



**OSSINING JCYS BASEBALL & SOFTBALL
TEE-BALL DIVISION RULES
AS WRITTEN MAY 1ST, 2017**

RULES OF THE GAME:

The general rules of baseball as documented in the Little League International 'Official Regulations and Playing Rules' book shall apply, with the following modifications and additions

1. **Roster batting.** Every player on the team shall bat in the team's batting order for the entire game (Roster batting). It is recommended that the team set a batting order at the first game of the season and stick with that. The last batted out of one game, will be at the bottom of the batting order the next game.
2. **Late arriving players.** Players who arrive after the game has started will be added to the end of the batting order.
3. **Player leaving the game before the conclusion of the game.** If a player leaves the game for any reason, his turn will be skipped in the batting order with no penalty. The batter after the player who left will bat next.
4. **Minimum Innings/ Consecutive Innings Requirement.** Every player must play innings in the field and bat. No player should sit out two innings in the field in a row.
5. **Number of Players:** The team in the field can put 10 fielders on the field (four outfielders). As a league, we try to limit each roster to 10 players. If a team has ten players, there can be four players in the outfield. This player is not a short fielder, but either a left center, or right center fielder. If a player is positioned at catcher, that player must wear a catcher's helmet and gear and a protective cup. If a team has more than 10 players, the players should take turns sitting out an inning. If a team has less than 10 fielders, the game will still be played. Coaches should make certain when there are not enough players that players are assigned to the infield positions first, than the outfield.
6. **Playing games when a team is short players.** A game may be started if a team does not have enough players. The goal is to avoid a forfeit if at all possible. If a team has seven or eight players, they can ask one of the other team's players to play outfield, but they do not need to. **If a team only has 6 or less players, the team may** use players from the other team or may find substitute players from another team to play for them or as a last resort, and hopefully not as a game time decision, the game may be rescheduled to another time.
7. The team in the field should make sure that all fielders are playing a real baseball position (with the exception that there may be a fourth outfielder).
8. Coaches should aim to instruct the players in the field to play specific positions and that only one player, or in some cases two, should run after a batted ball to make the play (to avoid the rugby scrum for batted balls).
9. Two coaches from the defensive team may stand in the field to help direct the defensive players. Coaches should ensure that all players rotate and get the opportunity to play the different positions on the



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field. Fielding positions should be changed every inning. At this level, coaches should not give players playing priority based on their ability level.

10. As the season goes on, the goal for coaches there will be less need for the coaches to stand with their players and “direct traffic” on defense.
11. Coaches are to exchange batting orders prior to the start of the **game**. One suggestion is that teams maintain the same batting order from game to game and start their batting lineup where it left off at the end of the previous game. Again, the focus should be on development, and a set line up with the strongest players batting first should be discouraged.
12. The team that is batting will bat until three outs are made OR all batters on the roster have batted.
13. When an out is made, the runner who is out will be informed that he or she is out and that he or she must leave the bases and return to the dugout.
14. Base Running:
 - a. The runner may not leave the base until the ball is hit off the tee at home plate.
 - b. Sliding is mandatory for any play at 2nd base, 3rd base, and home. When a runner is coming home and there is no play, the catcher must leave the runner’s path.
 - c. Any player sliding head first advancing to a base will be warned that he will be called out for sliding headfirst if he does it a second time. A player may dive back to the base which they have already occupied.
 - d. Base runners may advance only one base on all batted balls in the infield. Base runners may advance two bases on balls hit into the outfield in the air. Base runners may advance three bases on balls hit over the outfielders in the air. Coaches should teach base runners to run straight through first base unless they have hit the ball to the outfield.
 - e. There is to be no advancing on over-throws. For example, if a batter hits a ground ball to the infield, advances to first when the infielder throws the ball past the first baseman, they player shall not advance to second base. Coaches should teach the importance of retrieving overthrows quickly, returning the ball to the pitcher on the mound, and asking the umpire for time out.
 - f. Players should be taught to return to the base that they occupied if a ball is caught in the air.
15. Players on the team that is batting must stand behind the backstop or dugout area while waiting to bat.
16. As with fielding, coaches should vary the batting order for every game, so all players get a chance to bat in different parts of the order.

GAME MANAGEMENT, ROSTERS, TIME LIMITS, AND RESCHEDULING:



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1. Games should start promptly. If one team has more players, that team can take the field first. If one team does not have enough players, play should begin regardless as the games are scheduled back to back and the following game will still start at its set time.
2. No innings shall start less than fifteen minutes before the scheduled start time of the next game. For example, if the next game is a 10:00 game, the teams should leave the field at 9:45
3. All games shall be called when darkness becomes a factor.
4. Goal of the game is to get each team the same number of at bats
5. All players should play both the infield and outfield in each game.
6. No player shall sit out two innings in a row.
7. Players may be freely substituted in and out of positions at any time.
17. The batting team should have base coaches at first and third base. The batting team does not put any coaches in the field while it is hitting. If necessary, a coach from the batting team may assist the batter by setting up the T and encouraging the batter on proper hitting form, but the coach should move out of the way each time the ball is hit.

PRACTICES:

When the fields available to our league for practice are determined, the league coordinator and coaches will meet to determine a fair distribution of fields. A team cannot reserve a field for practice unless given specific permission from the league coordinator. If a team is waiting to use the field, practices must be limited to one hour. One practice a week is standard.

SPORTSMANSHIP:

Standard practice of good sportsmanship shall prevail at all times. This rule applies to everyone attending the game. Common sense should prevail especially at the end of the game. A team line up to shake hands should take place after all games.

UMPIRES:

Umpires are not used for the Tee-Ball division. Coaches should use this as an opportunity to teach their players to be respectful and demonstrate sportsmanship.

SAFETY:



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1. All players shall wear helmets when batting and running the bases.
2. Catchers shall wear protective gear; Helmet/mask, shin guards, chest protector and a protective cup. Protective gear shall be worn during practice sessions and during a game.
3. Infielders may wear any protective gear approved for that position
4. Players must be in full uniform at all times. This includes baseball cap, team jersey, and rubber cleats or sneakers. No metal spikes.
5. No one shall swing a bat in the dugout. There is no on deck area.
6. No Jewelry is to be worn (rings, watches, chains, earrings etc.).
7. No one shall be allowed behind the backstop while the game is in progress.
8. No player shall jump a fence at any time for any reason. No player or spectator shall be allowed to climb onto a backstop or fence surrounding the field of play. Players should be instructed to keep hands out of the fences and backstops.
9. No games shall be played if the parks are closed due to weather or other conditions.
10. Coaches should move quickly to clear the field in the event of thunder and lightning. Coaches should also discontinue games due to darkness.
11. Only coaches should open and access the equipment boxes. Coaches should close the boxes after taking equipment out and remind players to stay away from the boxes.
12. Coaches should communicate with parents if the behavior of a player requires the presence of that player's parent at the field during practices and games.