If a player is removed from the game due to injury, illness or official ejection, the player's spot in the batting order shall be deleted. In the event a batter must be removed due to injury, official ejection, or has to leave for any reason during the time at bat, the next batter in the batting order shall come to bat assuming the balls and strikes count at the time the batter is removed. If the batter becomes an out, such batter shall then take his/her regular turn at bat.
- d) Each team must have 8 players to start the game within 15 minutes of the scheduled starting time. If a team does not have 8 players within 15 minutes of the scheduled starting time they shall forfeit the game, no exceptions. There is no automatic out in the batting line-up for a missing 9th player.
- e) Any team, which cannot field a team for a scheduled game, will forfeit that game, unless both teams agree to and are able to reschedule the game. The "at risk" manager shall contact the competing manager at least 24 hours prior to game time or shall be subject to covering any umpire and/or field costs that might be incurred. The OWBL President and OWBL Women's Convener shall rule on any incident.
- f) Cancelled or rescheduled games are to be rescheduled as soon as possible and must be organized by both teams involved. Report any rescheduled games and times to the Convener.
- g) For all home and home style games the home team scorekeeper shall be the official scorekeeper.

2.5 SUBSTITUTIONS

- a) Unlimited substitutions defensively are allowed (including for injury or official rejections) except for the pitcher. Once a pitcher is removed as a pitcher, they may not return to pitch in that game. No player shall pitch on three consecutive days regardless of the situation.

2.6 PITCHING RULES

- a) A second trip by a manager/coach to the same pitcher in the same inning shall result in the pitcher's automatic removal from the pitching position. The pitcher, once removed after the 2nd trip in an inning, may continue in the game at another position but shall not be permitted to return to pitch in that game.

PITCH COUNT LIMITATIONS

- b) Each pitcher's pitch count is computed by adding the number of balls and strikes, the number of foul balls hit with two strikes, pitches thrown when balks are called, and the number of fair batted balls. Warm up pitches and pick off attempts are not included in the pitch count for a pitcher. The only pitches that count towards a pitchers pitch count total are ones that are thrown to a batter.
- c) A pitcher may not pitch more than the following limits in a calendar day. If the limit is reached while facing a batter, the pitcher may pitch to the earlier of: (i) the completion of that batter or (ii) the end of the inning.
 - a. Bantam Girls 90 pitches
 - b. Women 100 pitches
- d) If a pitcher throws more than the following limits in a calendar day she cannot pitch the next day – the player must have 2 nights rest.
 - a. Bantam Girls 65 pitches
 - b. Women 75 pitches

- e) Where a team has multiple games on the same day, if a pitcher throws more than the following limits during a game or in combination of one or more games, the pitcher may not pitch again in a subsequent game that day.
 - a. Bantam Girls 65 pitches
 - b. Women 75 pitches
 - f) If a balk is called but the pitcher throws the ball it will count as a pitch thrown, even if it is not counted as a pitch for ball/strike purposes.
 - g) The official scorekeeper shall designate the official pitch count recorder. Other teams might assign a separate person who simply keeps track of every pitch on a piece of paper. Teams can also use any of the various digital or mechanical pitch counting tools that are available commercially.
 - h) The official pitch count recorder must provide the current pitch count for any pitcher when requested by either manager or the umpire.
 - i) The official pitch count recorder shall inform the home plate umpire when a pitcher has delivered his/her limit of pitches for the game. The home plate umpire will then notify the pitcher's manager that the pitcher must be removed.
- Note: It is the responsibility of the manager to remove a pitcher when that pitcher is no longer eligible, even if the pitch count recorder and/or the umpire fail to notify the manager.
- j) If a team has no remaining players eligible to pitch in a game, the opposing coach may designate a player who has yet to pitch in the game. This pitcher may not throw more than 30 pitches. If the limit is reached while facing a batter, the pitcher may pitch to the earlier of (i) the completion of that batter, or (ii) the end of the inning.
 - k) Illegal pitching penalty: where a player throws more pitches than is permitted under c); or pitches without the rest required by d); the penalty shall be forfeiture by the player's team. A second violation by a team will result in the manager/head coach's indefinite suspension.
 - l) Pitches shall count on the calendar day on which the pitch is thrown. An exception shall be made where a game commences on one day and is played continuously past midnight. In that case, the pitches shall count as being thrown on the day on which the game commenced. In the case where a game is suspended, for whatever reason, on one day and resumed on a second day, pitches shall count on the calendar day on which the pitch is thrown (i.e. both parts of the game shall be considered on separate days). Where weather or other reasons cause the delay or postponement of a game or games, the time of the delay can count towards the nights rest required under d).
 - m) The pitching limits apply to every pitcher. For an ambidextrous pitcher, the limits and restrictions apply to the pitcher and not to each individual arm. For clarity, the pitches thrown with the right arm and left arm on a calendar day are added together to determine whether a pitch limit has been reached.

2.7 BASE RUNNING RULES

- a) Malicious contact is to be penalized whether committed by an offensive or defensive player. Contact shall be considered malicious if:
 - i. the contact is the result of intentional excessive force, and/or
 - ii. there is an intent to injure.
- b) The umpire shall determine whether contact was avoidable or unavoidable. If the fielder blocks the base path, the runner may make contact, slide into or collide with the fielder as long as the runner is making a legitimate attempt to reach the base/plate.
- c) Runners are instructed to slide or attempt to avoid making contact with a fielder. A player who maliciously runs into another player is to be declared out (unless he/she has scored prior to committing the infraction) and is to be automatically ejected (whether or not declared out).
- d) If the defensive player blocks the base path clearly, obstruction shall be called. The runner is safe and a delayed dead ball is called. The player must leave a direct path to the base at all times.

- e) Catcher may be replaced on base with two outs. The replacement runner must be the previous batted out.

2.8 FIELDING RULES

- a) A fielder may not enter the dugout or bench area to make a legal catch. Any such ball shall be declared dead.
- b) Where a fielder carries a live ball into dead ball area, the ball shall be declared dead and all runners shall be awarded 1 base without liability of being put out.

2.9 PLAYER POOL GUIDELINES

- a) Any team at risk of being unable to field a team (have 8 players or less) and facing a potential forfeit may draw upon registered Player Pool players (subs) to increase the line-up size to a limit of 12 players. Coaches may contact a Player Pool coordinator (either the President or Convener) stating the number of subs required. A coordinator will then contact subs and positions will be filled on a first come first serve basis.
- b) Subs can only sub for a team if their team is not already playing at the time of the scheduled game.
- c) If the addition of subs puts the lineup over the 12 player limit, any additional subs will be sent to the other team. If both teams reach the 12 player limit the subs will be evenly divided amongst the two teams at the discretion of the coaches.
- d) A sub must hit at the bottom of the batting line-up.
- e) A sub can only play any position for a maximum of 2 innings. A sub is not permitted to pitch in the seventh or extra innings of a game.
- f) If more than 9 players are present at the game the following will apply:
 - a. A sub must sit a minimum of 1 inning
 - b. All sub players must be sat before team players (i.e. if a team has 10 players with two subs, one sub sits in the first inning and the second sits in the second inning.

2.10 EJECTIONS

2.10.1 PREAMBLE

- a) Due to the nature of the OWBL, the game umpires in charge of the game are governed by their own association rules. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance regarding player and coach ejections.
- b) All challenges, appeals or disputes to these rules will made by a majority vote of a three person committee consisting of the OWBL President, OWBL Vice-President, and OWBL Women's Convener.

2.10.2 NOTIFICATION

- a) Within 48 hours, the winning manager/coach shall report to the Convener any ejection of a manager, coach, or player.
- b) The home plate umpire and base umpire(s) must file individual and complete reports to their own respective umpire-in-chief's mandated by their own association, concerning serious accidents, ejections and protests. This report is to be signed by the respective umpire. Reports must be forwarded for each game within 12 hours of the time of the incident. Copies of these reports are to be provided to the Convener:

2.10.3 SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS

- a) Any OWBL club or member of the OWBL violating the Constitution of By-Laws of the OWBL or refusing to abide by the decision of the Executive may be expelled or suspended. It is the duty and obligation of all OWBL Executives members and appointees to report fully and immediately any violation of the OWBL rules and regulations or directives of the OWBL Executive.

- b) Club(s), Officers or Players may be suspended knowing
 - i. Permitting betting or improper conduct by players or officers at OWBL games.
 - ii. Offering, agreeing, conspiring or attempting to lose any OWBL game or being interested in any pool or wager thereof.
 - iii. Playing with a Club or Association that has been suspended or expelled.
 - iv. Knowingly having on its list of signed players any disqualified players.
 - v. Permitting officers to conduct business of clubs or association adverse to the best interest of organized sport.
- c) Any player who shall play under an assumed name shall be suspended from the OWBL.
- d) NO SMOKING: Players, coaches, managers, and umpires in uniform must refrain from using tobacco products during all games within field of play or on team benches. Penalty for this would be immediate ejection for players, coaches, and managers and may result in loss of accreditation for umpires.
- e) In all OWBL play, the Manager or Coach shall not cross the foul lines of the playing field for the single purpose of arguing an Umpire decision. Infringement of this rule shall result in an automatic ejection from the game and all other penalties noted in these rules.
- f) Players, Coaches, and Managers ejected from any league, exhibition, or play-off game by an Umpire are suspended for one (1) game. The one (1) game suspension shall be served at the next scheduled game. An appeal of the ejection prior to the next scheduled game upheld by the appeal committee, shall allow for a one (1) scheduled game deferral of the suspension.
- g) Players, Coaches or Managers who, (a) are ejected more than twice during the season, or (b) whose behavior is considered contemptible are subject to disciplinary hearing of the OWBL President, OWBL Vice-President, and OWBL Women's Convener. The player(s), coach(es), or manager will be required to show cause why they are not to be suspended indefinitely.
- h) The OWBL Secretary or Women's Convener shall forward immediately to the OWBL the names of team(s), manager(s), coach(es), or player(s) indefinitely suspended by the OWBL. The secretary shall notify the OWBL of reinstatement.

2.11 OWBL PLAYOFFS

- a) All loop teams are eligible to participate in the OWBL championships, provided all loop fees and levied fines are paid. Women's convener will set the tournament schedule.
- b) Players will be eligible for the OWBL playoffs if they are on the team's official OWBL roster. Call-ups will be allowed for the playoffs if the player is on an OWBL roster within that association.

3 FIELD DIMENSIONS

3.1 INFIELD DIMENSIONS

- a) Mound Distance: 60' 6"
- b) Mound Height: 10" (minimum of 8")
- c) Bases: 90'
- d) Diagonal (C): 127' 3 3/8"

3.2 RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES:

- a) Foul Area (D): 60'
- b) Outfield Fence:
 - a. Left (E): 325'
 - b. Centre (F): 400'
 - c. Right (G): 325'
- c) Grass Radius (H): 95'

3.3 SUPPLEMENTAL DIAGRAMS (FROM THE OFFICIAL BASEBALL RULES)

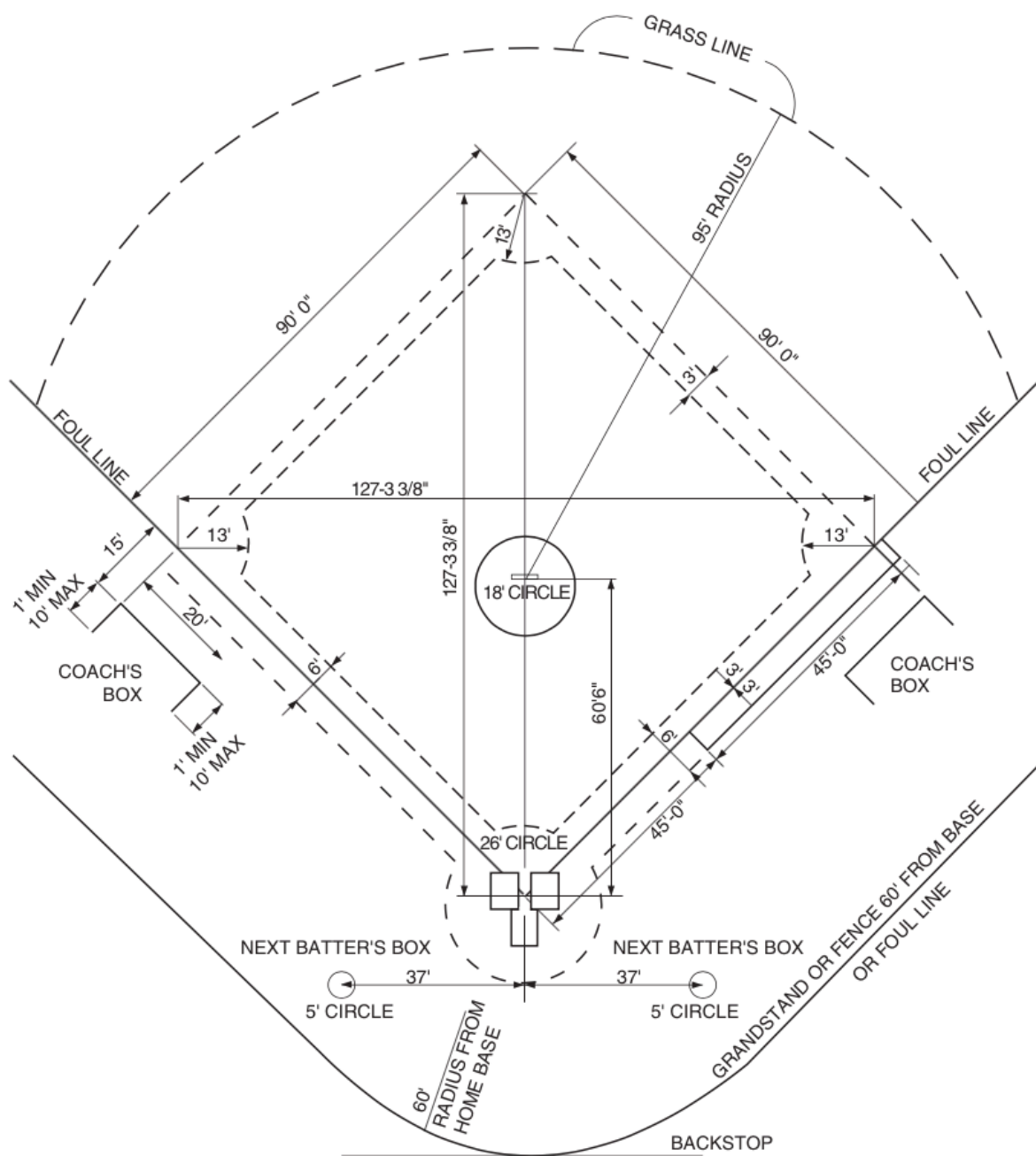


DIAGRAM NO. 1

LEGEND

- BATTER'S BOX, CATCHER'S BOX, FOUL LINE, PITCHER'S PLATE, COACH'S BOX
- NEXT BATTER'S BOX
- BASE LINES
- GRASS LINES

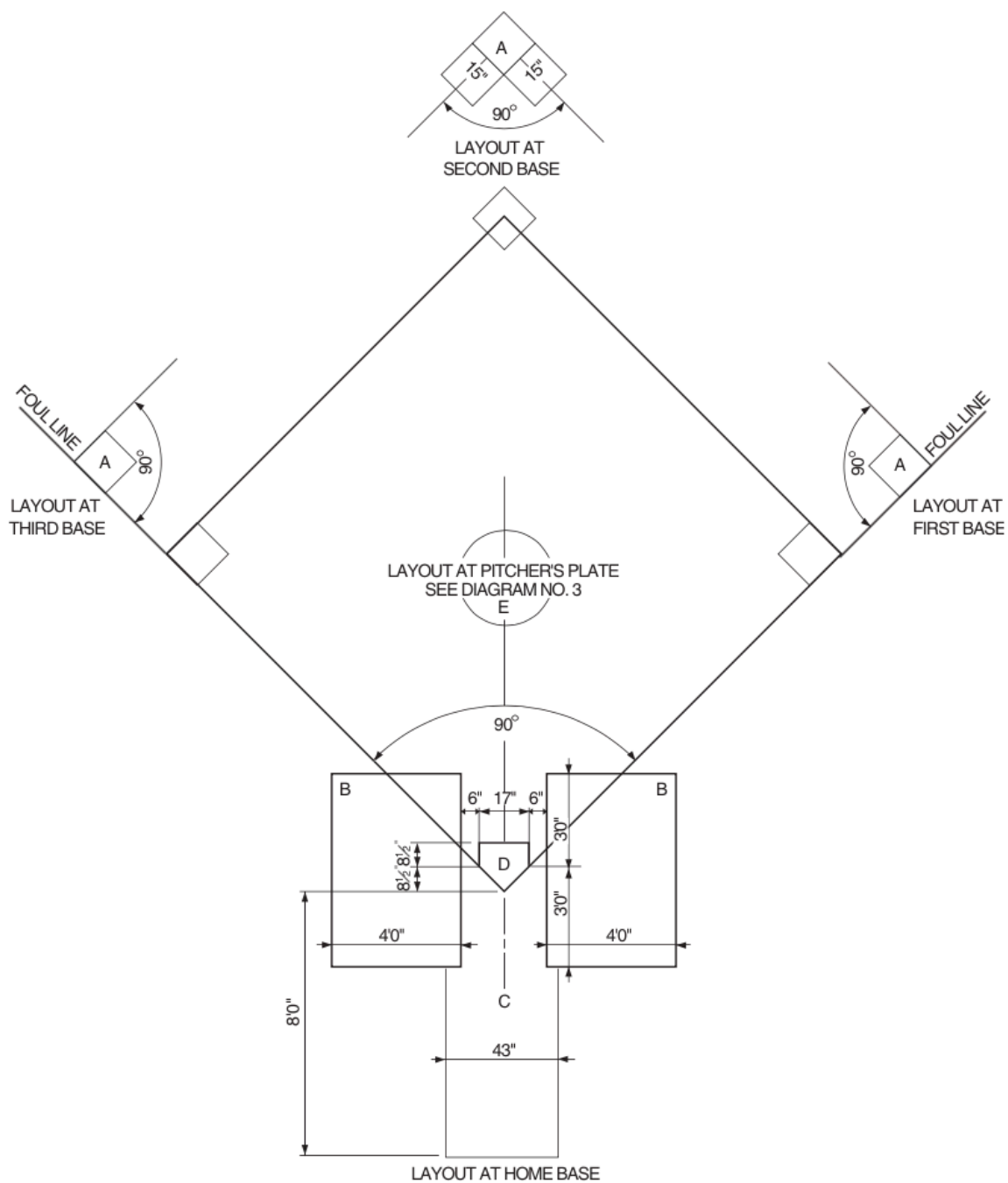


DIAGRAM NO. 2

LEGEND

- A 1st, 2nd, 3rd BASES
- B BATTER'S BOX
- C CATCHER'S BOX
- D HOME BASE
- E PITCHER'S PLATE

Suggested Layout of Pitching Mound

This Diagram No. 3 supplements and, in cases of difference, supersedes Diagram No. 2.

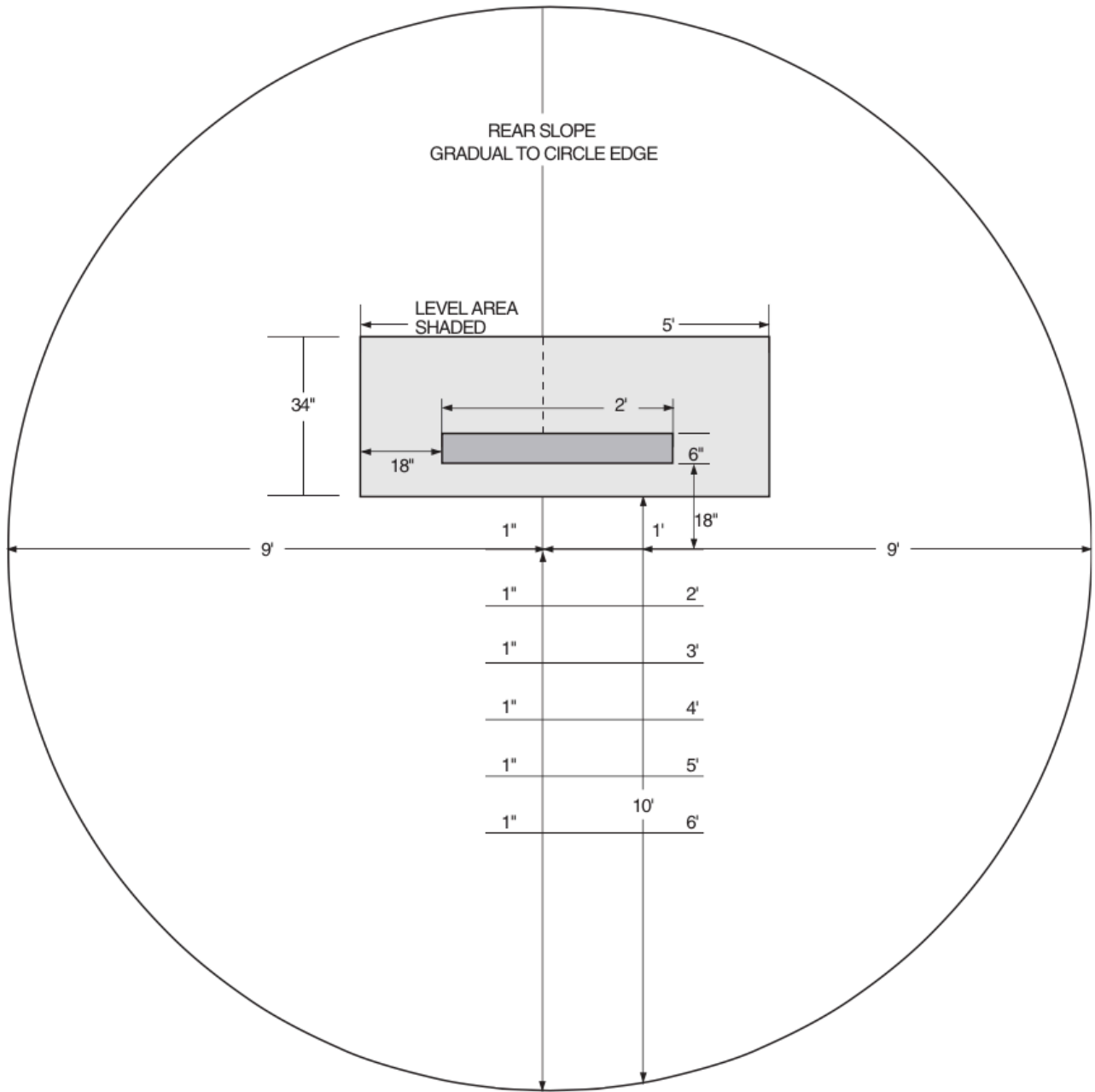


DIAGRAM NO. 3

Pitching Mound: An 18' diameter circle, center of which is 59' from back of home plate.

Locate front edge of rubber 18" behind center of mound.

Front edge of rubber to back point
of home plate, 60'6".

Slope starts 6" from front edge of rubber.

The degree of slope from a starting point 6" in front of the pitcher's plate to a point 6' toward home plate shall be 1" to 1', and such degree of slope shall be uniform.

Level area surrounding rubber should be 6" in front of rubber, 18" to each side and 22" to rear of rubber. Total level area 5' x 34".

4 POLICY REVIEW

- 4.1 This policy will be in effect for the 2016 season
- 4.2 This policy will be reviewed prior to start of subsequent seasons and updated as required.

Revised January 2016