

2020 Oswego Panther Prowl Official Rules

Revised: July, 21 2019 and Subject to Change

Policies and Procedures

1. Oswego Panther Prowl tournament management will strive to make this tournament the best of your season. If questions or disputes arise about policies or procedures, coaches shall bring them to attention of the Oswego Panther Prowl Tournament Director, Mike Smart. Any interpretation and decision of the Tournament Director shall be final.
2. Please check-in 45 minutes prior to your first game. Documents required for check-in can be found at the bottom of this document.
3. Oswego Panther Prowl will provide an Official Representative of Oswego Panther Prowl for each tournament location. The representative shall be either the Tournament Director or a Site Director.
4. Official brackets and game times are posted on our website (www.oswegobsa.com) and the Oswego Panther Prowl App. Oswego Panther Prowl will use the Oswego Panther Prowl App powered by Tourney Machine for posting tournament schedules, scores and weather updates. It's highly recommended that coaches share the Oswego Panther Prowl App link with their team's players, parents and fans.
5. Team and Individual awards for 1st and 2nd place. Some events may have additional awards. In the event of rain and cancellations, awards are only awarded if Championship Game teams have been established. Awards are only awarded at the park. Under no circumstances will awards be shipped.
6. Teams may start and finish games with eight (8) uniformed and roster players. If a team plays with eight (8) players, the ninth spot in the batting order is an automatic out. If the ninth uniformed and roster player arrives, that player may be interested into the ninth spot of the batting order and the automatic out shall stop. If a team has seven (7) or less uniformed and roster players to start a game, or at any point during the game, the game shall be declared a forfeit and scored 8-0 for seeding purposes.
7. Teams should fill first and third base dugouts on a first come, first served basis, irrespective of home and away designation.
8. The home team for pool games shall be determined by a coin flip, and will keep the official scorebook. Either an umpire or a member of the tournament staff must be present for the flip. For bracket play the higher seeded team will be the home team.
9. No infield practice will be allowed. Teams are allowed to play catch in the outfield and take ground balls in foul territory, if time allows. No team shall do hitting warm up/practice into the fences.
10. Both coaches must sign the official scorecard. It is the responsibility of home team to return the scorecard to the umpires prior to the umpires leaving the field of play. If the umpires leave the field of play prior to receiving the scorecard, the home team MUST return the scorecard to the Oswego Panther Prowl tournament representative.
11. The Tournament Director may modify the number or length of games when necessary due to weather and field conditions.
12. If a tiebreaker is needed to determine playoff teams (wildcards, etc.) the following criteria shall be used:
 1. Overall win-loss record (for the tournament)
 2. Head-to-head (only applies when two teams are involved)
 3. Runs Allowed – Fewest to Most
 4. Run Differential (max of +8 or -8)
 5. Runs Scored – Most to Fewest
 6. Coin Flip
12. If using Pool Play, meaning all teams within a grouping play each other. The 1st Place teams from each pool will be given the first set of seeds based on the criteria in Policy and Procedure #15 and the 2nd place teams from each pool will be given the second set of seeds based, and so forth.
13. Any team that forfeits in pool play may result in team not advancing to championship bracket.
14. If using preliminary play, we will just seed the teams that are advancing using the criteria in Policy and Procedure #15.
15. All teams are required to adhere to local park policies, rules and ordinances. Alcohol and tobacco, and shall not be brought into the confines of the tournament venue. The Head Coach shall be ultimately responsible and accountable for the conduct of the team's players, assistant coaches and spectators.

Roster and Birth Date

20. A player may only be on one roster in any given tournament, regardless of the age division.
21. Team rosters contain personal information such as player date of birth and full name, etc. In the interest of protecting player and coach privacy, rosters can only be viewed by Oswego Panther Prowl staff. Only a Head Coach may ask the Tournament Director about players listed and if they meet the age and/or roster qualification. To protest a player's eligibility, see the policy below.
22. Any Head Coach that would like to formally challenge the eligibility of a player shall make it known to the Tournament Director. Only the Head Coach of a team can formally challenge the age of player. Each Head Coach is allowed ONE (1) Age Challenge per tournament, if that Challenge is won they will receive another and so on. Penalty will be enforced in accordance to USSSA Rules.
23. It is recommended that Head Coaches have all player's birth certificates available at all times. If a player's birth certificate cannot be produced to the tournament director upon request the player will be ruled ineligible.
24. The birthday age cutoff is May 1st.

Playing Rules

Unless otherwise noted herein, the playing rules for Oswego Panther Prowl Tournament will follow in accordance with USSSA National Rules first, then the Official NFHS Baseball rules book.

25. Length of Game

1. Ages 8U-14U will be six (6) innings.
2. Ages 15U and above will be seven (7) innings.

26. Batting Order

1. Straight Nine: Nine (9) players in the batting order and listed on the lineup card. No designated hitter. All player substitutes, subject to NFHS substitution rules (Starter can re-enter into his original spot once, etc.)
2. Extra Hitter: Ten (10) players in the batting order and listed on the lineup card. No designated hitter for 8u-14u events. Free substitution (defensive players) among the ten (10) players listed on the batting order. All player substitutes, subject to NFHS substitution rules (Starter can re-enter into his original spot once, etc.)
3. Continuous batting order: All players in uniform (unless injured) in the batting order and listed on the lineup card. If a late player arrives after the lineup cards are exchanged, the player must be entered into the last spot in the batting order (The player must be listed on the official tournament roster). Free defensive substitution for all players throughout the game.
4. The Head Coach shall declare his lineup choice to the opposing coach and the umpire(s) during the plate meeting prior to each game. Once a declaration is made, it cannot be changed for that game.
5. If a team drops below the number of players in the batting order as determined by the Head Coach and no substitution is available, that spot in the batting order will be determined an out. (Example: Injury, ejection, player having to leave, etc).

28. Pitching Rules and Limitations

- A. Tournament management will not be involved in counting pitches or innings for pitchers.
- B. Oswego Panther Prowl endorses the Pitch Smart Program, developed by USA Baseball and Major League Baseball. This program is a series of practical, age appropriate guidelines to help parents, players and coaches avoid overuse injuries and foster long, healthy careers for young pitchers.

<u>AGE</u>	<u>DAILY MAX PITCHES</u>	<u>REQUIRED REST (PITCHES)</u>					
		<u>0 DAYS</u>	<u>1 DAY</u>	<u>2 DAYS</u>	<u>3 DAYS</u>	<u>4 DAYS</u>	<u>5 DAYS</u>
7-8	50	1-20	21-35	36-50	N/A	N/A	N/A
9-10	75	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A
11-12	85	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A
13-14	95	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A
15-16	95	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+	N/A
17-18	105	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81+	N/A
19-22	120	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81-105	106+

C. A pitcher removed from a game may not re-enter the same game as a pitcher.

D. Balks:

1. 8U No Balks, if an out occurs on the balk, it will be result in dead ball and the base runner will return to the base of origin prior to the balk.
2. 9U one balk warning per pitcher, per inning.
3. 10U and 11U, one balk warning per pitcher per game.
4. 12U and above no balk warnings.

29. Bat Restrictions:

1. Ages 8u-14u: Bats must be stamped 1.15 BPF. 8u-13u will have no weight / drop restriction. All bats must have the USA or USSSA stamp. BBCOR and Wood bats are allowed. 14u Players must use a -5 in accordance with USSSA Rules.
2. Age 15u and above: Bats must be BBCOR certified and all aluminum bats are limited to -3 drop and must be stamped BBCOR Certified per NFHS rule. Wood bats are allowed.
3. Penalty for illegal bats: A batter is in violation of the rule when said batter steps into the batter's box with an illegal bat. An illegal bat must be pointed out to the umpire prior to the first pitch of the next batter, or before all defensive players leave fair territory. Penalty: The batter is out. All outs recorded during the at bat count. Runner(s) will not be allowed to advance on a batted ball. If there are two (2) infractions by the same team during a game, the team's Head Coach will be ejected.

30. Time Limits:

1. The game start time shall begin at the plate meeting. The home plate umpire or base umpire will be the official game time. If the game time is not announced, it is recommended that the Head Coach ask for the official start time.
2. Official Time Limits
 - i. 8U Player Pitch will be 1:30
 - ii. 9U-14U will be 1:40
 - iii. 15U and Up will be 1:50
 - iv. Championship Games will have a time limit of 2:00
3. Expiration of the time limit shall be ruled upon at the moment the final out in a half inning is recorded.
4. An inning may be finished, but a new inning cannot be started after the time limit expires. If the home team is ahead when the time limit is reached, the game is over (a) immediately after the top half of the inning is finished or (b) at the moment the time limit is reached and the home team is ahead in the bottom half of the inning.
5. Games may start up to 30 minutes early. Please have your team ready to play 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time. Please check in to see where you field is at.

6. The Tournament Director reserves the right to modify the time limits in the event of weather or other unforeseen circumstances.

31. **Mercy Rules:** Shall be twelve (12) runs after 3 innings, ten (10) runs after 4 innings, and 8 (8) after 5 innings. Mercy rules shall be in effect for all games, including championship game.

32. **Base Distances and Field Dimensions:**

Age	Pitching (Ft)	Bases (Ft)
8	40	60
9-10	46	65
11-12	50	70
13	54	80
14 and Up	60	90

33. **Game Balls:** Oswego Panther Prowl will provide 3 game balls to start each game, but will not be replenished throughout the game. Teams are expected to retrieve foul balls and home run balls. Teams should always have tournament quality used baseball on hand to toss in if the original game balls are lost or not returned to the umpires.

34. **Metal Spikes and Footwear:** Metal spikes are not allowed for 8U-12U. Metal spikes are allowed for 13, 14, 15, and 16U games.

35. **8U and 9U Only**

8U Division: There will be no leadoffs and stealing will be permitted only after the ball crosses the plate. There will be no dropped third strike, and a runner may only score from third base on a) a batted ball, b) a walk, c) a hit by pitch, or d) if played upon by the pitcher or catcher. No balks will be called.

9U Division: Leadoffs are permitted. There will be no dropped third strike. Umpires shall issue one balk warning per pitcher per inning before enforcing any balk penalty. No infield fly at 8u and 9u.

36. **Extra Inning and Tie Games:**

Pool/Preliminary Play: If a game is tied after the time limit expires or when the regulation innings have been completed the game will be scored as a tie.

Bracket Play: If a game is tied after the time limit expires or when the regulation innings have been completed the following Oswego Panther Prowl tiebreaker will be used. The batter previous to the batter due up will be placed at 2nd base with one out. (Example: The #5 batter in the lineup is due up, the #4 batter will be placed at 2nd base. Regardless if the #4 batter scored the previous inning or was not the last out). The game will follow this rule until a winner can be determined. Every batter will start with a 2-1 count.

37. **Intentional Walks:** There will be no pitches thrown to intentionally walk a batter. Notify the umpire, and the batter will be awarded 1st base.
38. **Courtesy Runners:** Courtesy runners are optional any time for pitcher and catcher with less than two outs. The courtesy runner shall be a player not currently in the lineup or the last batted out. The pitcher or catcher for this rule is the pitcher or **catcher of record (previous inning)**. If the situation arises in the first inning and no outs have been recorded, the last batter in the lineup can run. No out given if runner on base comes up to hit.
39. **Ejections:** If a coach is ejected from a game, he/she will be suspended for the remainder of the game. If a player is ejected during the game, he/she will be suspended for the remainder of the game. Note: If a team is batting their entire lineup and/or no substitutes are available, the name of the ejected player will remain in the batting order and count as an out when the batting order reaches that player.

Any fan that is ejected must leave the park immediately for the remainder of the day and is subject being banned for the tournament. Head Coaches are ultimately responsible for their fans and can face ejections for fan behavior.

Suspensions: If a coach/player is ejected, they're subject to a suspension. Suspensions will be determined by the Tournament Director and will be determined on a case-by-case basis. The Tournament Directors ruling is final.

40. **Game Protest:** Formal protests are not allowed. However, Head Coaches are allowed to request a rules interpretation by the Tournament and/or Site Director. The procedure for getting a rules interpretation is to ask for time, prior to another pitch being thrown and informing the Home Plate Umpire that you would like a rules interpretation by the Tournament and/or Site Director. The Tournament and/or Site Director will come to the field to discuss the ruling. The game clock will NOT be stopped for rule interpretation. Head Coaches may NOT request to stop play for judgment calls. Our primary goal is to make sure that rules are enforced properly, if you have a question please ask an Oswego Panther Prowl Director.
41. **Game Called Due to Weather or Field Conditions:**
6-inning game is considered completed after 3 innings or 2.5 if the home team is leading. 7-inning game is considered completed after 4 innings or 3.5 if the home team is leading.

If the game is not official as described above, the Tournament Director will either (a) suspend the game and arrange to have it resumed where it left off, or (b) cancel the game such that it does not count toward tournament standings. Should a Championship game be interrupted by weather, darkness, or unplayable field conditions, and is not an official game per the above Rule, then the Championship team will be determined by the score at the end of the last full completed inning. If score was tied at the end of the last completed inning or if the first inning of the game is not completed, the higher seed shall be named Champion.

42. **Game Schedules:** Oswego Panther Prowl will release the tournament schedule on Tuesday the week of the tournament by 8pm. It is the responsibility of the Head Coach to double check their team's schedule throughout the week for any changes.
43. **Respect the Game and Sportsmanship:** Oswego Panther Prowl management team emphasizes that our tournaments are about providing high quality tournaments in a positive environment. All adults (coaches, parents and officials) should conduct themselves with this fundamental notion in mind. All teams (coaches, players and fans) should be respectful of the game and their opponents. Unsportsmanlike conduct by anyone will be grounds for removal from the tournament facility.
44. **Rainout Policy:**
1. 0 games started = Full refund minus \$25 administrative fee.
 2. 1 game started = 50% refund of tournament entry and 50% refund of prepaid gate (if tournament has prepaid gate). No refund of spectator admission if taken at the park.
 3. 2 games started = No refunds.
 4. Oswego Panther Prowl will do their best to issue refunds within 30 days of the rainout. However, it may take up to 45 days.

5. Tournament Cancellation by Oswego Panther Prowl will result in a full refund