

ODESSA SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION LEAGUE RULES

2011

1. City Ordinance prohibits possession of alcoholic beverages or being intoxicated at UTPB Complex or any other ballpark, parking area, or playing area. Violation could result in immediate arrest and/or fines up to \$200. Automatic league penalty is 15 day suspension.
2. OSA League Rules will supersede USSSA rules when necessary.
3. The manager is responsible for all operations of the team. Manager or acting manager is responsible for all actions of the team on the field.
4. Only the manager is to discuss the game with the umpire. Managers must see that players do not dispute a call or ruling. The umpire will notify the manager of any warnings or disciplinary actions and the manager is to see that the player(s) comply. One minute will be given for an ejected player to leave the field. Failure to do so will result in forfeit. NO EXCEPTIONS.
5. Player Eligibility and Eligibility Challenges: The eligibility of the player on the field is the dual responsibility of the player and the team's general manager and coaches.

Official Team Roster: Each player must be on the team's official roster on file in the Odessa Softball Association records and must have signed the roster. It is the responsibility of each player to have a picture ID in his or her presence during the game, and it is the responsibility of the acting manager or coach to make sure that each player in each game is an eligible player.

Eligibility Violation: If a player's eligibility is challenged, that player will be asked to show a picture ID verifying identity. Then the official roster will be checked. If the player does not have an ID in his or her presence, he or she will be given 60 seconds to produce one. If the ID is not produced, the following penalties will be enforced:

1. Game is forfeited.
2. Player and acting manager or coach will be suspended for one calendar year or until documentation can be produced proving eligibility. If the player can not be proven eligible, the suspensions will remain in effect for one calendar year.

Eligibility Challenges: When a team challenges the eligibility of a player, the game will be stopped, and the eligibility of every player in the game from both teams will be checked.

Managers may only protest player eligibility before the game has ended. Any OSA member may protest player eligibility with no protest fee required. Any OSA Men's Board or OSSU Executive Board member may enforce this rule without a team's protest.

6. New players may register any time up until two weeks prior to the start of that league's tournament. Players transferring from another team must obtain a written release from their original team manager, pay the new player fee, and sign the roster of the new team prior to playing.

7. Players must be at least 18 years old. No one under 18 allowed in the dugout.
8. Players may play on only one team in a division as follows: a) Sunday Night, b) Week Night c) Coed d) Church e) Church Coed.
9. Jewelry removal is at the discretion of the umpire, but OSA recommends that jewelry not be worn.
10. No electronic devices are allowed on the field at any time. Cell phones, beepers, etc. should be left in the dugout.
11. Ball caps are the only acceptable form of headgear and must be worn forward or backward.
12. Teams will be required to purchase all softballs from OSA. Those ball will be legal for play as long as the OSA stamp remains visible.
13. Illegal bats will not be allowed in league or tournament play. Refer to the current USSSA list. Use of illegal bat will be cause for forfeit of the game and applicable USSA penalty.
14. A coin toss will determine home team prior to the game. Home run limit will be set at 6 per team.
15. Time will start at the completion of the coin toss. Managers have one minute to respond to umpire's request for coin toss. If a manager doesn't comply, the umpire may award home team and start the clock. If a team is not ready to play at game time, the umpire may begin calling balls and strikes every ten seconds.
16. Lineups must be complete with all information requested on the form. This includes first and last name, team name, and manager's signature all of which must be legible. Substitute players do not have to be listed for league play as long as they are on the team's roster. Tournament play will require subs to be listed.
17. Twelve players may be included in the batting order and any 10 of those may play defense. Players can be switched defensively during or between innings. Umpire must be informed of any substitutions in the batting order.
18. Teams must have at least 7 players to begin and continue a game.
19. SCOREKEEPING: Each team is responsible for keeping its own score and must verify score with umpire at the end of each half inning. Score may not be changed after the next half inning. A team not keeping a score book may not contest the score. If a team keeps a score book on their own team but not on their opponent, that team may contest scorekeeping involving its own team but may not contest score of the opposing team.
20. Emphasis is placed on USSSA safety rules. Bad sportsmanship and profanity will not be tolerated! Any attempt to injure another player will be cause for removal from a game and subject to further disciplinary action if deemed necessary.

Halo Rule will be in effect: A ball hit up the middle within the 4' lane of pitcher's plate and within the normal height of the pitcher himself will have the following penalty: 1st and 2nd offense for the team - automatic out, and 3rd offense for the team - forfeit game.

21. No METAL CLEATS are allowed.
22. Base stealing is not allowed in league play.
23. No courtesy runners are allowed. USSSA substitution rules will apply.
24. Run Rule: 20 after 3 innings, 15 after 4, and 10 after 5.
25. Ties in the final standings will be decided by rule IX of OSA Bylaws.
26. Awards are given for each session and will be determined by the OSA Executive Board.
27. NO PERSONAL CHECKS will be accepted. Sponsor company checks only. Any returned check will be subject to a \$30 fee and must be paid before that team will be allowed to play. Forfeits will be declared in the interim. Any returned check covering additional player fees must be paid in full before that player(s) will be eligible.
28. RAINOUTS: For rainouts, schedule changes, etc., call the ballpark at 550-7811. Please call this number before calling a board member. Rainout or schedule changes will be posted at the ballpark and/or on the website or announced on the voicemail message. Teams will not be called except in special situations.
29. Anyone ejected from a game twice in one season for a reason other than the Halo Rule will be automatically suspended until the Board meets to determine the length of the ensuing suspension.
30. Managers may complete umpire evaluation forms if desired.