



**Oswego Baseball & Softball Association
2020 Panther Prowl Baseball Rules
Revised: July 1, 2020 and Subject to Change**



Policies and Procedures

1. OBSA 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 Tournament Director and/or OBSA Director of Operations. Any interpretation and decision of the Tournament Director and/or Director of Operations shall be final.
 2. All teams are required to carry accidental insurance coverage for the players, coaches and manager of their respective teams copy of your league's certificate of insurance is to be provided to the tournament director or designee prior to the first game.
 3. OBSA will provide an Official Representative of OBSA for each tournament location.
Tournament contacts are:
Shaun Currer (8u) - 630-523-3451
Gary Tickle (10u & 14u) - 630-643-0581
 4. Official brackets and game times are posted Tourney Machine:
<https://admin.tourneymachine.com/R75938>
OBSA will use the Tourney Machine App for posting tournament schedules, scores and weather updates. It's highly recommended that coaches share the above Tourney Machine link with their team's players, parents and fans.
- At the conclusion of each game the winning team needs to text the score to:
8u Scores - 630-523-3451
10u & 14u Scores - 630-643-0581
5. Please refer to the Tourney Machine Document Oswego HS Parking for parking locations
 6. Please check-in 45 minutes prior to your first game. Text the tournament contacts that you arrived. Either Shaun Currer or Gary Tickle will be present at the fields all weekend.
 8. 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.
 9. 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 inserted 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.
 10. Teams should fill first and third base dugouts on a first come, first served basis, irrespective of home and away designation.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. Each team's official scorer must verify the runs scored with the home plate umpire and the opposing team after each inning.

14. The Tournament Directors may modify the number or length of games when necessary due to weather, field conditions, or scheduling issues. This includes modifying the time limit if games get backed up.

15. If a tiebreaker is needed to determine playoff teams (wildcards, etc.) the following criteria shall be used:

- a. Overall win-loss record (for the tournament)
- b. Head-to-head (only applies when two teams are involved)
- c. Runs Allowed – Fewest to Most
- d. Run Differential (max of +8 or -8)
- e. Runs Scored – Most to Fewest

16. 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.

17. Any team that forfeits in pool play may result in team not advancing to championship bracket.

18. If using preliminary play, we will seed the teams that are advancing using the criteria in Policy and Procedure #15.

19. All teams are required to adhere to local park policies, rules and ordinances. Alcohol and Tobacco shall not be brought into the confines of the Elementary or High School tournament venue. Personal water jugs for players is acceptable. The Head Coach shall be ultimately responsible and accountable for the conduct of the team's players, assistant coaches and spectators.

20. THERE WILL BE ZERO TOLERANCE FOR VERBAL OR PHYSICAL ABUSE OF THE UMPIRES OR TEAMS YOU YOUR TEAM AND YOUR PARENTS WILL HANDLE THEMSELVES PROPERLY OR THEY WILL BE BANNED FROM THE TOURNAMENT

21. Protests of an umpire's call are not allowed. The umpire and tournament officials shall interpret game rules. Any disputes shall be settled immediately and are considered final.

22. Chanting, singing or other sounds are not permitted while a pitcher is in his motion. Normal "positive" cheering is always encouraged.

Roster and Birth Date

23. Team Roster: 15 player maximum rosters are frozen after the start of the first game. Team rosters must be turned in to the tournament director or designee prior to the start of the first game. No new player can be added to the roster after the tournament begins.

24. 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 OBSA 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.

25. Questions of eligibility must be brought before the tournament directors. Age verifications will be dependent on the birth certificate of the players. Any dispute or protest will be resolved on the spot by a member of the tournament rules committee and that ruling will be final. Only the Head Coach of a team can formally challenge the age of player. No official protest may be filed, except for age challenges.

26. 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. A team found using an ineligible player would forfeit all games the ineligible player played in. The forfeit score will be 7-0 for tiebreaker purposes.

27. The birthday age cutoff is May 1st.

Playing Rules

Unless otherwise noted herein, the playing rules for OBSA Tournament will follow in accordance with USSSA National Rules first, IHSA Baseball Rules and Regulations. The exception and variations to these rules are as follows:

28. Length of Game

Each game will be 6 innings

Exception: CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES AT 13U AND ABOVE WILL BE 7 INNINGS
(WEATHER AND TIME PERMITTING)

29. Time Limits:

- a. The game start time shall begin at the plate meeting.
- b. 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.
- c. Official Time Limits – No New Inning after 1:50 mark
 - a. 8U Player Pitch will be 1:50

- b. 9U-14U will be 1:50
 - c. 15U and Up will be 1:50
- d. A new inning begins if the 3rd out in the previous inning is prior to the 1 hour 50 minute time limit
- e. 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.
- f. If for any reason the game is called, the game will be official after 3-1/2 innings if the home team is ahead (4 innings, otherwise).
- g. If a pool game is tied at the end of 6 innings, it will end in a tie
- h. Bracket play, except for Championship, will have a time 1:50 time limit and if tied when time limit is reached the extra inning format is used. A winner must be determined
- i. Championship game does not have a time limit
- j. If Championship game is tied at end of Regulation
 - a. The first extra inning will be played regular rules, 7th inning for 8u-12u, 8th inning for 13u & up. The 2nd extra inning 8th inning for 8u-12u, 9th inning for 13u & up will be played in the extra inning format.
 - b. Extra Inning Format: Each team starts their at bat with the player who made the last batted out in the previous inning on 2nd base and one out. Each hitter will start with a 1 ball 1 strike count. If the home team goes ahead at any time in the extra inning, the game is over.
- k. Games may start up to 20 minutes early. Please have your team ready to play 20 minutes prior to the scheduled start time. Please check in to see where you field is at.
- l. The Tournament Director reserves the right to modify the time limits in the event of weather or other unforeseen circumstances.

30. Batting Order

- a. Straight Nine: Nine (9) players in the batting order and listed on the lineup card with or without a DH. All player substitutes, subject to NFHS substitution rules (Starter can re-enter into his original spot once, etc.)
- b. Extra Hitter: Ten (10) players in the batting order and listed on the lineup card. A DH can be used. 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.)
- c. 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.
- d. 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

e. 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 skipped (Example: Injury, ejection, player having to leave, etc).

31. Pitching Rules and Limitations

- a. Tournament management will not be involved in counting pitches or innings for Pitchers
- b. A pitcher removed from a game may not re-enter the same game as a pitcher.
- c. Balks: 8u/9u 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. 10u-13u, one balk warning per pitcher per game. 14U and above no balk warnings.
- d. Pitchers receive five (5) warm-up pitches between innings, and eight (8) with a pitching change.
- e. One (1) free trip to the mound is allowed per inning. After the second non-injury trip to the mound in the same inning for the same pitcher, that pitcher must be removed. Trips following a potential injury do not constitute an official visit
- f. Once removed from the mound, a pitcher may not pitch again in the same game.
- g. Each team is responsible for recording the number of innings pitched for its own players, as well as the opposing players.
- h. Inning limits –
 - 9u to 12u - three (3) innings in each game played.
 - 13u and 14u - four (4) consecutive innings in each game played
 - 1 pitch constitutes an inning

*****Use common sense and use pitch counts as your guide and protect these kids arms*****

- i. Curve balls are NOT allowed at 9u-12u age divisions (breaking of wrist, elbow, shoulder). If a curve ball is thrown, the first offense shall result in a team warning, with the pitch nullified. The second offense will result in the pitcher being removed from the mound, but not ejected from the game. Curve balls are allowed at 13u & 14u age divisions. Umpire will determine whether pitch is deemed a breaking ball.
- j. 8u & 10u - Any pitcher hitting two batters in one inning or three batters in one game shall be removed from the pitching position immediately, but will be allowed to reenter the game in a different position.

32. Bat Restrictions

- a. Ages 8u-14u: Bats must be stamped 1.15 BPF. 8u-12u will have no weight drop restriction.
- b. All bats must have the USA or USSSA stamp. BBCOR and Wood bats are allowed
- c. 13u players must use a -3, -5, or -8, anything over that is not allowed.
- d. 14u Players must use a -3 or -5 in accordance with USSSA Rules.
 - i. 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.

- ii. 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.
- e. Bats on the USSSA banned bat list will be forbidden.

33. Baserunning

- a. Base runners must slide whenever possible to avoid contact. If there is contact between a runner and a fielder and in the umpire's judgment the contact interfered with the fielder making the play, the runner will be called out. Flagrant contact as determined by the umpire will result in ejection from the game, PLAYER'S SAFETY COMES FIRST. Incidental contact, which is the judgment of the umpire, did not affect the play, will result in no action.
- b. On deck batters must wear a helmet as well. In addition, bat boys/girls must wear a helmet when retrieving bats.
- c. Helmets, (that cover the ears) must be worn by all base runners at all times.
- d. Base runners may not intentionally remove / knock off their helmet while advancing on the bases.
- e. Coaches are not permitted to assist any base runners when the ball is in play.

33. Mercy Rules:

Twelve (12) runs after 4 innings and ten (10) runs after 5 innings.
Mercy rules shall be in effect for all games, including championship game.

34. Base Distances and Field Dimensions

Age Pitching (Ft) Bases (Ft)

8u: 40/60
9-10u: 46/65
11-12u: 50/70
13u: 54/80
14 and up: 60/90

35. Game Balls

OBSA 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. Please leave game used balls at the field in the bucket behind the backstop.

36. Metal Spikes and Footwear

Metal cleats are OK at 13U/14U. All other levels are Rubber/molded plastic spikes only.

37. 8U and 9U Only

8U/9u 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. Regarding all appeals, if a runner leaves a

base early, the umpires will call the runner out if they see the infraction.

10U Division: Leadoffs are permitted and drop third strikes are playable. Umpires shall issue one balk warning per pitcher per inning before enforcing any balk penalty

38. Intentional Walks

There will be no pitches thrown to intentionally walk a batter. Notify the umpire, and the batter will be awarded 1st base.

39. Courtesy Runners

Courtesy runners are optional any time for pitcher and catcher with less than two outs. The courtesy runner shall be 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 OBSA 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

OBSA 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 teams schedule throughout the week for any changes.

43. Respect the Game and Sportsmanship

OBSA Board 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 terms for removal from the tournament facility.

44. Refund Policy

a. Tournament Withdrawal Policy

- i. OBSA will provide a full refund minus a \$150 withdrawal fee for any team withdrawing from tournaments up to 14 days prior to the scheduled start of the event.
- ii. Tournament withdrawals inside of two weeks from the start date forfeit all tournament fees.
- iii. No withdrawal refunds once a tournament is sold out.

b. Rainout Policy

Tournament officials will attempt to schedule any necessary rainout/makeups. OBSA Officials can change the tournament format in order to complete the tournament if needed due to weather. Tournament Officials also have the right to change games to 5 innings if the weather dictates.

- i. If two games are played there will be no refunds
- ii. If 1 game is played you will receive 50% refund
- iii. If no games are played you will receive 100% of your entry fee OR credit for next year's tournament.

This goes for any tournaments cancelled due to local or national government rules and guidelines.

OBSA will do their best to issue refunds within 90 days.

1. Act of God/ Illness Policy Any Act of God or Illness Cancellation will result in a \$50 administrative fee kept by OBSA
2. Teams can transfer to another event during the calendar year.
3. The fee is subject to change without notice

Lack of participation by teams will result in a full credit in future OBSA Panther Prowl or 100% refund.

46. Weather Information – it is highly encouraged all teams to have their parents and fans follow the Tournament via Tourney Machine App.

47. OBSA Panther Prowl MVP Awards

Game MVP Awards: Coaches will receive MVP medals for their games. Following each game, the Head Coach (or his designee Assistant Coach) shall award an MVP medal to the MVP of the game from the opposing team.

Questions: Please contact Gary Tickle, president@oswegobsa.org

OBSA Panther Prowl – Management Team

Gary Tickle – President

Shaun Currer – 8u Panther Coach