

# **OYAA Olentangy Baseball League Rules**

Revised May 10, 2011

1. Nine players take the field.
2. All players bat in consecutive order.
3. If a player arrives after his team has batted through the order, he HAS to be added to the end of the batting order without penalty.
4. If a player has to leave a game prior to the end of the game, his team removes him from the batting order without penalty.
5. Free substitution is permitted and encouraged except pitchers (see rule 11). All players must play a minimum of three innings per six inning game. Players are not to be on the bench two consecutive innings.
6. Each game will be six innings. Saturday games will have a two hour limit. No new inning shall be started after 1 hour 45 minutes on Saturday.
7. A game will be considered a complete game as long as the home team is winning after 3.5 innings. If the home team is not winning at the end of 3.5 innings and the game is called due to weather, the game will be rescheduled and begin over as a new game in the first inning. Any game shortened due to weather or time that has been over 4 innings, the score will revert back to the last complete inning.
8. One additional inning will be played if the score is tied after six innings and time has not expired. If the game is stopped for any reason in the middle of the inning, the score reverts back to the last full inning. During the week if sunlight permits, both coaches may agree to play an additional inning even if the two hour time limit has expired.
9. A team may score a maximum of seven runs per inning the first five innings of the game. There is no limit to how many runs can be scored beyond the fifth inning.
10. Forfeits occur when a team is unable to field a minimum of eight players at the game time. Umpires will declare the game a forfeit at game start time with NO grace period permitted.
11. Pitchers are limited to THREE innings per game. A player cannot re-enter the game as a pitcher once they have been removed from the mound. If a pitcher enters the game in the middle of an inning and throws one pitch, it counts as a complete inning pitched. That pitcher then may pitch only two more additional innings in that game.
12. Two visits to the mound are permitted per inning to talk to the pitcher. On the third visit the coach must replace that pitcher with another player.
13. Any pitcher who hits three batters in any one game must be removed from the mound.
14. The dropped third strike rule is NOT in effect for OBL. If a catcher drops a third strike, the batter is still out.
15. A base runner may lead off as far as he wants from first base and second base. A base runner may attempt to steal second base or third base at any time.

16. There is no leading off of 3<sup>rd</sup> base. The player may leave the base after the ball has crossed the plate. The player may try and take home at any time. This means on a passed ball, wild pitch, throw to another base etc. If the player is deemed to have left early by the umpire, the play is dead and reverts back to before the pitch. If the same player leaves twice in the same inning, they are out. It is the umpire's call if the player left early. Do not appeal or try and argue that the player left early.

Do not intentionally cause a "pickle" between 3<sup>rd</sup> and home by coming off the base too far and taunting the pitcher or catcher. When the pitcher gets the ball, the runner needs to go back to 3<sup>rd</sup> unless he is trying to score.

17. BALKS will be called. This is only meant to be an introduction to balks and as such only three types of balks will be called
- A. If while on the rubber a pitcher makes a blatant move towards first base, the ball must be thrown to first base. Each pitcher will receive one warning then a balk will be called.
  - B. If while on the rubber a pitcher makes any motion towards home he must complete the pitch to the batter. Each pitcher will receive one warning then a balk will be called.
  - C. While on the rubber a pitcher must step directly towards the base he intends to throw it to (i.e. He cannot step towards the plate and throw it to first.) Each player will receive one warning then a balk will be called.

In ALL cases, when a balk is issued, the pitcher should be instructed about what he did and how to avoid a balk in the future.

18. Coming to a complete stop before throwing to the plate and all other minor forms of balks will result in warnings only. No official balks will be issued for these situations. Remember balks should be awarded sparingly and only for the most blatant offenses.
19. If a pitcher makes a wild throw in attempts to pick off any base runner who is leading off, the ball is considered in play and all base runners may attempt to advance to the next base or bases at the his own risk including a base runner on third base may try to score. All base runners and batters MUST wear helmets at all times while on the field.
20. A player may use any fielder's glove or baseball bat he chooses. However, only the catcher can wear a catcher's glove and only a first baseman can use a first base glove.
21. The infield fly rule is NOT in effect in OBL.
22. Any time there is a play at home plate, a runner MUST slide. If there is ANY CONTACT at the plate and the runner did not slide, and the ball is in the vicinity of the catcher, the runner is out. Catchers should not be in the baseline if there isn't a play at the plate. If the runner does not slide and there is no contact, the runner is safe. Contact is defined as a strand of

hair grazing a shoelace. ANY CONTACT IS CONTACT. If you discuss a sliding play at the plate, the only two things that should be brought up are: was there any contact? And was the ball in the vicinity? If the answer to those questions are yes and the player did not slide, he is out.

23. All runners are encouraged to slide if there is a play at any base. Headfirst slides are NOT permitted at any base and will result in the base runner being called out. Diving (headfirst) back to the base a runner currently occupied is not considered "sliding" back to the base and therefore is allowed (i.e. on a pick off move, you can dive back safely to the base you currently occupy).
24. Normal baseball rules for overthrows apply. When the ball goes out of play on an overthrow from the pitcher when he is on the rubber, the runner will be awarded one base. Any other overthrow including one from the pitcher when he is not on the rubber and the base runner will be awarded the base he is going to plus the next base. If the overthrown ball stays in the field of play, the runner may try to advance as many bases as he chooses at his own risk.
25. Chatter is permitted by the defense, but razzing or taunting is poor sportsmanship and is not permitted. Excessive or inappropriate chatter equals a team warning. A second violation is no further chatter by the offending team for the remainder of the game. The catcher is not permitted to chatter or talk to the batter at any time.
26. If a team loses a player during the season, the team will be given a player from the waiting list. If no players are available from the waiting list, then only a substitute from OYAA Kid Pitch may be used as a replacement. At no time may a coach hand pick a replacement player who is of OBL grade level or not registered for OYAA Rec Baseball.
27. The home team is responsible for the drawing of the baselines, batters box, and all coach boxes (first and third base). Coaches are asked to try to stay within the coaching boxes.
28. Any player who displays poor sportsmanship and or taunts opposing players or the umpire will be issued a warning. If the player continues to display poor sportsmanship or taunting, the player will be removed from the game. If the player is removed from the game while he was on base, the player must be replaced with the player who made the last out. The team who loses a player will not be penalized for having a player removed from the game. Any players removed from a game, must be reported to the commissioner and if the same player is removed from any more games, he will then face a minimum of a one game suspension.
29. Head coaches will be responsible for their behavior of their assistants, players and parents. Complaints to umpires will not be tolerated. Coaches, players and parents can and will be removed from the playing area for such violations. If a coach refuses to leave the playing area, the game will be forfeited.
30. The league commissioner(s) reserve the right to rule and resolve any issue as he (they) determine to be correct. If there are multiple commissioners

for the league in any given season once one commissioner rules on a matter, the other commissioner cannot overturn that decision.

31. No BIG BARREL bats. Barrels over 2 ¼ inches are considered big barrel.