

4/14/23

# **OKEEHIEEE SENIOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION, INC. (OSSA)**

## **League Rules**

**OSSA is an ASA Senior Men's organization and follows the rules as set by the Amateur Softball Association of America. Only ground rules and rules not covered by ASA will be included in this document.**

### **GENERAL**

- 1. \*Players shall have reached the age of 55 by the end of the current active season. Winter/summer/fall.**
- 2. Players new to OSSA must be rated before being placed on a team. The OSSA board of directors shall have the final approval of all team rosters with the intent of having all teams as balanced as possible for the goal of promoting maximum safety, sportsmanship, and recreation for all players.**
- 3. \*Players may not participate in league games until regular fees have been paid in full. The number of teams and size of rosters will be determined by OSSA board of directors.**
- 4. A player is considered registered after filling out online registration and code of conduct completely and paying the membership fee.**
- 5. a. All players are to wear jerseys provided. If a player's jersey is unusable, he needs to have it replaced.  
b. Bats are to meet ASA/USA standards. Bats marked "1.20" are deemed to meet league guidelines.**
- 6. c. Softballs are 375 compression and 44 core.**
- 7. No metal spikes.**
- 8. Rainouts prior to first pitch will be determined by the groundskeeper. After the first pitch, the umpire will make the determination. Games that are not regulation due to stoppage and tie games will follow USA rules for completion.**
- 9. \*League games are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting at 9:00 and are nine innings in length. A tenth inning will be played if tied after nine innings. If tied after ten innings, the game will end as a tie. Double-headers due to rainouts or**

postponements will be seven innings in length with no tie-breaker. Batters will start with a one-one count.

10. Teams are to field eleven players. If a team has only ten players they will play a player "short." A team with nine players may "borrow" a player from the opposing team to play defense. According to USA rules, the tenth spot in the batting order of the team borrowing the player shall be deemed an out. A team with less than nine players must forfeit the game.
11. All available players on the team are to be in the batting order. Late arriving players are to be added at the end of the batting order. The manager of the team that has a late arrival must inform the other manager and umpire before the game starts.
12. Players must play defensive innings- four innings of a nine-inning game or three innings of a seven-inning game. Failure to comply to this will result in a forfeiture. \*Opposing manager must point this out to the umpire before leaving the field of play.
13. Players who must leave before the game ends must notify the umpire and opposing manager before the game (unless an emergency occurs). Players who fail to give notice will be considered an out when their time to bat comes. A player who becomes physically unable to play will be removed from the lineup and will not be allowed to reenter that game. Their time at bat will be skipped. No out will be assessed.

## **GAME RULES**

1. Players have the right to run for themselves and can only have a substitute runner if they request one.
2. \*Substitute runners may run only four times during a game. They can substitute at any base where they are needed. See USA rules for other specifics.
3. There is a limit of five runs per inning with the exception of the ninth and tenth innings of regulation games and the seventh inning of double header games which are unlimited.
4. Runners are to avoid contact with the defensive players. The runner must also veer away from the base if the defensive player is making a throw into the base path. The umpire will determine if an infraction has occurred.
5. Sliding into second or third is allowed.
6. **MERCY RULE** - manager of the trailing team has a choice to notify Umpire to invoke mercy rule if trailing by 15 or more runs after 7 innings.
7. Infield fly rule is observed.
8. There is a two-walk limit per inning.
9. If a batted ball touches the infield dirt & continues into the outfield, it is a live ball. An infielder may attempt a put out the batter at 1st base (infielder must have had started the play with their feet in the dirt) . If the infielder makes no play on the

batted ball, the outfielder may not make a play at first, but may make a play on any other base.

10. Outfielders may not field batted balls in the infield. Their momentum may carry them into the infield after making a play on the ball from the outfield grass.
11. For certain designated players (determined prior to game time), another player may run from the backstop when the designated player bats. Any player may be used to run, THIS WILL COUNT AS ONE OF THEIR 4 TIMES.
12. Once a batter has been walked 1 time, this batter may have the option not to be walked again. He must notify the umpire prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> pitch of his at bat.

## **PLAYING FIELD STANDARDS**

1. Field dimensions, etc. are covered in USA rules.
2. A batted ball hitting the protective screen will be considered a dead ball strike. If the batted ball goes beyond the screen and spins back into the screen, it is a “live” ball.

## **MANAGER STANDARDS**

1. See USA rules.
2. Managers are to contact their team members in event of a change in schedules, rain outs, etc.
3. The managers should be familiar with the USA rule book. They should review the OSSA rules with their team.

## **PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Players are responsible for becoming familiar with the USA rules and the code of conduct.
2. Players should not borrow equipment from another player without permission. Any damaged equipment should be replaced.
3. An ejected player will be ineligible to play the next scheduled game. A player ejected a second time will be ineligible to play the next three scheduled games. A third ejection will result in expulsion from the league.
4. Any player who has suggestions to improve the league are to put in writing their suggestions and give it (them) to any of the board members.
5. Players are not to use profanity. The umpire will remove the player and his time at bat will be declared an out. This is to be reported by the umpire to the league president.
6. Only the team manager is to discuss a call or interpretation of rules with the umpire.

Amendments added Winter 2022

**1. Batter will begin with a 1 & 1 Pitch count. Courtesy will be given for 3<sup>rd</sup> strike for pitching screen & FOR FOUL BALL. Example...**

**Called 2<sup>nd</sup> strike / batter hits foul ball /batter hits pitching screen , count is now 1 ball 2 strikes.**

**Batter hits pitching screen or foul on next swing ... Batter receives courtesy. Count remains 2 strikes. 3<sup>RD</sup> STRIKE COURTESY! Next foul ball or hitting pitching screen will result in the batter being called OUT.**

**2. Infielders must start play on the Clay/Dirt. Teams may move 1 infielder to the outfield for any batter at any time. This fielder is now treated as an outfielder and the “Green Grass” rule applies.**

**Player age and Runners from the screen were modified in general rules to reflect winter 2022 changes.**