



Oak Mountain Youth Baseball and Softball

**2013**  
**Softball Rules of Play**

# **I. Organization and Administration**

## **Article 1 – Mission Statement and Philosophy**

Oak Mountain Youth Baseball and Softball has been organized as a youth baseball and softball program for all youth ages 4 to 18 years, regardless of sex, religion, race, color or physical handicap. Our mission is to provide a safe, recreational outlet for kids in and around north Shelby County.

**Section 1:** The children participating in our program put their trust in us and look at us as role models. That trust must not be broken. To ensure proper leadership and example, certain reminders for the Coaches are offered in the hope that all will accept them in the spirit they are given - mainly to ensure that the children involved in our program will not be misled by our failure in leadership. If we, as coaches and leaders, can do it, all will be rewarded. If, however, we forget the main purpose of our participation (to teach, listen, build teamwork and demonstrate fair play) we have lost not only the respect of the children, but also of our peers.

**Section 2:** With these thoughts in mind, we remind our coaches and parents of the following:

- Prime consideration is to be given to the player.
- You are dealing with immaturity; expect this from your player.
- Treat each player as an individual.
- Make each player on your team feel important.
- This is amateur athletic recreation, not a win at all costs life or death situation.
- Keep your personal ego out of the game.
- Remember the physical limitations of your players.
- Never condemn a player for an error. Point out the mental errors constructively.
- Use moderation in practice sessions, scheduling of games, and the amount of play for each
- Don't ignore anyone on your team.
- Set an example by being modest in victory, gracious in defeat.
- Know the rules. Always have a rule book with you.
- Insist that your players be properly and fully dressed.
- Never use any profane or questionable language around any of the players at any time.
- Never display any outbursts of temper.
- No Drug use (Including Alcohol) is permitted. No Tobacco Products are to be used by coaches or parents.

**Section 3** It is expected by all board members, coaches, players and parents that all decisions and actions should be in the best interest of the league.

**Section 4:** Neither coaches nor players are allowed to harass or direct any outburst toward the opposing team.

**Section 5:** Spectators shall remain courteous and refrain from calling plays on the playing field, and shall not openly criticize.

**Section 6:** Neither a player nor a coach shall argue unduly with the umpires. Questions directed to the umpire for the coach's information and not argumentative in nature are not to be considered as undue argument. This does not include the questioning of balls and strikes. Questions should be directed at the interpretation of the rules and not the umpire's judgment.

## **Article 2 – Selection of Coaches**

**Section 1:** Requests for head coaching positions must be submitted to the Board of Directors (BOD) at registration. Applications for head coaching positions must be submitted annually at or before registration.

**Section 2:** The League Directors shall submit a slate of approved coaches for the coming season to the Coaching Selection Committee (made up of the Executive Committee and Age Group Director) for confirmation.

**Section 3:** Age Group Directors are not permitted to coach within their own league.

**Section 4:** Any coach not selected has the right to meet with the Coach Selection Committee to discuss the reasons for the rejection.

**Section 5:** A coach will be assigned a team for only one (1) season. Each season coaches must make a new application for a team.

**Section 6:** A coach may only coach in one age group and only one team.

**Section 7:** In the event there are not enough coaches for the number of players registered, the Age Group Director and Executive Committee shall canvass registered assistants or previous coaches to fill positions.

**Section 8:** Coach Selections will be based on coaching evaluations, parent comments, Age Group Director observations from previous years, experience, league participation and other factors. Previous year coaches will be given first consideration, but are not guaranteed a coaching position.

**Section 9:** The league will provide coaches evaluation forms at mid-season each year. The evaluation forms will be used as input for coach selections during the next year.

**Section 10:** The application process will require coaches to submit their social security number and other pertinent information. Potential coaches must also agree to a background screen before their application will be processed.

**Section 11:** It is desirable, but not absolutely necessary, that a Coach be knowledgeable in the game. However, it is absolutely necessary that he/she possess high moral ethics and that they be maintained.

## **Article 3 – Player Evaluations**

**Section 1:** The League Commissioner, along with each League Director, is responsible for ensuring all player evaluations and stocking of teams is done in a proper and equitable manner.

**Section 3:** All softball players in the 8U-12U age groups are required to participate in the evaluation process. Evaluations are not conducted for the fall program.

**Section 4:** The league will provide coaches with a roster and evaluation form for all players to be evaluated. Coaches will use this form to rate each player. Coaches may choose their own rating scale for each of the skills being evaluated: Throwing, Catching, Fielding, Running

and Hitting. Coaches will finalize their evaluation form by entering a final score for each evaluated player with a range of 9.999 (most talented) to 1.001

**Section 5:** Coaches must use the league software and enter the final evaluation scores for all players evaluated.

**Section 6:** In age groups where players are not evaluated, coaches shall review and adjust the players' scores in the league provided software. Previous year's draft scores are available to coaches. Scores should be adjusted based on a coach's knowledge of the players, previous year's all-star eligibility along with other known factors. If a coach does not have adequate knowledge to adjust a player's score, the previous year's draft score should be used.

**Section 7:** All scores entered in the league software should be within a range of 9.999 (most talented) to 1.001. All scores should be carried out 3 decimal places to provide for adequate player separation.

**Section 8:** Once each coach has entered their draft/evaluation scores, the Age Group Director will calculate a pre-draft player score. In the final calculation, the highest and lowest scores will be thrown out and remain scores averaged to determine the final draft score.

**Section 9:** The Age Group Director shall review the pre-draft scores. Players who did not attend evaluations will be given a score of 1.001 by the AGD. The AGD should make an effort to obtain an estimate of the playing ability for each player who does not have a draft score and share it with the coaches in an effort to assign a reasonable draft score. This should complete the pre-draft scores which will then be distributed to the coaches in preparation for the pre-draft meeting.

**Section 10:** A pre-draft meeting will be held prior to the official team draft to review player scores. The Age Group Director will provide each coach with a player roster indicating their pre-draft score. These scores will be reviewed by the coaches and Age Group Director for accuracy. Any adjustments to the player score must be agreed on by all coaches and the Age Group Director is responsible for any score adjustments.

**Section 11:** The AGD shall complete any player score adjustment and provide the coaches with the player final ranking report at least 3 days prior to the scheduled team draft.

#### **Article 4 – Selection of Regular Season Teams**

**Section 1:** The selection of teams will be the responsibility of the coaches from the respective league and administered by the Age Group Director and League Commissioner or member of the Executive Committee.

**Section 2:** Softball age groups 8u – 12u will conduct their team selection (draft) using the draft software provided by the league. Softball teams in 18u will be selected by the 18u AGD and Softball Commissioner.

**Section 3:** Coaches are provided with a roster of players with their final draft ranking at least 3 days prior to the scheduled team draft.

**Section 4:** The Age Group Director shall determine the 1<sup>st</sup> round draft order by having the coaches participate in a blind draw. The draft order drawing should be held at least 3 days prior to the scheduled team draft. Team name selections will be determined by a blind draw.

**Section 5:** The Age Group Director shall assign the team name and 1<sup>st</sup> round draft order to each coach in his league using the league provided draft software. He should also review his league rosters for completion prior to the draft to ensure that all players are listed.

**Section 6:** With Coach Assignments, team assignments, first round draft order and players rosters complete, the Age Group Director shall set a date for player drafts with the coaches. It is mandatory that all coaches attend. The AGD shall work with the coaches to set a draft date that will allow all to attend, if possible. If not possible, coaches must send a representative.

**Section 7:** The Age Group Director shall use the league provided software to conduct the draft. With all coaches present, the Age Group Director shall access the draft software, import the league players into the program, and begin the draft.

**Section 8:** The player draft will begin by following the 1<sup>st</sup> round drawn order. Subsequent draft order for each round is determined by the total score for each team at the end of each round based on the cumulative draft score of the players selected. Each round, the team with lowest cumulative draft score will pick first, followed by the remaining teams in ascending order by cumulative score (i.e., the team with highest cumulative score at the end of each round will pick last in the next round). This process will be followed until there are no longer enough players remaining to evenly stock all of the teams.

**Section 9:** The final round order is determined like previous rounds. However, if there are not enough kids to be evenly distributed to all of the teams, coaches may pass on a player until there are an equal number of teams left as players. When this occurs, coaches must select a player.

**Section 10:** Coaches' kids must be taken in the round in which they are assigned.

**Section 11:** Players who were assigned a draft score of 1.001 (indicating players who were not at evaluations or could not be scored) cannot be selected until the last round. If there are more 1.001 rated players than teams available in the last round, those players may be taken in the next to last round.

**Section 12:** After all players have been drafted, it is at each coach's discretion to make one trade. The trade must be for a player of the same draft round as designated by the official draft selection sheet furnished by the league director. A player may only be traded once and coach may not trade more than one player. All trades must be concluded at the time of the draft, no exceptions.

**Section 13:** It must be remembered that this program is for all players, not just those few selected to participate in post-season tournament play. Accordingly, no steps may be taken to circumvent the spirit of these procedures in order to "stack" a league for tournament play. Any violation of these procedures through gentleman's agreements, "protection" of players, etc., when brought to the attention of the League Commissioner or President will result in the invalidation of the team selection process. As a matter of policy, our league does not recognize the protection of players to assure the likelihood of coaches being able to select their assistant coaches. Any agreements made to protect assistant coaches are of a "Gentleman's Agreement" nature and will not be upheld by the league.

**Section 14:** For the fall program, and spring softball ages 4-6, team selection will be conducted by the Age Group Director using the league provided software. Teams will be evenly divided as much as possible. Spring softball teams in 18u will be selected by the 18u AGD and Softball Commissioner.

In the fall program, the AGD may honor parent's requests for kids to play together as long as those requests are not a detriment to other teams. Parent requests are not guaranteed.

**Section 15:** In the event a player is added after the draft has occurred, the Age Group Director will assign the player to the team with least number of players. If several teams are equal, the coach who would have had next choice in the draft has the first option.

**Section 16:** Any exception to the written rules of the draft and evaluation requirements must be presented to the By-Laws and Rules Committee and approved by the Board of Directors.

## **Article 5 – Selection of Post Season Teams and Coaches**

**Section 1:** The League Director and Commissioner or Board Representative shall be responsible for conducting the all-star team selection in accordance to the following rules. All coaches must attend the all-star draft. If they cannot attend, they must send an assistant coach.

**Section 2:** Parents must complete an All-Star Commitment form before their child can be nominated. It is the responsibility of the coach to obtain the commitment form and submit this form along with his nominations to the league director prior to the selection meeting

**Section 3:** Coaches will nominate players from their team or players from other teams they feel deserves consideration to an all-star team. Each coach is required to nominate no less than one and no more than nine players for consideration. The coach has sole responsibility for determining the process for his selections.

**Section 4:** Coaches **must** furnish statistics for any player from their team nominated for All Stars and must be able to provide information as to why he/she feels a player is worthy of nomination.

**Section 5:** Coaches should remember that participation on a post-season team is an honor and is representative of players' hard work and ability. The league will not allow any attempts by coaches to "stack" teams, make deals or otherwise circumvent the procedures or spirit of the process.

**Section 6:** The process will begin with the Age Group Director taking the coach nominations and listing them on the board (or list). Statistics may be included, but no discussion about players is to take place at this time. Once all players nominated are listed and the Age Group Director verifies that each player has a signed commitment form, the team selection process shall proceed as follows;

1. **Round One:** Coaches shall, by secret ballot select 12 players for nomination to the All-star team. These selections will be collected by the Age Group Director and counted. All players nominated by unanimous vote will make the All-star team and their names will be removed from the list.

2. **Round Two:** Coaches will discuss each of their remaining nominees. They may include statistics, thoughts on players ability, attitude, etc. Once each coach has had the opportunity to discuss their players, a second ballot will be completed with each coach nominating 12 players from the names on the list. The Age Group Director will tally the ballots. All players with unanimous votes shall be assigned to the All-star team. If the team is not complete, then the players with the most votes shall be added to the team until it is complete with 12 players.
3. **Coach Selection:** Once the All-star Team is selected, any coach with a player on the team may place his name in nomination for the head coach position. All coaches shall submit to the Age Group Director a single vote for coach. The Age Group Director and League Representative are required to submit a vote. The votes are tallied and the winning coach is named Head Coach of the All-star Team.

**Section 7:** Selected head coaches shall name three assistant coaches from league coaches, parents and/or, former assistant coaches at his discretion.

**Section 8:** Age Group Directors will name alternate players as the players with the highest vote totals after all teams have been selected. These players do not practice or participate unless called up by a team. Each All-Star team shall have a minimum of twelve (12) players on their roster until the rosters are certified at the Affiliation Credentialing meeting. The head coach must fill any vacancy prior to certifying the all-star roster by calling up the first alternative. Filling a vacancy after all-star rosters are certified is the responsibility of the head coach in accordance with the Affiliation rules. However, any player added must be an official alternate.

## **Article 6 – Game Day Responsibilities**

**Section 1:** Coaches are responsible for ensuring that game day tasks are completed, all safety equipment is available, equipment is stored after use, and that the fields and surrounding areas are safe and clean. Coaches should encourage parents to participate in keeping the playing fields and surrounding areas free from trash and safety hazards. Any safety issues that cannot be handled by the coach must be reported to the Field Director or Age Group Director as soon as possible. Coaches are representatives of the park and have the responsibility and authority to make sure the environment is safe for the kids. Coaches have the responsibility to address any safe, dangerous or inappropriate behavior both on the field and the surrounding areas from players, parents, or siblings.

**Section 2:** The first two teams to play on a field in any given day must prepare the field for play. This includes lining the field and ensuring the proper playing equipment and game equipment is ready for use. The last two teams to play must secure all equipment, brush the field, and turn off the lights. Repeated failure to perform these duties will be grounds for removal as a head coach. For all subsequent games played in a given day, the home and visiting teams are responsible for lining the fields for their game. All teams are required to clean up the fields and dugouts after each game.

**Section 3:** The home team will occupy the first base side dugout and supply the official scorekeeper. The home team shall ensure the field is lined prior to the game. Each team shall supply one official game ball.

**Section 4:** The visiting team will occupy the third base dugout and is responsible for the working the scoreboard and PA system. The visiting team shall ensure that all equipment is safe and ready for play. Each team shall supply one official game ball.

**Section 5:** Official scorebooks will be provided for each team. If an official book cannot be found, the coach shall provide a page out of his/her scorebook. An official record **MUST** be kept. Each team shall provide their line up to the scorekeeper at least 15 minutes prior to game time. The scorekeeper shall enter the line-up, note the team names, and indicate visitor or home team. Official game time should also be noted at the top of the page. The umpire's number or name should be indicated on the bottom of the page. During the game, the scorekeeper shall note all substitutions, record outs, runs, innings played, injuries, protests and balls and strikes. The scorekeeper may not get involved in the game unless requested by the head umpire.

**Section 6:** The scoreboard and PA announcer shall work with the scorekeeper to keep the scoreboard operation accurate. The scoreboard is easy to operate. Be attentive in recording each ball, strike, and so on (the scorekeeper can assist you). Do not let children "play" with the scoreboard. If PA equipment is available the announcer should announce each batter, score and provide play by play if capable. They should also announce each of the teams' sponsors during the game. Do not allow children to "play" with the announcing equipment. At the end of the last game, the scoreboard equipment, PA equipment shall be returned to the equipment dugout. For consistent operation of the scoreboards and PA equipment, the equipment must be kept dry and stored properly.

## **II. Common Rules of Play**

OMYBS Park Rules supersede all other rules during regular season play. Post-season teams are required to play under all of the specific affiliation rules. With the exceptions listed in this rule book, the following are the rules books that govern play during the regular season.

USSSA Official Softball Rules will govern the rules for softball play.

### **1:00 – The Playing Field**

**1:01** Field distances shall be regulation size or appropriate for the age group participating.

**1:02** Coaches are responsible for insuring that the playing field is safe for use. Unsafe or inadequate conditions should be reported to the Field Maintenance Director.

### **2:00 – Equipment**

**2:01** Players playing the pitching position in the 6u and 8u age groups must wear a Game Face or similar face shield, or a batting helmet w/face mask. They must also wear a chest protector.

### **3:00 – Re-Entry Substitutions**

**3:01** Coaches shall be permitted free substitutions of players in defensive positions.



**3:02** In the event a player is injured or becomes ill during a game, the player can be taken out of the lineup without being charged as an out when his/her time at bat comes up. If the player is taken out of the lineup due to injury, the player may not return to the game. If a player is in the line-up and refuses to bat when his/her time comes up, the player is out. Once a player has been placed in the line-up, he cannot be removed from the game except for injury or an excused absence, which shall be agreed upon by the coaches. Any team caught trying to fake an injury to better secure a victory or for any reason will automatically forfeit the game. Any player ejected will take an out at his/her turn at bat.

#### **4:00 – Manager and Coaches**

**4:01** Head Coaches must agree to attend evaluations and pre-season practice, workdays, team drafts and all other coach related functions. In the event coaching clinics are conducted prior to the opening of the season, they will attend unless illness or employment interferes with the schedule. If a head coach is unable to attend they should send an assistant coach.

**4:02** Each coach is responsible for (a) appointing a team parent to work with the league and (b) to assist in obtaining a team sponsor. This should be coordinated with the Activities Director.

**4:03** A coach should conduct him or herself in such a manner as to always be an example of sportsmanship. Coaches and assistant coaches are required to sign the Coaches Code of Conduct Agreement. Coaches/Assistants/Parents should not engage in the questioning of the umpires calling of balls and strikes. Coaches who constantly argue with umpires calls will be subject to expulsion by the umpires.

**4:04** If a coach or assistant coach is expelled from a game, he/she must notify the League Commissioner, President, and League Director within 48 hours of the expulsion and request a conference to discuss the events. Failure to contact the League Commissioner, President and League Director to set-up a conference within 48 hours will result in additional current season penalties. If a second expulsion occurs, the coach will be automatically expelled from his/her coaching responsibilities for the duration of the current season. If a coach is expelled from a game and is asked to leave the park and refuses, the coach is automatically expelled from his/her coaching responsibilities for the duration of the current season. **There is no appeal.** \*\* For the purpose of this rule, expulsion from a game by an umpire includes being removed from the field of play and/or confined to the bench for the duration of the game.

**4:05** The league will provide a coach's evaluation form or on-line survey each year. The evaluations will be used as input for coach selections during the next year.

**4:06** The Softball Commissioner and/or League Director may suspend a Coach for infractions of rules or conduct. A suspended Coach shall have the right to appeal such suspension to the Board of Directors of the Association at a special meeting called as promptly as possible and the decision of the Board shall be final.

#### **5:00 – Regulation Games (See Age Group Specific Rules)**

**5:01** Regular season games shall be played under age group specific time limits or age group specific innings, whichever comes first.

**5:02** League Championship games will be played under the age group specific innings limit.

## **6:00 – Pitching Rules (See Age Group Specific Rules)**

## **7:00 – Forfeiture, Appeals and Protests**

**7:01** In the event a game is protested, the coach protesting the game must notify the umpire in charge, the opposing coach, and the official scorekeeper that a protest has been issued before the next pitch is thrown after the incident causing the protest. The official scorekeeper shall indicate the reason for the protest, date/time and ensure the official scorebook is secure.

**7:02** The League Commissioner will ask the umpires involved in a protest and the other coach to submit a written report of the protested game to him within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt of the written protest. There is a **\$100** protest fee required from the protesting coach, payable at the time of the protest. This fee shall be given to the official scorekeeper for safekeeping and will be refunded should the protest be upheld.

**7:03** The League Commissioner shall select a protest committee made up of three (3) members who are not involved in the league in which the protest is being made. The League Commissioner shall chair this committee and shall not have a vote. Upon review of the written reports, the protest committee shall rule on the protest. The decision will be communicated to both coaches and umpires involved within forty-eight (48) hours of the decision. The League Commissioner shall handle all protests as soon as possible in order to eliminate delays in making up the protest game.

**7:04** No team shall forfeit a game solely because it cannot provide eight players for a game. The game shall be played with the deficient team fielding all members possible. A team with less than eight (8) players shall submit a blank in its batting order for each player less than eight (8) in a place selected by the coach, and that team shall be credited with an out at each occurrence where each blank would come up to bat.

## **8:00 – Schedules/Games**

**8:01** The league Scheduling Director will be responsible for forming league practice and game schedules.

**8:02** In the spring, the league will provide 14 games for each team, excluding tournaments. Typically, each team shall be assigned one weekday and one weekend day game. In the fall, teams will be assigned 7 games, excluding tournaments, typically on Sunday afternoon for 12U and below. The 18U schedule will be determined by the Scheduling Director, 18U AGD, and the Softball Commissioner.

**8:03** Game schedules will be made as fair and equitable among all teams as possible.

**8:04** Coaches may not decide to cancel or reschedule a scheduled game. All game cancellations are the responsibility of the Field Director or League Commissioner. Coaches who cancel or reschedule games will incur a forfeit for that game.

**8:05** The scheduling of practice games, additional practices or any field usage must be done in writing directly to the Scheduling Director.

**8:06 Inclement Weather:** When rain has created doubt as to whether the game shall be played, the Field Director/President shall determine if conditions will permit the game to be played. Their decision is final. The field director shall notify the League Directors of cancellation of play and the League Directors will notify the coaches in their league. Once a game has begun, it is the responsibility of the umpire to determine field conditions and whether a game shall continue.

**8:07** Where practical, all games shall be played to completion. The time limit shall begin with the scheduled game time or 15 minutes after the completion of the previous game (whichever is later) and continue until the last out of the last complete inning. A new inning begins the instant the last out of the previous inning is made. Official game time shall be kept by the umpire or his designated representative. The starting time of each game should be recorded and announced by the scorekeeper. If the game is tied at the end of regulation time and both teams have batted an equal number of innings played, the game shall be decided using the International Tie Breaker.

**8:08** In the event of rained-out games or any other rescheduled or make-up games, the League Commissioner shall have the responsibility of scheduling the make-up games, and these rescheduled games shall take preference over any practice sessions. Rained out games shall be made up at the earliest date possible.

**8:09** In the event a game is called during actual play, the game shall be rescheduled in compliance with Section 3, Article 1 Games. Upon restart of the game, play shall resume at the point it was halted. This includes runs and outs. The official scorekeeper has the responsibility of recording all statistics at the time the game is called. This is to include, but not limited to, the number of innings pitched by both pitchers, the score, the number of outs, the official line-ups of both teams, the number of balls and strikes on the current batter and the players on base and the bases they are on. The official score keeper should then make the two coaches aware of all the statistics and obtain their approval.

**8:10** After this is done, the official score keeper should then deliver this information to the League Director.

**8:11** The mercy rule shall be in effect for all age groups 8u and above. If a team is leading its opponent by at least 12 runs at the end of 3 innings, or 10 runs at the end of 4 innings, or 8 runs at the end of 5 innings, the game shall be terminated and the team in front declared the winner.

## **9:00 – Special Rules**

**9:01** Games starting times, player entrance into the game and pitcher-innings pitched must be recorded by the official score keeper in the official score book. The scorekeeper's book is the only scorebook to be used by the league. It is up to the coach to determine the accuracy of the entries after each game. Coaches of each team should keep the opposing team's scoring in a scorebook. Official lineups must be given to the opposing coach before the game commences.

**9:02** The coach shall submit a batting order line-up which shall include all team members which are present, regardless of the number. The batters shall appear at bat in turn as they appear on the line-up such that no batter shall have a second turn at bat prior to all players having previously batted at least once. This sequence shall continue throughout the game. This rule shall not alter other rules of baseball, such as the number of outs constituting an

offensive half of an inning, nor shall it affect the fact that only nine defensive players shall take fielding positions. A player who arrives after the start of a regulation game can only be added to the batting order of his/her team at the end of that order or originally as presented to the scorekeeper.

**9:03** All coaches shall be required to play all players on defense a minimum period covering six (6) complete "outs" in any game which requires five (5) or more innings to complete and a minimum of three (3) complete "outs" in any game under (5) innings. Penalty for violation is forfeit of the game. Exceptions are granted for benched players or players ejected by an umpire. Coaches are encouraged to rotate players at all positions and to provide instruction and teach fundamentals to all kids and different skill levels. The purpose of the recreational league is to give each kid the opportunity to experience play and develop skills at each position. This policy is recommended, but not required for 18U teams due to the fact that they often play multiple games and pitchers and catchers may need rest.

**9:04** In ages 4-6, coaches are required to play all players on defense up to a maximum of 12 players. For teams with more than 12 players, the substitution rules shall apply. Teams shall field regular infield positions, additional players must play in the outfield, 20 feet behind the base paths.

**9:05** In ages 4-14, head first sliding into a base is not permitted and the runner shall be declared out. Head first sliding back to a base is permitted.

## **10:00 – Teams**

**10:01** In the regular season, teams, when possible, shall not exceed a maximum of 12 players for 6u and 8u and 11 players for 10u and up.

**10:02** In post-season play, teams shall consist of 12 players as long as this rule meets league affiliation requirements.

## **11:00 – All-Star Tournament Teams**

**11:01** For Softball, OMYBS will be affiliated with USSSA for post-season play.

**11:02** The League Director and League Commissioner shall be responsible for administering the selection process of All-Star players in accordance with the rules. All documents and records regarding all-stars selection must be maintained by the League Director until post-season play has completed and be prepared to supply this information to league or association officials upon request.

**11:03** All-Star nomination and selections shall take place no sooner than two weeks prior to completion of regular season play. All Star practice shall begin upon completion of the post season tournament, no earlier.

**11:04** The parents of all Softball players interested in competing in post season play are required to complete and sign an All-Star Commitment form. This form must be presented to the League Director prior to the draft. A player may not be placed into nomination without this form on hand, no exceptions.

**11:05** All players who wish to be nominated for All-Star consideration must make known any vacation or other plans that will interfere with All-Star practice or games. Coaches must

indicate these plans during the nomination process. Failure to do so can eliminate said player from All-Star participation the following year. The exception to this rule will be absences due to family illness or death.

**11:06** Players who quit, are removed or fail to meet the participation requirements of all-star teams will be excluded from participation the following season. The exception of this rule will be absences due to family illness or death. Coaches must notify the League Director or Commissioner if a player fails to meet their commitment.

**11:07** Head Coaches are required to adhere to Affiliation rules in regard to the management of their post-season team. The Head Coach is responsible for ensuring their team is credentialed properly and meets all requirements of the Affiliating body for post-season play.

**11:08** Coaches, players and parents are representatives of OMYBS. The purpose of post – season play is for the kids to participate in a fun and competitive extended season. Inappropriate behavior by any coach, player or parent may result in the exclusion from participation the following season.

## **12:00 – Player Eligibility**

**12:01** OMYBS provides youth ages 4-18, including those with disabilities the opportunity to play.

**12:02** Softball age groups are combined into leagues for ages 6 and under, 8 and under, 10 and under, 12 and under, 14 and under and 18 and under. Youth leagues for age 4 are typically combined boys and girls.

**12:03** For Softball, league age is determined by the age of the child on January 1<sup>st</sup>. For example, if a child at age 8 a registration, but is/will be age 9 on January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year, the child shall be considered as a league age 9 at registration.

**12:04** For softball, a parent may request that their child play up or down in a different age group. This is not encouraged, but will be considered on an individual case basis. The decision to approve a play up or down request rests with the OMYBS Executive Committee.

**12:05** No registrations for play in the spring and fall programs of OMYBS will be accepted after the draft for each respective league has occurred, or in the case of fall leagues if no draft is held, after the distribution of teams by the League Director. Appeals must be presented in writing to the OMYBS Executive Committee for consideration and any decision for granting an exception to this rule rests solely with the Executive Committee.

**12:06** To be eligible for OM Softball All Star consideration, players must not have missed more than three games during the regular season (one game for those who participate on School Softball Teams before joining their regular season team). Tournament games are excluded from this rule. In the event a player misses more than the allotted games, the League Director has the discretion to make exceptions if any of the absences were for special circumstances such as, but not limited to, school/religious related activities, medical issues/emergencies, family emergencies, parental disciplinary actions, etc. Absences above the allotted numbers must be determined to be excusable prior to the All-Star selection meeting. NOTE: Players may play in other sanctioned softball events and still be eligible, provided they do not miss more than three games as stated above.

**12:07** Players are expected to participate in league scheduled practices. No player will be penalized for not attending extra practices, but all players should make every effort to attend all practices. Players or the Parents of Players not showing an adequate interest in the team may be dropped from the team at the coach's discretion. However, the coach must make his/her intent to take such action known to the League Director and League Commissioner and receive their approval prior to removing the player from the team. No Registration Money will be refunded. Coaches may hold out players for disciplinary reasons for one game. The coach must contact the League Commissioner or League Director prior to the game and receive their approval before holding any player out. Once approved, the coach must notify the opposing coach prior to the first pitch. No player may be denied access to his/her team bench or held out of participating in any game more than once without a written letter to the League Commissioner explaining why such action is warranted and approval from the League Commissioner granted.

### **13:00 – Birth Certificates**

**13:01** Birth Certificates are not required to be shown for proof of age during the registration for regular season play. However, the Board may request proof of age at any time.

**13:02** Birth Certificates will be required for tournament and post season play by USSSA and other sanctioning bodies.

### **14:00 – Player Registration**

**14:01** The league will hold open player registration prior to start of each season. Players must have a completed registration on file before they will be placed on a team.

**14:02** No registrations for play in the spring and fall programs of OMYBS will be accepted after the draft for each respective league has occurred, or in the case of fall leagues if no draft is held, after the distribution of teams by the League Director. Appeals must be presented in writing to the OMYBS Executive Committee for consideration and any decision for granting an exception to this rule rests solely with the Executive Committee.

**14:03** Full refunds will be provided to players prior to league drafts commencing. Once drafts commence but prior to a player's first game, a partial refund will only be provided for medical reasons (i.e. broken bone, etc.). The registration fee amount will be refunded to the player in these circumstances with OMYBS retaining the field development fee to cover cost of uniforms and other administrative costs. No refunds are allowed once games begin. All refunds requests must be in writing, include a medical excuse from a physician, and shall require approval of the applicable AGD and at least one Executive Board Member. **Exceptions and Notes:** The commencement of drafts serves as a specific time when refunds shall be limited and applies to all players regardless of whether an age group participates in a draft. An exception to this policy shall be made for players who are named to an area school team (ex. school baseball team). A full refund shall be provided in these circumstances with proper approval. If no field development fee was paid, then OMYBS shall retain \$60 and refund the remaining registration fee.

### **15:00 – Selection of Players**

**15:01** OMYBS shall allow any player to be registered to play with the league without regard to boundaries, unless otherwise determined by affiliation and approved by the Board of Directors.

**15:02** OMYBS shall adhere to policies and procedures that allow coaches to select teams using a fair and equitable draft system and all coaches will be insured equal opportunity in drafting players. For the fall program, league officials shall draft teams in a manner that is fair and equitable.

### **16:00 - League Registration**

**16:01** For Softball, the league shall register its teams and players with USSSA Softball in accordance with its policy and procedures. It is the responsibility of the Softball Commissioner to ensure the league is properly registered.

### **17:00 – Team Sponsors**

**17:01** All teams in the league will be required to provide a team sponsor. Team sponsorships cost \$150. The sponsor will be given a team plaque and their company name will be placed on the web site. Team sponsors will be announced at games when possible.

### **18:00 – Admission to Games**

**18:01** The league shall not charge any fee for admission to regular season games. Post-season games and tournament fees shall be at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

### **19:00 – League Tournaments**

**19:01** Each softball team in the age group (8U – 18U) shall compete in a year-end league tournament culminating in a League Championship on Championship Saturday. League Tournaments will be single elimination unless otherwise determined by the League Commissioner.

**19:02** Regular season records will determine tournament seeding, with the exception of the 6 year old age group which will have a blind draw for their tournament brackets. The higher seed will be the home team in all tournament games. In the 6 year old age group, home team will be determined by a coin toss. For purposes of final regular season records, each team with a tie will be awarded  $\frac{1}{2}$  (one-half) a win towards their overall winning percentage. NSA Rules govern tie breakers.

**19:03** If two teams are tied, the team that defeated the other is the winner (situation A).

**19:04** If three teams are tied: If one of the three teams is 2-0 in games against the others, that team is the winner. If all three teams are 1-1 against each other, the team with the least number of runs allowed (using a maximum of 10 runs per game) in games against each other is the winner. If two of these teams tie, return to situation A for these two teams. If the three teams are still tied, then the team with the most number of runs scored against each other is the winner. If two of these teams are still tied, return to situation A.

**19:05** If four or more teams are tied the win/loss record within this group of teams determines the winner. If teams are still tied, then the team with the least number of runs allowed (max 10 per game) in games against each other is declared the winner. If teams are still tied, the team with the most runs allowed against each other is the winner. If two teams are still tied, return to situation A

**19:06** Circumstances outside these guidelines must be approved by the Executive Committee.

**19:07** No team will be allowed to pick up players in the League Championship tournament unless the player is unable to participate due to a medical condition documented by a physician's excuse. Coaches should inform their parents of tournament week at their parent meeting prior to the season starting.

**19:08** All league Championship games will be played without a time limit. Ages 12U and below shall be 6 innings. Tournament games will be played with time limits. Mercy rules are in effect.

## **2011 Alabama USSSA – OMYBS Softball Rules**

**Play shall be in accordance with the official rulebook of USSSA and the specific age group rules provided below. These rules are defined by Alabama USSSA and are the standard for most NSA parks. Any exceptions for OMYBS are identified as such below.**

NOTE: OMYBS Softball is working to mirror USSSA rules in an effort to allow our umpires to be consistent and to create more opportunities to play against teams from other parks. These rules will govern all games between Oak Mountain teams with no exceptions. Coaches may not agree to waive any rule. If there is a rule discrepancy during a game against a team from another park, the home park's rule will prevail.

If a rule is not covered below, please refer to the 2010 NSA Rulebook.

### **6U:**

**6U - 1 TIME LIMIT:** Each game shall last 1 hour and 20 minutes (80 minutes) or 3 innings, whichever occurs first. Due to this league being a developmental league only, NO SCORE IS TO BE KEPT BY EITHER TEAM; therefore, there is no tie breaker.

**6U - 2 NUMBER OF PLAYERS:** Every player on the team will bat and play a defensive position during the game. Each team must have a minimum of 6 players to begin a game.

**6U - 3 BORROWING PLAYERS:** If a team has less than 6 players (see rule #2), players may be borrowed from another team in order to satisfy the minimum number of players requirement. ANY BORROWED PLAYER MAY ONLY BE USED ONE TIME PER TEAM DURING THE SEASON. THE BORROWED PLAYER MUST BAT LAST IN THE LINE-UP. Players can not be borrowed for any other reason than to satisfy the minimum number of players requirement.

**6U - 4 GAME TARDINESS:** A tardy player must be in the dugout prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> batter of the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning to be allowed to play. If a coach knows that a player is going to be tardy to a game, he/she must notify the opposing coach prior to 1<sup>st</sup> pitch of the game. The tardy player will be added to the end of the batting order upon arrival.

**6U - 5 BATTER RULE:** All players from each team will bat in each inning. On the last batter, play is over when an out is made or a player in possession of the ball touches home plate. It is the responsibility of the offensive coach to advise the defensive coach of the last batter prior to the



first pitch to the last batter. If the offensive coach fails to advise the defensive coach and umpire(s) of the last batter, the defensive coach may take the at-bat or replay the at-bat.

**6U - 7 OVERTHROWS:** Runners are allowed to advance to the base they are going plus one base on an overthrow to any base (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, & home plate). Runners advance at their own risk and are subject to be putout.

**6U - 8 PITCHING:** A coach-pitcher will be used in this league and he/she will pitch from no closer than 25 feet from the rear of home plate. Each batter will be pitched a maximum of 5 pitches from the coach-pitcher. In the event the batter does not put the pitched ball into play, the ball will be placed on a batting tee for the batter to hit. The batter must hit the ball off of the batting tee.

**6U - 9 INFIELD PARTICIPATION:** Each player must play at least three (3) consecutive outs in an infield position (1B, 2B, SS, 3B, Pitcher or Catcher) prior to the end of the fourth inning unless a player's parent objects to their participation as an infielder. The parent objection will be documented in writing and placed on file with the League Director.

**6U-10 STOPPAGE OF PLAY:** Play is stopped when an umpire calls time. A defensive player is permitted to "face off" the lead runner and call time. In addition, play is stopped when a defensive player (1) has possession of the ball, (2) is in the pitching circle, and (3) the umpire calls time.

#### RULES OF NOTE

**Section 1:** FIELD DIMENSIONS: The bases will be set at a 55-feet distance. An arc measuring 6 feet from the rear of home plate should be placed from foul line to foul line in front of the plate. Any batted ball must travel at least to the arc to be considered a fair ball.

**Section 2:** BALL SIZE: A regulation 10-inch RIF softball will be used.

**Section 3:** BASE STEALING: Runners are not permitted to steal.

**Section 4:** INFIELD FLY RULE: The infield fly rule does not apply.

**Section 5:** MULTIPLE PUT OUTS: Double and triple plays are allowed.

**Section 6:** BUNTING: There is no intentional bunting allowed.

## 8U Coach Pitch:

- 8CP-1** All players will play on Defense. (Note: USSSA rules state that a maximum of 10 players may play defense in 8U. However, many parks that we will play against in the regular season allow all players on the field on defense. This is to increase the opportunity for playing time.)
- 8CP-2** Ten (10) batters are the maximum number of batters that may bat per half inning or until the defense records three- (3) outs, whichever occurs first. The batting order shall be a revolving batting order consisting of ten- (10), eleven- (11), or twelve (12) batters
- o Ten- (10) batters if there are only ten- (10) players present at game time.
  - o Eleven- (11) batters if one- (1) EP is used.
  - o Twelve- (12) batters if both Optional EP'S are used.
- 8CP-3** Definition of an EP (extra player): A team can put up to two (2) extra players in the line-up. These players will bat where placed in the line-up and can substitute freely.
- 8CP-4** The game shall be six (6) innings or 90 minute time limit, when the time limit is up, the teams must finish the inning unless the home team is ahead when the top half of the inning is over.
- 8CP-5** Coach Pitchers will pitch from 35'
- 8CP-6** No stealing. If a player leaves the base before the ball reaches Home Plate she will be called out.
- 8CP-7** Each batter will get 5 pitches, or 3 strikes. If the Batter fouls the 5th pitch she will get another pitch until she hits the ball in fair territory or swings and misses the pitch. Each pitch after the 5<sup>th</sup> pitch will be treated as a 5<sup>th</sup> pitch.
- 8CP-8** There are NO automatic two outs with the last batter. There must be an out on the lead runner. Touching home plate constitutes getting the lead runner out.
- 8CP-9** The defensive team shall have no more than 6 infielders. **(A player catcher is required to be one of the 6 infielders)** All other available players shall be positioned in the outfield at least 10 feet behind the baselines until the ball is batted
- 8CP-10** Pitching coaches must make every effort not to interfere with the defensive team. They should leave the field when the ball is in play, if they can do so without interfering with play.
- 8CP-11** If a thrown or batted ball hits the pitching coach while in fair territory, it is a dead ball. If the pitching coach, in the judgment of the umpire, intentionally interferes with the defensive team, the batter or base-runner shall be called out.
- 8CP-12** The Coach Pitcher may talk to the batter until he/she releases the ball. If the Coach Pitcher talks to the batter after he/she releases the ball then there will be a dead ball-strike called. If the Coach continues to talk to the batter he/she will be removed from the pitching circle and another pitcher will be put in his/her place.
- 8CP-13** A vertical line will be drawn 30 feet from home-plate towards 1st base and from home plate towards 3rd base. No defensive player may play in front of this line before the ball is hit.
- 8CP-14** The Player Pitcher can be moved directly behind 2nd base (10 feet from the base) if the coach chooses to do so.
- 8CP-15** There may be a courtesy runner for the catcher. Last out or any subs on the bench.
- 8CP-16** **The team in the field has the option of : (A) having one defensive coach behind the deepest outfielder or (B) one defensive coach down the foul territory on the first (1<sup>st</sup>) base side and the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) base side. [CLARIFIED 6/12/09]**

## **8U Player Pitch:**

Note: Half of the 8u league games will be player pitch games. League games are the games against other OM teams that count toward league standings, and do not include any interlocking games.

- 8PP-1** All players will play on Defense. (Note: USSSA rules state that a maximum of 10 players may play defense in 8U. However, many parks that we will play against in the regular season allow all players on the field on defense. This is to increase the opportunity for playing time.)
- 8PP-2** Ten (10) batters are the maximum number of batters that may bat per half inning or until the defense records three- (3) outs, whichever occurs first. The batting order shall be a revolving batting order consisting of ten- (10), eleven- (11), or twelve (12) batters
  - o Ten- (10) batters if there are only ten- (10) players present at game time.
  - o Eleven- (11) batters if one- (1) EP is used.
  - o Twelve- (12) batters if both Optional EP'S are used.
- 8PP-2** Definition of an EP (extra player): A team can put up to two (2) extra players in the line-up. These players will bat where placed in the line-up and can substitute freely.
- 8PP-3** The game shall be six (6) innings or 90 minute time limit, when the time limit is up, the teams must finish the inning unless the home team is ahead when the top half of the inning is over.
- 8PP-4** Coach pitch will be instituted after four walks in a single inning. A hit batter constitutes a walk.
  - o **Once Coach comes in play reverts to “coach pitch” rules. SEE 8U COACH PITCH RULES**
- 8PP-5** A pitcher must be removed from the pitching circle after she has hit 3 batters in a single inning.
- 8PP-6** Three outs end the inning
- 8PP-7** No infield fly rule
- 8PP-8** No Stealing
- 8PP-9** No dropped third strike
- 8PP-10** Pitch from 30'
- 8PP-11** If the 10<sup>th</sup> batter is walked or hit by a pitch then the batter and every base runner will be awarded two (2) bases.

### **OMYBS Rule for 8U Coach pitch and player pitch**

**INFIELD PARTICIPATION:** Each player must play at least three (3) consecutive outs in an infield position (1B, 2B, SS, 3B, Pitcher or Catcher) prior to the end of the fourth inning unless a player's parent objects to their participation as an infielder. The parent objection will be documented in writing and placed on file with the League Director.

## **10U:**

- 10U-1** The game shall be (7) innings or a 90 minute time limit, when the time limit is up, the teams must finish the inning unless the home team is ahead when the top half of the inning is over. If the teams are tied at the end of regulation play, the International Tie Breaker will be used.
- 10U-2** Play ten(10) on Defense and Bat ten(10) (with the option of using one or both EP's) (Note: NSA rules state that a maximum of 9 players may play defense in 10U. However, most parks that we will play against in the regular season allow all players on the field on defense. This is to increase the opportunity for playing time.)
- 10U-3** Ten (10) batters are the maximum number of batters that may bat per half inning or until the defense records three- (3) outs, whichever occurs first. (Note: USSSA rules state that three outs end the inning, in other words, no last batter. However, most parks that we will play against in the regular season use a maximum of 10 batters per half inning.)
- 10U-4** No infield fly rule
- 10U-5** Steal one (1) base per pitch -
- 10U-6** No dropped third strike
- 10U-7** 10U can only steal base at a time (per pitch) but they WILL be allowed to steal home.

### **OMYBS rule for 10u softball**

10U pitchers are only allowed to pitch 2 consecutive innings IN GAMES BETWEEN OAK MOUNTAIN TEAMS. This rule will not be used in games against other parks. Every coach is strongly encouraged to develop pitchers and give these pitchers game experience.

## **12U thru 18U:**

- 12/18U-1** Play by the USSSA Rule Book.
- 12/18U-2** No Metal Cleats allowed

### **Note for 12U, 14U, and 16/18U**

Play 9 on defense.

The inning is over when the defense has recorded 3 outs.

There is no 10<sup>th</sup> batter or last batter rule.

## **The following OMYBS rules apply to all softball age groups**

### **OMS1: NUMBER OF PLAYERS**

Each team must have a minimum of 8 players to begin a game.

Every player on the team will bat and play a defensive position during the game.

### **OMS2: BORROWING PLAYERS (Age groups 8u,10u,12u)**

If a team has less than 9 players, they may borrow players to field up to 9 players. Players may be borrowed from another team in the same age group, who were drafted in the same, or lower, round of the players absent, or from the age group below.

ANY BORROWED PLAYER MAY ONLY BE USED ONE TIME PER TEAM DURING THE SEASON. THE BORROWED PLAYER MUST BAT LAST IN THE LINE-UP AND PLAY IN THE OUTFIELD FOR THE DURATION OF THE GAME.

Players can not be borrowed for any reason other than to field 9 players. No players may be borrowed during the League Championship Tournament.

If a player is asked to substitute for another team, the decision is up to the player with their parents' consent. The player's coach should not discourage any player or their parent from substituting for another team in need of players.

### **OMS3: BATTING ORDER AND SUBSTITUTION**

Teams will bat the entire lineup and have free substitution in defensive positions.

### **OMS4: GAME TARDINESS**

A tardy player must be in the dugout prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> batter of the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning to be allowed to play. If a coach knows that a player is going to be tardy to a game, he/she must notify the opposing coach prior to 1<sup>st</sup> pitch of the game. The tardy player will be added to the end of the batting order upon arrival.

## **Rule Elimination / Clarifications for 2009**

Chin Straps are NOT required but are highly recommended.

The OMYBS "slashing" rule has been removed. Players may square to bunt, then pull back and take a full swing.