

Tournament Overview | Rules and Logistics

Date	October 3, 2022
Prepared For	OYO Coaches and OYO Umpires
Season	2022 Fall Ball Season
OVERVIEW	
Summary	This summary serves as a resource for all OYO coaches, umpires and volunteers to help summarize new variations in OYO's rules during our rec league tournament. The details provided below provide insight on key rules that may be slightly different from the regular season or may be reminders of when/how warnings are issued as they may vary from division to division.
Questions	Any questions about any game-based rules may be forwarded to the OYO Umpire and Rules committees at oyoumpiring@gmail.com . All inquiries will be reviewed and responded to within 24 hours.
ALL DIVISIONS	
Home/Away Designation	For all games, including championship games, the home/away designation will be monitored by the plate umpire at game time. The umpire retains the discretion of the format for determining home/away assignments, including coin flip, ball roll, etc.
Fair Play Rule	All recreational teams are no longer required to play at least one (1) inning in the infield and one (1) inning in the outfield of the same game during the rec league tournament. However, in divisions where players must sit out an inning, all players must still sit out at least one inning before any player may sit out a second inning.
Complete the Inning	Once time limit is reached, teams will complete the inning unless the home team is batting, and the home team is ahead. In that scenario, the umpire will call the game and declare the home team the winner.
Mercy Rule	JRO, RB, MB, SM, 08U, 10U If after four (4) innings (three and one half innings if the home team is ahead) one team has a lead of fifteen (15) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent. <i>NOTE: If the visiting team has a lead of fifteen (15) runs or more, the home team must bat in its half of the inning.</i> JBB, 12U, 14U/16U If after five (5) innings (four and one half innings if the home team is ahead) one team has a lead of fifteen (15) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent. <i>NOTE: If the visiting team has a lead of fifteen (15) runs or more, the home team must bat in its half of the inning.</i>
Time Limit	All tournament games, including championship games, will follow same time limitations followed throughout the tournament, which is play 1 hour, 45 minutes and complete the current inning of play before determining the winner.
Tie Games at End of Regulation Game	In the event of a tie at the end of regular play, additional innings will be played as follows, regardless of time played. The last available batter in the order of the "visitor" team (first team at bat) will be placed on second base with no outs. Play will resume, starting each half inning with the available batter in the order on second base until a team is declared in the lead at the completion of the inning.

Head First Slides	08U, 10U, 12U, 14U/16U, JBB Head first slides are permitted. JRO, RB, MB, SM The runner is out when sliding headfirst while advancing to the next base. Head-first slides are permitted when returning to a base.
Metal Spikes	Metal spikes are only permitted to be used in Junior Baseball and 14U/16U Softball. All other divisions must wear non-metal or rubber cleats. Similarly, in Junior Baseball, pitchers may wear only rubber cleats (or tennis shoes) when pitching on the portable mounds.
Ejections	If a coach or player is removed (ejected) from a game by the umpire, the coach or player may not participate in the team's next game(s) as specified in the OYO Code of Conduct, without written approval from OYO Executive Board. In Fall Ball, this means any player, coach or fan who is ejected will miss the remainder of the tournament.
Courtesy Runners	Teams may substitute runner for the catcher only when there are two outs. The substitute runner must be the last available batter in the order that is not a current base runner. This rule replaces the "Courtesy Runner" rule. The catcher must catch the complete next inning.
Position Limits	Except for pitchers, there is no limitation on the number of innings a player may play any position in the field. (<i>Pitching limitations outlined under each division.</i>)
Late Arrivals	Any player who was not present at the beginning of the game will be allowed to remain in the original batting order. If the player is not present when it is their turn to bat, the batter can either remain in the batting order and accept an out for every at bat the batter is not present <u>or</u> be removed from the batting order. If the team chooses to take the out(s) for the missed batter, they are allowed to insert the player in any position. If a team chooses to remove the player from the batting order, the player cannot enter the game.
Game Forfeiture	If during a game a team is unable to place eight (8) players on the field, the team must take an "out" for the eighth position in the batting order. If a team has less than seven (7) players after 10 minutes past the scheduled game time, the team forfeits the game. Please note, the forfeiture rule will not apply where a team is unable to place the required number of players on the field due to injury, illness or any kind of family emergency that has occurred to or involves the player at the time of or during the game. However, if a player leaves a tournament game and the player's leaving does not fall into the categories described above, the team will be penalized accordingly based upon the number of remaining players.
Short-handed Rule for Tournament Only	With the approval of the OYO President and respective Baseball/Softball Vice President, a team may add a substitute player(s) from a younger division only to ensure they have eight players present for their tournament game. (No players may be added from the same division.) For example, a Super Major team can add a player from the Minor division, or a 10U Softball team can add an 08U Softball player, or a Junior Rookie team can add a Tee Ball player. Teams must honor the following parameters when selecting and playing these substitute players: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Player(s) must be a registered 2022 Fall Ball player in division immediately lower to get team to eight players • Player must not miss his/her team's tournament game to play on your team • Player must play in the outfield and bat last in lineup • Player selected must be approved by OYO President and respective VP <p>If your team will have seven or less players on October 16, then please contact the respective Vice President. At that time, the VPs will reach out to necessary divisions seeking enough interested players to fill in on game day. Substitute players will be assigned on a first come, first served basis for teams that request players on October 16. Assignments will be circulated to the division during the week of October 10 so all coaches are aware of the approved substitutions before the tournament starts.</p>



Protests	The protesting manager shall immediately and before any succeeding play begins, notify the plate umpire that the game is being played under protest. All protests must also be explicitly communicated and accompanied by \$100.00 in cash to an official, on-duty OYO Board Member. Checks, credits cards and IOUs will not be accepted. Protests will not be accepted for review by the league without the cash payment. A committee composed of OYO Board Members, including the Umpire In Chief/Vice President of Game Day Operations, shall hear and resolve any such protest before play resumes during the Fall Ball tournament. If the protest is allowed, the \$100.00 cash payment will be returned to the protesting coach and the game will be resumed from the exact point when the infraction occurred. If the protest is denied, the \$100.00 cash payment will NOT be returned and be awarded to The 24 Group.
Official Scorer	There shall be two official scorers per game: one on the home team and one on the visiting team. Each official scorer must record the results of the game in an official scorebook provided by the league. In the event that only one team provides an official scorer, that scorer will become the official scorer for the game. The team's manager shall inform the umpires of the official scorer's identity before the game. The official scorers will consult with each other after each inning. If a discrepancy occurs between the two scorers, the scorers will inform the umpire immediately and the umpire will suspend play until the discrepancy is resolved. In the event that the discrepancy in the score cannot be resolved in less than five (5) minutes, the umpires will consult both score sheets and decide the score of the game. If the umpires cannot agree, the plate umpire's ruling shall be followed. The umpire's decision on the game score shall be final and may not be protested.
COACHES EQUIPMENT TURN-IN PROCEDURES	
Summary	Immediately following your last game, please stop by the three-garage barn, access your team name card(s) and tie it to your equipment bag and/or ball bucket. This two-minute process can save our volunteers a lot of effort in chasing down equipment after the season and the league thousands of dollars on equipment purchases. Thank you!
Required for Incentive	We will issue coach incentive credits to all coaches on October 30, 2022, if the equipment bag has been returned you will earn your incentive. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance!
BASEBALL ONLY BAT ELIGIBILITY	
Junior Rookie Rookie Minor Super Major	The bat shall not be more than 33 inches in length and the bat barrel shall not exceed 2-5/8 inches in diameter. Any bat in excess of 2-1/4 inches must display the USABat certification. Any bat not displaying the USABat certification cannot exceed 2-1/4 inches. There is no length-to-weight ratio limitation.
Junior Baseball	The bat shall not be more than 34 inches in length and the bat barrel shall not exceed 2-5/8 inches in diameter. Any bat displaying a USABat, BPF 1.15 or BBCOR .50 certification is permissible. There is no length to weight ratio limitation.

JUNIOR ROOKIE & ROOKIE

Use of Tee Rule JUNIOR ROOKIE ONLY	In the fourth inning and all subsequent innings, each player shall receive a limit of five (5) pitches or three (3) strikes per at bat and no use of tee is allowed. If a player hits a ball foul on a fifth or subsequent pitch, an additional pitch is permitted.
Pitching JUNIOR ROOKIE ONLY	The field shall be drawn with a 16-foot diameter circle centered around the 40-foot rubber. However, a pitcher's line may also be drawn at 27 feet with a width of 3 feet, which is five feet in front of the circle. The coach must complete the pitch with his/her front foot behind or touching the 27-foot line. A half circle also shall be drawn three feet in front of home plate connecting with the first base and third base line.
Pitching ROOKIE ONLY	Pitching shall be done by the offensive team's coach and must be overhand pitch. The coach-pitcher must complete the pitch fully within the 16-foot diameter circle starting at 40 feet.
Pitching and Coaching	Base coaches are the only offensive coaches on the field allowed to coach offensive batters and runners. The coach-pitcher is not allowed to coach runners or batter once he/she has pitched the ball to the batter until the end of the play and the coach-pitcher has the ball in his/her hand.
Defensive Coaching	The defensive team may place in the outfield no more than two (2) coaches to assist with instruction and teaching.
Time Limit	A Junior Rookie regulation game is five (5) innings or 1 hour and 45 minutes, whichever comes first. Time will be managed by the umpire. A Rookie regulation game is six (6) innings or 1 hour and 45 minutes, whichever comes first. Time will be managed by the umpire.
Thrown Bat	If a batter throws their bat and hits any person on the field (defensive/offensive player, coach or umpire), the ball is dead and the batter will be called out. This penalty will be enforced only after a team has been given a warning there shall be only one warning per team per game, including the tournament.
Baserunners Leaving Early	If a runner leaves the base early and ball is hit in play, the defense has a chance to put both runners out. After the umpire declares the runner leaving the base early, the defensive coach can choose to take the result of the play or the runner leaving early to be out and the batter to return to bat with the same count. If the ball is not put in play the ball should be immediately dead and "No Pitch" declared. The runner leaving early should be called out and the batter returning to the same count. <i>Note: There shall be one (1) warning per team per game, including Tournament.</i>
Defensive Assignments	After the first pitch is thrown, all players must continue to play their assigned position for the entire defensive inning (either three outs or five runs) unless injured during play.



MINOR & SUPER MAJOR

Thrown Bat Rule	If a batter throws their bat and hits any person on the field (defensive/offensive player, coach or umpire), the ball is dead, and the batter will be called out. There are no warnings issued.
Fake Bunt and Swing	If a batter fakes a bunt and then takes a full swing, the batter is out for illegal action. <i>Note: There shall be one (1) warning per team per game, including Tournament.</i>
Time Limit	A regulation game is six (6) innings or 1 hour, 45 minutes, whichever comes first, in both Minor and Super Major. Time will be managed by the umpire.
Pitching Limits	A Minor or Super Major pitcher may not pitch more than two (2) innings during any tournament game, no limit for the day.
Basemen Leaving Early MINOR ONLY	If a runner leaves the base early and ball is hit in play, the defense has a chance to put both runners out. After the umpire declares the runner leaving the base early, the defensive coach can choose to take the result of the play or the runner leaving early to be out and the batter to return to bat with the same count. If the ball is not put in play the ball should be immediately dead and "No Pitch" declared. The runner leaving early should be called out and the batter returning to the same count. <i>Note: There shall be one (1) warning per team per game, including Tournament.</i>
Look Back Rule MINOR ONLY	Once a pitcher has the ball in his possession on the mound, all base runners must advance to the base of their choice. Failure to advance to the base will cause the base runner to be called "out." This rule goes into effect as soon as the batter reaches first base, or an out is made on the batter's hit ball. <i>Note: There shall be one (1) warning per team per game, including Tournament.</i>
Balks SUPER MAJOR ONLY	Each pitcher is allowed one balk warning per game, <i>including tournament games.</i>



JUNIOR BASEBALL

Fair Play Rule	All players must play in the field for at least three (3) innings. No player may sit out a second inning before all players have sat out at least one inning.
Maximum Runs Allowed	No team may score more than seven (7) runs in an inning. There is no run limit in the seventh (7th) inning.
Thrown Bat Rule	If a batter throws their bat and hits any person on the field (defensive/offensive player, coach or umpire), the ball is dead, and the batter will be called out. There are no warnings issued.
Fake Bunt and Swing	If a batter fakes a bunt and then takes a full swing, the batter is out for illegal action. <i>Note: There shall be one (1) warning per team per game, including Tournament.</i>
Time Limit	A regulation game is seven (7) innings or 1 hour, 45 minutes, whichever comes first, in Junior Baseball. Time will be managed by the umpire.
Pitching Limits	A Junior Baseball pitcher may not pitch more than two (2) innings during any tournament game, no limit for the day. Any combination of pitchers ages 14 and younger, must pitch the equivalent of either six of the first 12 outs (or two completed innings by outs or allowance of maximum number of runs). Only the starting pitcher may re-enter as a pitcher one time in a Junior Baseball game. If a starting pitcher has completed their last inning pitched then they may re-enter as a pitcher, provided they are still eligible as laid out in Rule 8.07 A-F.



OBU SOFTBALL

Pitching	The coach-pitcher must complete the pitch fully within the 16-foot diameter circle. If the pitcher steps outside the circle when making a pitch, the ball is immediately dead.
Pitching and Coaching	Base coaches are the only offensive coaches on the field allowed to coach offensive batters and runners. The coach-pitcher is not allowed to coach runners or batter once he/she has pitched the ball to the batter until the end of the play and the coach-pitcher has the ball in his/her hand.
Defensive Coaching	The defensive team may place in the outfield no more than two (2) coaches to assist with instruction and teaching.
Time Limit	A regulation game is six (6) innings or 1 hour and 45 minutes, whichever comes first. Time will be managed by the umpire.
Thrown Bat	If a batter throws their bat and hits any person on the field (defensive/offensive player, coach or umpire), the ball is dead, and the batter will be called out. This penalty will be enforced only after a team has been given a warning there shall be only one warning per team per game, including the tournament.
Baserunners Leaving Early	If a runner leaves the base early and ball is hit in play, the defense has a chance to put both runners out. After the umpire declares the runner leaving the base early, the defensive coach can choose to take the result of the play or the runner leaving early to be out and the batter to return to bat with the same count. If the ball is not put in play the ball should be immediately dead and "No Pitch" declared. The runner leaving early should be called out and the batter returning to the same count. <i>Note: There shall be one (1) warning per team per game, including Tournament.</i>
Defensive Assignments	After the first pitch is thrown, all players must continue to play their assigned position for the entire defensive inning (either three outs or five runs) unless injured during play.



10U SOFTBALL & 12U SOFTBALL	
Thrown Bat Rule	If a batter throws their bat and hits any person on the field (defensive/offensive player, coach or umpire), the ball is dead, and the batter will be called out. There are no warnings issued.
Time Limit	A 10U Softball regulation game is six (6) innings or 1 hour and 45 minutes, whichever comes first. Time will be managed by the umpire. A 12U Softball regulation game is seven (7) innings or 1 hour and 45 minutes, whichever comes first. Time will be managed by the umpire.
Pitching Limits	A 10U Softball player may not pitch more than three (3) innings of the first five (5) innings in a game. Any player may pitch the 6th and subsequent innings in a game. A 12U Softball player may not pitch more than three (3) innings of the first six (6) innings in a game. Any player may pitch the 7th and subsequent innings in a game. Any pitcher – once removed – may re-enter into the pitching position only once.
Pitchers' Undershirt	If a pitcher's undershirt sleeves are exposed, they shall not be yellow optic coloring. All non-optic solid colors are the only sleeve colors allowed for a pitcher to wear below the elbow.
Illegal Pitches	Each pitcher is allowed one illegal pitch warning per game, <i>including tournament games.</i>
Baserunners Leaving Early 10U SOFTBALL ONLY	The base runner is out when the runner fails to keep contact with the base to which the runner is entitled until the ball leaves the pitcher's hand. The ultimate effect is the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ball is dead • "No pitch" shall be declared • The runner is out <i>Note: There shall be one (1) warning per team per game in 10U Softball during the Regular Season. No warning is in effect during the Tournament.</i>
Look Back Rule 10U SOFTBALL ONLY	Once the pitcher has control of the ball in the pitcher's circle and is not attempting to make a play on a runner (including a fake or threatened throw); any runner stopped on a base must stay on the base and any runner not on a base must immediately either advance toward the next base or return to the previous base. Any subsequent change in direction or stop by the runner while off the base will result in the runner being called out, so long as the pitcher does not attempt to make a play. <i>Note: There shall be one (1) warning per team per game in 10U Softball, including Tournament.</i>
14U/16U SOFTBALL	
Thrown Bat Rule	If a batter throws their bat and hits any person on the field (defensive/offensive player, coach or umpire), the ball is dead, and the batter will be called out. There are no warnings issued.
Time Limit	A 14U/16U Softball regulation game is seven (7) innings or 1 hour and 45 minutes, whichever comes first. Time will be managed by the umpire.
Pitching Limits	There is no limitation on the number of innings a 14U/16U Softball pitcher can pitch. Any pitcher – once removed – may re-enter into the pitching position only once.
Pitchers' Undershirt	If a pitcher's undershirt sleeves are exposed, they shall not be yellow optic coloring. All non-optic solid colors are the only sleeve colors allowed for a pitcher to wear below the elbow.
Illegal Pitches	In 14U/16U Softball, pitchers are not issued a warning. All illegal pitches are charged per the rules.

