



Regular Season Rules for 2024

1. A player listed in the lineup must take a turn at bat. There are NO substitutions permitted during a game in the OSPL League.

Co-ed Division only: The batting order may not have more than two (2) of any gender in a row.

Co-ed Division Only: Teams cannot bat 3 members of the same sex back-to-back-to-back. In the event of this happening, there will be an automatic out given between the 2nd and 3rd batter.

2. Rubber cleats only. No metal cleats. Any metal cleats will result in the player being ejected from the game and the team will be subjected to a fine of \$20.
3. OSPL and league affiliation approved face masks for pitchers are mandatory. Please note that affiliations will be mandating their use in 2019 which means all leagues will adapt this rule. Pitchers are to wear a protective face mask while pitching and they must wear the mask consistent with the manufacturer's intended usage of their product. All pitchers mask must be approved for play.
 - a. If a team/pitcher does not have an approved mask for play at the start of the game, then the team will default the game.
4. The use of batting helmets is optional. If a batter/runner chooses to wear a helmet they must be double ear flap and approved for play.
5. Strike zone:
 - a. The ball must be pitched at a minimum height of 6 feet to a maximum of 12 feet and must make contact with the strike mat/board and through the strike zone to be called a strike.
 - b. The strike zone is governed by a home plate mat/board. The mat must be an OSPL approved mat/board.
 - i. The mat/board must be 2ft x 3ft
 - ii. The mat/board must cover the entire plate
 - iii. The whole mat/board is live for plays at home plate



6. A) Teams in all divisions have access to a total of 4 courtesy runners available for strategy. These runners must all be different players. A team cannot use the same runner twice in the same game. The only exception is for an IR player, which the courtesy runner must be the last out.

B) Courtesy runners will be female for female and male for male.

C) Coaches are to advise the umpire and the coach of the other team of the injured player(s), known as IR, who may need a runner before the start of the game. Those players declared at the start of the game would then have unlimited amount of runners but MUST take a runner every time and runner MUST be last out.

D) Coaches must advise if a player becomes injured during the game and should require a runner, that player would then have unlimited amount of runners but MUST take a runner every time and be the last out available. It is up to an umpire's discretion on the injured status of a player during the game.

E) If a player listed as an IR on the game sheet hits anything other than a walk off homerun or a single, the IR player cannot progress any further than first base.

7. No bunting at any time. Any player at bat attempting to lay down a bunt or making a bunting action that forces the defense to move, will be deemed out automatically.

8. Bats allowed by OSPL will be governed by League affiliation and OSPL Executive.

a. Bats approved for play will have "thumb print" only for play in USSSA.

9. Balls allowed by OSPL will be governed by League affiliation and OSPL Executive.

a. Balls approved for play will be given to teams by OSPL Executive.

10. Intentional walks are permitted.

A) A pitcher must indicate to the umpire of the intention.

B) Co-ed Division only:

B1) If a male batter receives four (4) straight balls, (count of 4 – 0) without a strike being delivered during his turn at bat he is automatically awarded second base. Second base is awarded **ONLY** if a female batter follows a male batter., If a male batter is up next, the walked batter is only awarded first base.



B2) When a female batter follows a male batter that has been awarded second base due to a walk, the female batter will have the option to either take her turn at bat or automatically take first base.

11. Second team on schedule is the HOME team.
12. Home team to supply a new ball and a good second ball for the game as well as strike mat or they forfeit home field advantage. The balls supplied by the team must be the same as defined in Rule #9.
13. Home team is responsible for checking the score at the end of each inning.
14. Each team must have a minimum of 9 players to start the game in any division. See By-Law #15 for reference.

Co-ed Division only: The 9 players must be a minimum of 4 females and a maximum of 5 males. The maximum number of males allowed on the field in an inning is 6 (six).

15. Any player showing up to play, whom in the opinion of the umpire, is intoxicated may be disqualified from playing the game by the umpire. The umpire's decision is final.
16. Any player coming late to a game must go to the bottom of the batting order. No player can be added to the batting order once the team has gone through the batting order once or the team has completed their third inning.
The only exception to this is if a team is playing with only 9 of their own roster players and a 10th player shows up then that player may be added at any time to the bottom of the batting order. However, if more than one late player shows up when a team is playing with 9 players, only 1 of those players may be added to the batting order at this point of the game.
See By-Law 15 if you don't have enough players to start the game.
17. Any type or colour of glove may be used at **ANY** position.
18. Any pitcher intentionally throwing a fast ball at a batter will be suspended for the number of games agreed by the OSPL Executive and the Associations Umpire in Chief.
19. Any player injured during the game may be scratched from the lineup without penalty. In other words, Rule #14 would not apply. When the injured player's turn to bat came up, it would **NOT** be considered an out.



20. Substitute/spare players must be on the official team on line roster to be eligible to play as a substitute/spare player and Rule #16 above, would not apply.
Co-ed Division only: You cannot replace the injured player with a player of the opposite sex.
21. **NO** base stealing. Umpires to allow an anticipation on the swing of only a step or two.
22. Foul on third strike is an out.
23. The home team shall **NOT** take at bats in the last inning unless:
- The home team is losing.
 - The game is tied.
24. If the home team takes the lead in the last inning, the game is concluded when the winning run crosses the plate and **ONLY** that run shall be scored. If a home run is hit over the fence, all runs will count to final score.
25. Infield balls for the purpose of warming up shall only be permitted during the first inning of the game. The pitcher shall only have one warm up pitch each inning after the completion of the first inning. Warm up pitches for new pitchers shall be at the discretion of the umpire.
26. The League shall implement the use of "Safe Lines" and "Commit Lines" in **ALL** divisions.
- The safe line shall be indicated towards the third base side of home plate and all players shall cross the line and NOT home plate. Any player crossing home plate and or touching home plate or its strike mat and not use the safety line will be "**OUT**". Any sliding at the safe line or home plate area, shall be deemed an automatic "**OUT**"
- The commit line shall be indicated 20 feet from home plate towards third base. Any player advancing from third base towards home plate shall continue to home once having crossed the commit line and there shall be NO exceptions. Decisions relating to the application of this rule shall be at the discretion of the umpire.
27. Home Run Rule:

Men's A, B, C, D, 35+ and Co-Ed Divisions



- a. In men's and 35+ divisions, One team cannot hit more than 6 home runs (over the fence) more than the opposing team. If the first team hits another home run (over the fence) before the opposing team hits their home run (over the fence) the batter will be called out and no runners can advance. Once the opposing team hits a home run (over the fence), the first team is able to hit one home run (over the fence) once again. The maximum a team can be up by home runs (over the fence) is plus 6.
 - b. In Coed division, one team cannot hit more than three (3) home runs, over the fence, more than the opposing team. If the first team hits another home run, over the fence, before the opposing team hits a home run, over the fence, the batter will be called out and no runners advance. The maximum a team can be up by home runs, over the fence, is a plus 3.
 - c. On home runs (over the fence), in an effort to maximize game times, batter and runners have the option of either running out the home run, or may walk off the field. All runs will be counted for players on base and the batter regardless.
 - d. In an effort to speed up play and save on lost balls over the fence, the team batting is responsible for getting the home run ball that went over the fence. It is recommended that the batting team supply their own balls when batting so that there is more ownership from them to retrieve the balls that their team hit over the fence.
28. The Oshawa Slo-Pitch League will follow the guidelines set out by its affiliated association in its most current rule/handbook year after year. This will mean that we will not have a jewelry policy of our own, but will be overseen by the affiliated association.