

Tournament Overview | Rules and Logistics

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| Date | May 28, 2024 |
| Prepared For | OYO Coaches and OYO Umpires |
| Season | 2024 Spring 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 | |
| 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 | 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> |
| Championship Games | All championship games, will follow a 2 hour, 15 minute, finish the inning, time limitation. (All other tournament games adhere to same time limits as regular season games.) |
| 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 | Head-first slides are permitted. |
| Catcher Chatter in the Batter's Box | Once a pitcher is in contact with the rubber, the catcher may not communicate with the batter until after the pitch (or play) is complete. If a catcher interferes with the batter through verbal communication, the play shall continue as the umpire shall signal Defensive Obstruction and present the option to the offensive team to either accept the outcome of the play or award the batter 1st base and only runners in a force out situation may advance. <i>Note: There shall be one (1) warning per team per game, including Tournament.</i> |



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| 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. |
| 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 a team has less than six (6) players after 10 minutes past the scheduled game time, the team forfeits the game by a score of 5-0 (five-inning regulation game), 6-0 (six-inning regulation game), or 7-0 (seven-inning regulation game). No player substitutions from other teams or younger divisions will be permitted during the tournament. For teams with six (6) or more players present, they will not have to take an out in the batting order. |
| 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 submitted in writing to the OYO President within 30 minutes after completion of the game and must be accompanied by \$100.00 in cash. 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 the league President, League Commissioner, UIC and one or more Executive Board Member(s) shall hear and resolve any such protest by midnight. 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. |



BAT ELIGIBILITY | ALL BASEBALL DIVISIONS

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| Summary | <p>JRO-RB-MB-SM Baseball Bat Eligibility When checking your ballplayer's baseball bat, please consider these following rules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A bat may not exceed 33 inches • No barrel shall exceed 2-5/8 inches in diameter • Any bat in excess of 2-1/4 inches must display the USABat certification • Any bat <u>not</u> displaying the USABat certification cannot exceed 2-1/4 inches • There is no length-to-weight ratio limitation <p>JBB Baseball Bat Eligibility When checking your ballplayer's baseball bat, please consider these following rules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A bat may not exceed 34 inches • No barrel shall 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 |
| Illegal Bat Usage Penalty | <p>On first usage of an illegal bat, the batter shall be declared out. If the ball was put in play, anyone put out is out and all runners not put out are returned to the base occupied before the ball was put into play. Also, both the team and head coach are each issued a warning. Every time an illegal bat is found for the remainder of the game, the batter and acting head coach are ejected and the aforementioned penalty to the batter and baserunners are applied. When the ejected player's turn appears in the lineup, the offensive team is charged an out for that at bat.</p> |
| <h2 style="margin: 0;">EQUIPMENT TURN-IN PROCEDURES</h2> | |
| Summary | <p>Immediately following your last game, please stop by the three-garage barn, access your equipment check-out card and complete the "items returned" column. Once complete, tie the card to your equipment bag with a zip tie. This five-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. We appreciate your effort and cooperation in this effort.</p> |
| Required for Incentive | <p>We will issue coach incentive credits to all coaches on July 1, 2023, if the equipment bag has been returned. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance!</p> |



JUNIOR ROOKIE & ROOKIE

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| 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 30 minutes, whichever comes first. Time will be managed by the umpire. A Rookie regulation game is six (6) innings or 1 hour and 40 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. |
| Basemen 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

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| 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. When the warning is issued, the play is negated as a no-pitch play.</i> |
| Time Limit | A regulation game is six (6) innings or 2 hours, 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 innings in a game. |
| Baserunners 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> |
| Charged Defensive Conferences | A defensive team is allowed a maximum of three (3) charged defensive conferences during a game without penalty. On the fourth (4th) charged defensive conference, and every charged defensive conference after, the pitcher must be removed. If the game goes into extra innings, each team is given one (1) charged defensive conference without penalty. On the second charged conference in an extra inning, the pitcher must be removed. If a pitcher is removed during a charged conference, that charged conference is not counted. If a defensive team has two (2) charged conferences in the same inning with the same pitcher, that pitcher must be removed from the pitching position for the remainder of the game. |



OBU SOFTBALL

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| 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 40 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

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| 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 2 hours, whichever comes first. A 12U Softball regulation game is seven (7) innings or 2 hours, 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. |
| 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 <p><i>Note: There shall be one (1) warning per team per game during the Regular Season. No warning is in effect during the Tournament.</i></p> |
| Look Back Rule | 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, including Tournament.</i> |
| Softball Pitcher's Mask | For all softball leagues where a player-pitcher is utilized, the pitcher must wear a face mask while playing the position. |

