

Farragut Baseball Inc.

Fall 2020

Ozzie Smith 6U League Rules – Fields 7 & 8

Regular baseball rules apply with the following exceptions:

General Game Rules:

1. Starting Fall 2018, there will be no umpires used for the season. Since this is an instructional league focused on teaching the players and with no score kept, coaches should keep up with pitch counts and make the calls while assisting one another.
2. Each game will consist of two (2) full innings.
3. No infield fly rule.
4. Fair Ball Arc: A 20-foot arc will be drawn from the first baseline to the third baseline in front of home plate. A batted ball must go past this arc to be a fair ball. If the ball goes past the circle and rolls back across the line, then it is still a fair ball. Bunting is not allowed.
5. A **maximum of 5 coaches** allowed per team. Offense – 1 coach pitcher, 1 coach catcher, 1 coach each at 1st and 3rd base boxes, and 1 coach as dugout manager. Defense – 2 coaches outside the front of their dugout (but not to interfere with 1st base offensive coach), 1 coach each may stand behind the foul line in right and left outfield to assist players in the outfield grass, and 1 coach as dugout manager.
NOTE: **For the first 5 games only**, the two (2) coaches that are normally in the foul line areas may stand behind the players in outfield to provide instructions. This does not include stopping or kicking the ball with their hands or feet.
6. A minimum of 8 players is required to start the game. If necessary, a team may pick-up a player from another team in order to have enough players to play.

Hitting and Base Running Rules:

7. Big barrel bats (anything larger than 2 ¼" barrel) are **banned and not allowed** for Ozzie Smith 6U.
8. A maximum of 8 pitches are allowed per player, with the exception when the 8th pitch is fouled off. Coaches are required to keep track of the pitch count and inform the batter when there are 2 pitches remaining.
NOTE: The tee may be used during both at-bats for any player unable to get a hit on the 8 pitches thrown by the coach. The goal for hitting in Ozzie Smith is to improve the batting skills for players and improve upon their confidence when hitting as they will need this in older league play.
9. Coaches should pitch from a kneeled position or while seated on a bucket using an overhand throw. **No underhand pitches are allowed**. There is no set distance that the pitcher must be from the batter so each coach can use their own discretion and safety.
10. The hitting team will bat their entire lineup during the first inning and again during the second inning to ensure **each player hits twice**. Each team will bat their full lineup until each player has hit in that respective inning. If an out is made in the field then baserunners will be removed and return to the dugout. Play will then continue until the entire lineup has hit.
11. Make a game line-up prior to each game that includes the players first and last name and jersey number. Coaches will exchange batting lineups before the game. If a player shows up late, they will be added to the bottom of the batting order. During the second at bat, the batting order may be reversed but must be in the exact reverse order.
12. If a ball hits the coach pitcher the play is dead and a no pitch is declared.

13. Runners must stay on the base until the batter hits the ball. If a runner leaves the base early, it is a no-pitch and the runner must return to the base.
14. Once a batted ball hit into the outfield is thrown across the infield/outfield line, runners may not advance to another base. Also, runners may not advance when a play is attempted at any base. Base runners may only advance if they are halfway or further to the next base. However, if a runner passes 2nd or 3rd base and is tagged with the ball, that runner is out.

Notes:

- a. A defensive player may not push or move a runner off the base in order to make an out.
 - b. Players in the outfield position must throw the ball in to the infield to make a play. **They cannot run the ball in to tag a runner or step on a base for a force out.**
15. A following runner who is more than halfway between bases may not advance a lead runner who is not halfway or more than halfway to the next base.

Fielding Rules:

16. A maximum of 11 players can play in the field at one time. The defensive positions are: left pitcher; right pitcher; 1st base; 2nd base; 3rd base; short stop; left field; left center; center; right center; right field. Outfielders must stay in the grass in a normal outfield defensive position and **cannot** be standing on the infield/outfield line.
17. During each inning, the fielding team will attempt to get outs on the hitting team. **Each time** an out is made any baserunners will be removed and return to the dugout. Play will then continue until the entire lineup has hit.
18. **Each player** is required play in the infield **and** the outfield during a game. A player may not play the same position for two consecutive innings and they cannot rotate from one position to the next regarding the two pitcher positions (i.e., right to left, left to right).
 - **Note:** Due to the odd number of players and the infield having up to 6 positions and the outfield up to 5 positions, there may be the possibility of one player that does not get to play in the outfield during the game. That being the case, this player must play on the right and left side of the infield during the same game. Example: This said player cannot play short-stop then 3rd base or left pitcher during rotation of innings.
19. Do not place players at the pitching position in harm's way by placing them on the chalk circle or move them closer when the perception of less talented batters come to bat. Keep in mind when reading the following that the focus is on instruction of players learning to play the game correctly.
 - The **right-side pitcher** position is allowed to:
 - a. Tag the runner headed to 1st base
 - b. Throw the ball to the 1st Baseman
 - c. Throw the ball to the 2nd or 3rd Baseman
 - d. Tag the runner headed home or touching home plate for a force out
 - The **left-side pitcher** position is allowed to:
 - e. Throw the ball to the 1st Baseman
 - f. Throw the ball to the 2nd or 3rd Baseman
 - g. Tag the runner headed home or touching home plate for a force out
 - h. **NOTE:** This pitcher position may **NOT** tag the runner headed to first.
20. No substituting players on defense during an inning. All players must remain in their position until the inning is over. The exception is for an injured player who wants/needs to come out or for those players who need to go to the bathroom.

Safety Rules:

1. **No real baseballs are to be used in practice or in a game.** The baseballs used in Ozzie Smith are the T-Ball style soft-compression core.
2. Face masks on batting helmets are optional and are up to parents to decide.
3. Any player playing the pitcher position must wear (a) the facial mask provided by the league (b) a batting helmet with face mask. The league provides three facial masks for use during each game: the two playing the pitcher position and optional for the 1st base position.
4. Instruct and work with all batters to not sling the bat when hitting. This could injure another player or the coach who is catching.

Cancellations or rescheduled games:

1. All games will be played as originally scheduled except for inclement weather with every attempt made to play as scheduled.
2. Cancellations/rescheduling will be decided by the League President and/or the FBI Board.
3. Any decisions to cancel a game once it starts will be made on the field by the two head coaches and agreed upon with consultation from the commissioner, president, or Board member as needed.

Sportsmanship:

Coaches: Be sure to encourage players and parents to cheer for all players as this is very important for building the morale for these young kids. You would be surprised at how much each it means to these kids when they are all cheering for each other and hear their teammates supporting them. Also, be sure at the end of each game to line your players up to shake hands with the other team.

Conduct Code:

Coaches and parents will conduct themselves so as to create a positive role model for all players, on and off the field. Questions from parents related to any rules should be directed to the head coach of their team. Abusive behavior and language will not be tolerated. The league president and/or Farragut Baseball Inc. Board Members may, at their discretion, remove a coach or parent if these rules are not followed and unacceptable behavior is shown. This includes dismissal from the Farragut Baseball fields and park premises.