

Rules: Baseball Leagues (Spring Ball Only)

Last Updated	March 1, 2010
Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Babe Ruth 13-15 division rules are used for Babe Ruth and Super Major baseball leagues. • Cal Ripken division rules are used for minor, rookie, junior rookie, tee-ball, and challenger baseball leagues. • The following are local OYO exceptions to these rules.
Official Rules Summary	<p>1.00 - Objective of the Game 2.00 - Definition of Terms 3.00 - Game Preliminaries 4.00 - Starting and Ending Game 5.00 - Putting the Ball in Play 6.00 - The Batter 7.00 - The Runner 8.00 - The Pitcher 9.00 - The Umpire 10.00 - The Official Scorer</p>
1.00 - Objectives of the Game	<p>1.04 - THE PLAYING FIELD.</p> <p>Super Major - The field shall be laid out according to the instructions for the Cal-Ripken Division (Diagram 4 and 5) with the following exceptions: The infield shall be a 70-foot square.</p> <p>Rookie - The pitchers plate shall be 40 feet from the back of home plate and centered within a 16 foot diameter circle. The coach pitcher must remain completely within the 16 foot diameter circle when delivering the pitch to a batter.</p> <p>1.07 - Super Major - The pitcher's plate shall be laid out according to the instructions for Cal-Ripken Division (Diagram 4 and 5) with the following exception: The distance between the front side of the pitcher's plate and the rear point of home plate shall be 50 feet.</p> <p>1.09 - THE BALL</p> <p>Tee-Ball and Challenger - RIF 1 balls are required.</p> <p>Super Major, Minor, Rookie, and Junior Rookie - Regular baseballs are required.</p> <p>1.10 - Super Major, Minor, Rookie, and Junior Rookie - The bat shall not be more than 33 inches in length nor have a bat barrel in excess of 2¼ inches. Metal bats fitting this description are acceptable. There is no length to weight ratio.</p> <p>1.11 - (h) Super Major - Shoes with metal spikes or cleats are not permitted.</p> <p>1.16 - All Leagues - All batters, runners, and on-deck batters must wear double earflap NOCSAE approved batting helmets. Chin straps are not required.</p>

	<p>1.17 - Minor, Super Major, and Babe Ruth. All male players are REQUIRED to wear a protective cup when playing the catcher position.</p>
<p>2.00 - Definition of Terms</p>	<p>BATTING ORDER. The batting order shall contain the entire roster of players for all leagues.</p> <p>BUNT. Bunts are not permitted in Rookie, Junior Rookie, Tee-Ball, and Challenger.</p> <p>INFIELD FLY. The Infield Fly Rule does not apply in Minor, Rookie, Junior Rookie, Tee-Ball, and Challenger.</p> <p>STRIKE. In Rookie, Junior Rookie, Tee-Ball, and Challenger, called strikes are not permitted.</p>
<p>3.00 - Game Preliminaries</p>	<p>3.03 - PLAYER SUBSTITUTIONS</p> <p>There shall be no limit on player substitutions <i>except for</i> the following limitations:</p> <p>Babe Ruth - All players must play in the field for at least three (3) innings.</p> <p>Super Major and Minor - All players must play in the field for at least two (2) innings in the first four (4) innings and three (3) innings of six (6) innings. No player may sit out a second inning before all players have sat out at least one inning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular Season: A player may play the catcher position for a maximum of 3 innings. • Tournament: There is no limitation on the number of innings a player may play the catcher position – or any other non-pitching position in the field. <p>Babe Ruth - No player may sit out a second inning before all players have sat out at least one inning.</p> <p>Super Major, Minor, Rookie, and Junior Rookie - For all recreational Super Major and Minor League Teams, all players must play at least one (1) inning in the infield and one (1) inning in the outfield of the same game. <u>This requirement is excepted for tournament play.</u></p> <p>Rookie and Junior Rookie - There are no substitutions, and all players play the field at one time. A total of 12 players may play the field at once in the following positions: two pitcher's helpers (F1a, F1b), one catcher (F2), one first baseman (F3), one second baseman (F4), one third baseman (F5), one short stop (F6), and five outfielders (F7-11). The outfield begins on the grass behind the base paths. Outfielders may not come off the grass onto the infield area until the ball reaches the batter. Only two fielders (the pitcher's helpers) are allowed to be closer than 40 ft from the back of home plate before the ball reaches the batter. The pitcher's helpers must have both feet within the pitching circle when the ball reaches the batter. The pitcher's helpers must wear batting helmets with a league-approved face masks and heart guards at all times when playing the position.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular Season only: A player can play a single defensive position for no more than three (3) innings. <u>This rule is excepted for tournament play.</u> • When a team has 12 players available defensively, the team must place two pitcher's helpers – F1a, F1b – and five outfielders along with five standard infield players (F2, F3, F4, F5, F6). In the event a team has 11 players or less, the team must furnish a minimum of one (but not more than two) pitcher's



helper(s) – F1a, F1b – and a maximum of five outfielders while ensuring all five aforementioned traditional infield positions are occupied by a player as well. 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.

Junior Rookie: There are no substitutions, and all players play the field at one time. The catcher's position must be filled with someone over the age of 11. Once a ball is batted into play, the catcher's position is covered by the fielding team and not the person over 11 acting as catcher for the coach pitcher. Only two fielders (pitcher's helpers) are allowed to be closer than 40 ft from the back of home plate and must remain in the pitcher's circle before the ball reaches the batter. The pitcher's helpers must wear batting helmets and heart guards and must be no closer than the coach pitcher.

Tee-Ball and Challenger: There are no substitutions, and all players play the field at one time. One fielder must play in the catcher's box. Only two fielders (pitcher's helpers) are allowed to be closer than 40 ft from the back of home plate before the ball reaches the batter. The pitcher's helpers must wear batting helmets and heart guards and must be no closer than the coach pitcher.

3.04 - COURTESY RUNNERS

Babe Ruth, Super Major, Minor, Rookie, Junior Rookie, and Tee Ball: No courtesy runners allowed.

3.05 - PITCHERS

All Leagues - A single pitch in an inning constitutes an inning pitched.

Babe Ruth - A 13-to-15 year-old pitcher may not pitch more than 7 innings per calendar week. A 13 or 14 year-old pitcher, or any combination thereof, must pitch for six of the first 12 outs. Only the starting pitcher may re-enter as a pitcher one time in a Babe Ruth game.

- **Tournament:** The regular season rules for innings per week are waived in District, State, and Regional Tournaments. For these tournaments, no pitcher may pitch in more than 7 innings in two consecutive games.

Super Major and Minor - Any pitcher may re-enter the game at the pitcher's position once. Therefore, a pitcher in the same game may pitch, play another position, and then return to the mound. A pitcher removed from the mound because of a second trip in the same inning may not re-enter as a pitcher.

Super Major - A pitcher may not pitch more than two (2) innings in a game.

- **Tournament:** A pitcher may not pitch more than 6 innings in two consecutive games.

Minor: A pitcher may not pitch more than two (2) innings in a game.

- **Tournament:** A pitcher may not pitch more than four (4) innings in two consecutive games.

	<p>3.15 - COACHES</p> <p>Minors - One coach shall be allowed on the outfield grass during the first two innings.</p> <p>Rookie and Junior Rookie - Two coaches shall be allowed on the outfield grass during the game.</p> <p>Tee-Ball - Three coaches shall be allowed in the field during the game.</p> <p>Challenger: There is no limit on coaches or buddies on the field.</p> <p>3.16 - ADDING PLAYERS</p> <p>A potential player who registers late to play in any league within the Oaklandon Youth Organization after the player draft but before opening day shall be assigned by the Commissioner for the league to the team that is next in order to receive a player or that lacks the number of players in comparison with the other teams in that particular league. In this instance, the decision to assign the player is within the sole discretion of the Commissioner.</p> <p>Late registration of any potential player in any league within the Oaklandon Youth Organization after opening day is subject to the approval of the Commissioner for the league which the player seeks to enter and the Executive Board. Should the Commissioner and the Executive Board approve the late registration of the player, the Executive Vice President shall assign the player to the team that is next in order to receive a player or that lacks the number of players in comparison with the other teams in that particular league. In this instance, the decision to assign the player is within the sole discretion of the Executive Vice President.</p> <p>3.17 - EVALUATION OF PLAYERS</p> <p>For all recreational leagues, the coaches for each team shall evaluate players at the end of the regular season but before the commencement of tournament play. Prior to tournament play, the coaches shall turn in the evaluations for all players on the coach's team to the Commissioner for the league. Should a coach not turn in the evaluations by the required time, he/she may be required to serve a penalty up to and including a one (1) game suspension to be enforced during his/her team's first game of the tournament.</p>
<p>4.00 - Starting and Ending the Game</p>	<p>4.04 - All leagues will adopt a policy of a continuous batting order that will include all players on the team roster present for the game batting in order. All leagues will adopt a policy of allowing players to be entered and/or re-entered defensively into the game anytime provided he/she meets the requirements of mandatory play stated in rule 3.03.</p> <p>4.05 - BASE COACHES</p> <p>(1) Shall be eligible players in the uniform of their team or adult base coaches. If players are used as base coaches, the players must wear helmets.</p>



4.10 - REGULATION GAME

- (a) **Babe Ruth** - A regulation game is seven (7) innings or two hours, whichever comes first. A game may not end in the middle of an inning.

Super Major and Minor - A regulation game is six (6) innings or two hours, whichever comes first. A game may not end in the middle of an inning.

Rookie - A regulation game is six (6) innings or 1 hour and 40 minutes, whichever comes first. A game may not end in the middle of an inning.

Junior Rookie - A regulation game is six (6) innings or 1 hour and 30 minutes, whichever comes first. A game may not end in the middle of an inning.

Tee-Ball and Challenger - A regulation game is four (4) innings. A half inning is completed when one half of the players on the team's roster have batted.

- **Tee-Ball** - Limit is six (6) batters per half inning;
- **Challenger** - Limit is eight (8) batters per half inning. When the last batter in each half inning comes to the plate and hits the ball, the batter-runner and all base runners must advance to home plate.

REGULAR SEASON - NO GAME - All Leagues - If a game fails to reach the 45 minute mark based on the scheduled start time, it is not a regulation game and may be rescheduled as a new game as scheduling permits.

REGULAR SEASON - SUSPENDED GAME - All Leagues - A game may be called for weather or darkness by the park advisor only. A game may be suspended by the park advisor or the umpire for any reason. The umpire or park advisor may extend the game time limit to account for an extended suspension of play.

TOURNAMENT- SUSPENDED GAME - All Leagues - A game may be called for weather or darkness by the park advisor only. A game may be suspended by the park advisor or the umpire for any reason. The umpire or park advisor may extend the game time limit to account for an extended suspension of play. If a game fails to reach the regulation minimum limit of 3½ innings or 4 innings played (4½ or 5 innings Babe Ruth), it will be suspended and completed at a later date and time determined by the league. The suspended game will resume from the exact point it was stopped with the same game clock time. The game will continue until it's a regulation game (6 or 7 innings) or the time limit is reached, whichever comes first.

CURFEW - Super Major, Minor, Rookie and Junior Rookie - There will be a curfew of 10 p.m. No game or any part thereof may be extended beyond 10 p.m. during the regular season. Final game scores will revert to the last completed inning prior to 10 p.m.

During tournament play, no new inning may be started after 10 p.m. Innings starting prior to 10 p.m. will be played to completion with the game's final score reflected as the last full inning played.

In the event of a tie, the tie breaker rule will be implemented following the completion of the last played inning.

Tee-Ball and Challenger - Games do not keep score and outs are not recorded or enforced.

Super Major, Minor, and Rookie – No team may score more than five (5) runs in an inning. There is a ten (10) run limit in the sixth inning and any subsequent innings. All six (6) innings shall be played if time permits.

Junior Rookie – No team may score more than five (5) runs in an inning including the sixth.

All Leagues Tournament Play: 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. *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.*

Babe Ruth, Super Major, Minor, and Rookie:

Rookie - Each player shall receive a limit of five (5) pitches or three (3) strikes per at bat.

Junior Rookie, Tee-Ball, and Challenger - Each player shall receive a limit of five (5) pitches per at bat. After the fifth pitch, the batting tee is required.

4.11 - A TIE GAME

(e) A regulation game that is tied after four (4) or more completed innings (five or more completed innings for Babe Ruth baseball) and halted by the umpire, shall be: **Regular season:** If time permits, play will continue using the following tournament format until time limit is reached:

Tournament: 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 batted out 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 last-batted out on second base until a team is declared in the lead at the completion of the inning.

4.17 - FORFEIT GAME

All recreational leagues for Tournament Play Only (except for Babe Ruth)- If during a game a team is unable to place nine (9) players on the field, the team must take an "out" for the ninth position in the batting order. If a team has less than eight (8) players after 10 minutes past the scheduled game time, the team forfeits the game by a score of 6-0 (six inning regulation game) or 7-0 (seven inning regulation game). During the regular season only, the team's roster may be filled with younger division players in order to field eight (8) players for a game. There are no forfeits in Tee-Ball and Challenger play.

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 in the preceding paragraph, the team will be penalized accordingly based upon the number of remaining players.

All recreational leagues for Regular Season Play (except for Babe Ruth) - Teams unable to place nine (9) players on the field or that have less than eight (8) players after 10 minutes past the scheduled game time will not have to take an "out" for the ninth position in the batting order or forfeit the game for having less than eight (8) players. The umpires will be required to umpire and the players will be required to play unless the coach of the team without the required number of players concedes the game as a consequence of the lack of players.

4.19 - PROTESTING GAME Protests shall be considered only when based on a violation of the playing rules. No protest shall be considered on a decision involving umpire's or park advisor's judgment.

- **REGULAR SEASON:** Protests shall be resolved immediately before the next play. Protests may only be made by the manager or head coach. Upon being presented with a protest by the manager or head coach, the plate umpire shall suspend play and call all the field umpires together in consultation with no manager, coach, or player present. The plate umpire will decide immediately on the protest before the game is resumed, and his decision is final. Protests are not allowed after another play has occurred.
- **TOURNAMENT:** 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.

5.00 - Putting the Ball in Play
- LIVE BALL

5.07 - Tee-Ball and Challenger - The side is retired when one-half (1/2) of the players on the roster have batted one time in the half-inning. The limit shall be six (6) batters for **Tee-Ball** and eight (8) batters for **Challenger** in a half inning. When the last batter in each half inning comes to the plate and hits the ball, the batter-runner and all base runners must advance to home plate.

5.09 - Rookie and Junior Rookie - The batter shall **not** be awarded first base when a pitched ball touches the batter or his clothing.

5.10 - Rookie and Junior Rookie - The umpire will call time when a pitcher's helper has control of the ball within the pitching circle or when the advancement of the lead runner has been stopped by the defensive team. Runners who have passed the 30 foot hash mark when time is called will be allowed to proceed to the next base without liability to be put out.

	<p>5.10.2 - Rookie - On an overthrow from an infield position to first base, all runners are allowed to advance a maximum of two bases. The advancement will be taken from the last base that the runner touched before the throw left the fielder's hand.</p> <p>5.11 - Rookie and Junior Rookie- After the ball is dead, play shall resume when the coach-pitcher has possession of the ball and takes his position within the pitching circle. The umpire shall call "play" as soon as the coach-pitcher takes his position within the pitching circle with possession of the ball.</p> <p>5.12- Minors - Once a pitcher has the ball in his possession between the mound and home plate, 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: Each team shall receive one (1) warning per team per game until May 15th. At that time, no additional warnings will be given.</i></p>
<p>6.00 - The Batter</p>	<p>Thrown Bat - All leagues - No penalty unless the bat is thrown intentionally.</p> <p>6.01- All leagues shall use a continuous batting order with all players on the roster (see rule 4.04).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During tournament play, if a player starts and then leaves a regulation tournament game prior to its completion for any reason, one out shall be taken by the team when the player's roster turn at-bat is encountered. Exception to this rule is when the player leaves due to injury sustained as a result of play during the game. • If play of a tournament game is interrupted after a player leaves (i.e., by rain) and is rescheduled for completion at a later date, any player who previously left during the initial play and returns at the make-up time may re-enter without taking the necessary out. <p>Rookie - Each player shall receive a limit of five (5) pitches or three (3) strikes. If the player does not hit a fair ball within the five pitches or three strikes, the player is "out." The batter is still alive on a foul third strike.</p> <p>Junior Rookie, Tee-Ball and Challenger - Each batter shall receive a limit of five (5) pitches after which the batting tee is required.</p> <p>6.05 - Minor, Rookie, and Junior Rookie - The infield fly rule shall not be enforced.</p> <p>6.07 - Batting out of turn in Tee -Ball and Challenger - There shall be no penalty, and the player that bats out of turn shall not have another turn at bat, but shall resume the normal batting position next time up.</p> <p>6.08 - Rookie, Junior Rookie, Tee-Ball, and Challenger - No walks are allowed.</p> <p>6.09 - Rookie and Junior Rookie - The batter becomes a runner when a batted ball is hit which goes between the first base and third base lines. If a fair batted ball hits the coach-pitcher before touching a defensive player, the ball is</p>



	<p>immediately dead, and all runners must return to the base they occupied before the pitch. The batter is returned to the plate with the same count as before. Interference may be ruled when the coach-pitcher hinders a fielder from making a play on a batted ball.</p> <p>Rookie and Junior Rookie - If a fair batted ball hits the coach-pitcher after touching a defensive player the ball is immediately dead and the batter is awarded first base. Base runners advance if forced only.</p> <p>Rookie and Junior Rookie - If the coach-pitcher touches a fair or foul ball intentionally, the ball is dead, the batter is out, and all base runners must return to the base they occupied before the ball was hit.</p>
7.00 - The Runner	<p>7.01 - Minor - If the runner leaves the base prior to the pitch crossing home plate, the play shall be considered a dead ball, the pitch does not count, and the runner is out. <i>Note: There shall be one (1) warning per team per game until May 15th. Rather than calling the runner out, the runner will return to the original base. After May 15th and during tournament play, there will be no warning, and the runner will be out.</i></p> <p>Rookie and Junior Rookie - If the runner leaves the base prior to the batter hitting the ball, the play shall be considered a dead ball, the pitch does not count, and the runner is out. <i>Note: There shall be one (1) warning per team per game until May 15th. Rather than calling the runner out, the runner will return to the original base. After May 15th and during tournament play, there will be no warning, and the runner will be out.</i></p> <p>7.05 - Minor, Rookie, and Junior Rookie - If a fair batted ball touches a defensive coach standing in the outfield grass, the batter and all runners are awarded three bases from the time of the pitch: the ball is live.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rookie and Junior Rookie - If a thrown ball touches the coach-pitcher, the ball is immediately dead and all runners must return to the last base they touched. The coach pitcher must not interfere (intentionally or unintentionally) with play on the field. Interference may be ruled when the coach pitcher hinders a fielder from making a play on a batted or thrown ball. • Tee-Ball and Challenger - The runner or runners are not permitted to advance on an overthrow. <p>7.08 - Super Major, Minor, and Rookie - The runner is out when sliding head first while advancing.</p>
8.00 - The Pitcher	<p>8.01- Super Major and Babe Ruth leagues - The pitcher must take signs from the catcher while standing on the rubber.</p> <p>Rookie and Junior Rookie- 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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the pitcher steps outside the circle when making a pitch, the ball is immediately dead. <p>Rookie and Junior Rookie - The pitcher's helpers must have both feet fully inside the pitching circle when the ball reaches the batter. Penalty: If the batter does</p>



	<p>not hit the ball or if the batter hits the ball and the pitcher's helper is not involved in an initial or subsequent play on the batted ball, there is no penalty. If the pitcher's helper is involved in an initial or subsequent play on the batted ball the batter will be awarded first base and all runners will be allowed to advance one base. Alternatively, the offensive team may choose to keep the outcome of the play.</p> <p>Tee-Ball and Challenger - Pitching shall be done by the offensive team's coach. There is no limit on pitching distance and pitching may be overhand or underhand.</p> <p>Tee-Ball and Challenger - The pitcher's helpers must wear batting helmets with a league-approved facemask at all times and must be no closer than 20ft from the back of home plate and behind the coach pitcher.</p> <p>Junior Rookie and Tee-Ball - All catchers must be individuals ages 11 or older. The hitting team must supply the catcher.</p> <p>Mandatory facemask and heart guard for pitcher's helper position- Regardless of league, if a pitcher's helper is one of the infield positions, he or she must wear a league-approved helmet with face mask and heart guard for protection, and it must be worn at all times when on the field.</p> <p>8.02 – Super Major and Minor - There is no limit on the number of batters that are hit by a pitcher in an inning or game.</p> <p>8.03 - Babe Ruth, Super Major, and Minor - When a pitcher takes a position at the beginning of the inning, that pitcher shall be permitted to pitch and not exceed five (5) preparatory pitches to the catcher or other teammate acting in the capacity of the catcher. The time limit for preparatory pitches shall not exceed 1 minute from the time that the side was retired.</p> <p>8.04 – Super Majors - Each pitcher is allowed one balk warning per game, including tournament games.</p>
<p>9.00 – The Umpire</p>	<p>9.01 – Rookie and Junior Rookie - The plate umpire must wear a mask.</p> <p>9.01 – All Leagues - If a coach is removed (ejected) from a game by the umpire, the coach may not participate in the team's next game(s) as specified in the OYO Code of Conduct.</p> <p>9.03 - If there are two or more umpires, one shall be designated the plate umpire and the others field umpires.</p> <p>9.04 - If different decisions are made on one play by different umpires, the plate umpire may call all umpires together in consultation. The plate umpire shall determine which decision shall prevail.</p>

10.00 - The Official Scorer

10.01 - 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 suspended 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.