



# **Oak Park Youth Baseball & Softball**

## **10U Softball Rulebook 2016**

**Updated 2/2016**

## **OPYBS 10U Softball Rules 2016**

**USSSA Rules** for 10 and under apply except where modified and for the additional House League Rules.

<http://web.ussa.com/ussa/ussa-general/2015FPRuleBook.pdf>

### **Eligibility**

For 2015, girls born in 2005 and 2006 are eligible for 10U.

### **The League**

The number of teams will vary from year to year, based on the number of girls enrolled in the league. Each team will have between 11 and 14 players. All teams compete for the 10U Village Championship in a double-elimination playoff tournament at the end of the regular season.

The regular season typically consists of 16 games scheduled for each team. A minimum of 12 complete games are necessary for seeding in the playoff tournament. A complete game is defined as a win, loss or tie. If a team has not completed 12 games by the end of the regular season, the games that were not played are counted as a loss in calculating the team's winning percentage.

As this is an instructional league, coaches are strongly encouraged to reschedule rainouts, etc. to play as many games as possible. However, we recognize the limitations of player and field availability in determining minimum eligibility for the playoffs.

Seeding in the playoff tournament will be determined by winning percentage. Ties will be recorded as a ½ win and a ½ loss for both teams. If tied based on winning percentage, the first tiebreaker will be head to head competition. If still tied, the playoff position will be determined by coin flip. There will be no ties in the playoffs.

An All-Star game will be played during or after the season. Head coaches must select their all-stars and provide to league president per direction and by deadline given. Head coaches for the two all-star teams will be determined by the teams that achieve the highest and second-highest winning percentages the week before the All-Star game (or through regular season if the All-Star game is at end of the year).

### **Schedule**

Game schedules are created by the league president using the vended league management software and posted at <http://www.quickcores.com/Orgs/index.php?OrgDir=opybs> or can be accessed via a link from the Oak Park Youth Baseball and Softball website: [www.opybs.org](http://www.opybs.org)

If games needed to be rescheduled due to cancellation or postponement related to weather, darkness or otherwise directed by the league, teams should contact the league president to work out another date, time and location, as well as secure an umpire.

In case of games where one or both teams wish to reschedule NOT related to cancellations or postponements due to weather, darkness or otherwise directed by the league, the head coach of both teams must agree to the alternate date and then work with the league president. If both teams do not agree, the game will proceed at the regularly scheduled date and time. Failure to play on that date will result in a forfeit by the non-attending team(s) and count as a loss.

### **Lightning Guidelines**

Safety is the number one priority. No lightning safety guidelines can guarantee absolute safety. All Coaches, Umpires and Parents must be aware of weather conditions, and use common sense and good judgment. The Umpire has absolute authority to call a game due to lightning. The National Lightning Safety Institute's overall recommendation is: "IF YOU CAN SEE IT, FLEE IT; IF YOU CAN HEAR IT, CLEAR IT!"

The National Severe Storm Laboratory recommends terminating play and seeking shelter when lightning is 6 miles away or flash-to-bang time is 30 seconds or less. To use the flash-to-bang method, count the seconds from the time lightning is sighted to when the clap of thunder is heard. Divide this number by 5 to obtain how many miles away the lightning is occurring.

If lightning is seen, all must wait in a safe area for 30 minutes after the last lightning flash, or for 15 minutes for the sound of thunder before resuming a game. Safe waiting areas include fully enclosed vehicles with windows rolled up. Umpires must seek shelter in a vehicle with a Head Coach or Player's family if they do not have their own vehicle to wait in.

All must stay away from metal objects like fences, equipment boxes and bleachers. Avoid trees and open fields. In the event someone is struck by lightning, call 9-1-1 immediately.

Each time lightning is observed or thunder is heard, the 30 or 15 minute waiting period starts over. If the lightning has not passed after 45 minutes from the first lightning flash, the Umpire will call the game.

### **Field Closures**

The Park District of Oak Park maintains a hotline for field conditions: 708-524-0273. Their status supersedes any decision of the league for a game (i.e. if it changes after league has made a decision). Check it before practices after rain, as well, as fields might remain closed to avoid tearing them up. League president must be informed when a field is unusable due to weather for practice.

### **Cancellation or Postponement of Games**

When there is inclement weather prior to game time, the league president will target to communicate a decision to the head coaches 2 hours before scheduled games. If games are not cancelled by then, expect to play. The league and coaches should both continue to monitor the Park District's field condition hotline after a decision is made.

No game may start or continue when the temperature falls below 45 degrees F. Further decisions at game time and during play are the discretion of umpire or league officials.

If a game is cancelled or if the umpire postpones it during play, coaches should follow the procedures defined under the "Schedule" section above.

### **House League Rules**

- A continuous batting order will be used.
- An 11" softball will be used.
- Each player should play at least three defensive innings each game. No player should sit two consecutive innings as not all games complete a full six innings.
- This is not a "must slide league". We will employ a "Contact Avoidance" policy. The base runner must take reasonable means to avoid a "collision" by utilizing a slide or evasive running within the base path. Similarly, the defender will not be allowed to obstruct the base path or the base. Violations of either policy will result in the umpire's call favoring the opposite player's team.
- Bases will be set at sixty feet.
- Pitching plate will be set at thirty five feet.
- Batters must wear a helmet with face guard.
- Batter CANNOT continue on to second base or "steal" second on a walk
- Pitchers must wear a face mask (batting helmet with face guard can also be worn).
- Slash bunts (or slap hits) are not permitted and are defined as a player showing a bunt at any time during the pitch and then swinging at that same pitch.
- Teams may start play with eight players but an out must be recorded for the ninth spot in the batting order. If fewer than eight players can play, for any reason, the game is a forfeit.

### **Regulation Game/Slaughter Rule**

- A regulation game will consist of six innings. The home team will not bat if leading after the visiting team bats in the sixth inning.
- There will be a four run maximum rule per team in each inning.
- Slaughter Rule occurs when the trailing team cannot score enough runs to win or tie after three or more complete innings.
- In the event a game is called by the umpire on account of darkness, weather, imposed time limit or other reason after three complete innings, the game is considered a completed regulation game. The score will revert back to the last complete inning.

- If a game is called before it is complete, the game will be rescheduled and will resume from the point where it had been called.
- If the fourth or later inning is started, but not complete when the game is called, the score will revert to the last completed inning. If the score was a tie in the last completed inning then the game is a tie.
- The umpire's call is final. There are no appeals

### **Pitching Rules**

- A nine year old (born in 2006) or younger player must pitch in one of the first three innings in each game. If this pitcher is replaced part way through the inning, she can only be relieved by another nine year old or younger pitcher.
- A second pitcher for each team must pitch one of the first three innings.
- A pitcher may pitch a maximum of three innings per game. Any part of an inning pitched is considered an inning. A pitcher may pitch no more than 2 consecutive innings per game.
- Any pitcher may return to pitch one time during the game. One full inning must pass before a pitcher can return. If a pitcher is replaced part way through an inning, another full inning must pass before she can return.

### **Base Running**

- A base runner may leave the base once the pitched ball crosses home plate.
- A base runner may only steal one base during any single play.
- Stealing home will not be permitted.
- There will be no Infield Fly Rule.
- There will be no Dropped Third Strike.

### **Hurry-Up Rules**

- The catcher for the offensive team should be ready in the dugout before the half inning ends.
- The catcher should keep her shin guards on in the On-deck Circle unless she is guaranteed to be a batter that inning.
- If the pitcher or catcher gets on base, a courtesy runner (player that made the last batted out) may be used to not delay the next inning.
- The pitcher gets a maximum of five pitches between innings.

### **Thrown Bat Rule**

- Umpires will immediately issue one “Bench Warning” to the offending team when a bat is accidentally thrown from a swinging batter.
- This will be the only warning to that entire team.
- Subsequent thrown bats by any member of that team will result in the batter being called out.
- If a batter from the opposing team throws a bat, the opposing team will receive it’s own warning and the process will repeat itself.
- If it is determined that a bat is intentionally thrown, that is a different issue and the umpire can declare the player out and/or ineligible to continue in the game.

**The umpire is an employee of OPYBS and is the authority on the field of play. In the State of Illinois it is a felony to threaten or accost an umpire in a youth sports game. OPYBS will prosecute to the fullest extent of the law.**