

**OKEEHHEELY YOUTH  
BASEBALL, INC.  
LEAGUE RULES**

These rules shall govern the Okeehlee Youth Baseball, Inc. (the “Association”), its youth baseball program, and all divisions within the Association, shall remain in full force and effect until such time as they are modified or amended by the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of the Association, and shall not be modified or amended except upon approval of a majority of the members of the Board.

The following rules shall govern the Association:

- **FOR ALL DIVISIONS:** Rules and regulations instituted by Babe Ruth League, Inc. shall prevail, unless otherwise modified by the Association’s League and Division Rules.
- **LEAGUE RULES:** Rules and regulations instituted by the Board governing all age divisions and fields in the Association.
- **DIVISION RULES:** Rules and regulations instituted by the Board governing the specific age divisions within the Association.
- **FALL RULES:** Rules and regulations instituted by the Board governing league and division play for games played during Fall Season.
- **NATIONAL BASEBALL CONGRESS:** In the event a particular subject or issue is not covered in the Babe Ruth Rules, or otherwise in the Association’s League, Division, or Fall Rules, then reference will be made to the National Baseball Congress Rules.

## **PARK RULES**

### **1. ALCOHOL/TOBACCO/PROFANITY PROHIBITION**

NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE ALLOWED BY ANYONE IN THE PARK!!! The use of tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs or profanity is strictly prohibited as per Babe Ruth and Okeeheelee Rules. The violation of this rule may result in ejection, suspension, or such other penalty as the Board in its discretion may prescribe.

### **2. BALL-PLAYING/SKATEBOARDING**

There will be no ball playing, skating, skateboarding, or scooters allowed around the press box or between the fields during ball games.

### **3. FIELD DIRECTOR**

The Field Director has full jurisdiction over the field until the game time.

### **4. FIELD/DUGOUT RESPONSIBILITY**

All teams must clean their side of the field after each game, before team drinks are given out.

### **5. CONCESSION STAND RESPONSIBILITY**

Each team must provide \$15 per home game and must be submitted by the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of play to the Concessions Director. The ENTIRE season monies must be submitted by the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of play whether it is Spring or Fall.

### **6. CONCESSION STAND VOLUNTEERS**

All concession stand workers must be approved by the Director of Concessions.

# PLAYERS, TEAMS, AND COACHES

## 1. TEAM SELECTION

All divisions of Okeeheelee Youth Baseball will use the visual draft method set forth in the Manager's Handbook. The visual draft uses an open skills evaluation to ensure closely competitive teams and like talent levels.

## 2. ROSTER LIMITS

The maximum roster sizes for each draft division is as follows:

<u>DIVISION</u>	<u>DRAFT</u>	<u>MAX</u>	<u>WAITING LIST</u>
Tball	13-14 players	14 players	Late signups to go on waiting list
Rookie	12-13 players	13 players	Late signups to go on waiting list
Minor	11-12 players	13 players	120 Players max then waiting list
Major	11-12 players	13 players	120 Players max then waiting list
13-Above	11-12 players	13 players	120 Players max then waiting list

## 3. NO PLAYING UP

Unless otherwise approved by the Board, no player shall be permitted to play up in age division regardless of size, skill, or experience. In exceptional circumstances, the Board may in its discretion permit a player to play down in division for health or safety reasons. The only exceptions to this rule are as follows:

- **Twelve (12) year old swing player:** (Only when 13 prep division is being used) A league age twelve (12) year old player may request for the board to allow him to play in the Cal Ripken and/or the Babe Ruth (13 prep) division during the regular season. The board will make its decision based on the players' skill, ability and maturity. The player must follow all applicable pitching rules of the Cal Ripken Division, regardless of the division he/she is pitching in (including, but not limited to, pitch counts, inning regulations and pitcher/catcher rules). For tournament team consideration, the player, along with the boards' approval, must pick the division he/she wishes to represent and must meet all league and Babe Ruth League, Inc. eligibility rules for that division. The player will only be allowed to participate on one (1) tournament team in any given year.
- **Fifteen (15) year old swing player:** A league age fifteen (15) year old player may request for the board to allow him to play in the Babe Ruth (13-15) and/or the Babe Ruth (16-18) division during the regular season. The board will make its decision based on the players' skill, ability and maturity. The player must follow all applicable pitching rules of the Babe Ruth (13-15) Division, regardless of the division he/she is pitching in (including, but not limited to, pitch counts, inning regulations and pitcher/catcher rules). For tournament team consideration, the player, along with the boards' approval, must pick the division he/she wishes to represent and must meet all league and Babe Ruth League, Inc. eligibility rules for that division. The player will only be allowed to participate on one (1) tournament team in any given year.

#### **4. PLAYERS DROPPING OUT/CHANGING TEAMS**

Each Manager shall notify his DVP within one week of the date he or she is notified of a player's withdrawal from the League.

#### **5. MANAGER SELECTION**

The respective DVP's shall be charged with the responsibility of choosing managers for teams in their division. When choosing a manager, the total number of seasons/years a candidate has managed or coached in all divisions at Okeeheelee Youth Baseball. (This includes recreational league, travel, and all-stars coaching experience) The Board of Directors have the final approval based on the DVP recommendations. No manager shall manage more than one team in a season.

No manager shall manage more than one team in a season.

#### **6. MANAGER/COACH ELIGIBILITY**

Unless otherwise approved by the Board, all managers or coaches must be at least eighteen (18) years of age or older. Further, such managers or coaches must possess the maturity, responsibility, character, and adherence to Association rules and regulations required to remain a manager or coach in good standing with the Association. All managers and coaches must be certified by the NYSCA, and approved by the Board.

#### **7. UMPIRES**

Coaches and Umpires with children cannot umpire games in the division in which their child plays or coaches.

#### **8. PLAYER UNABLE/UNWILLING TO PLAY**

If a player is ejected or unable or unwilling to continue in a game, that player will be scratched from the line-up and the next player will take his place in any division whose teams bat through their order. No out will be called. T-Ball will have a five game grace period for this rule, after which time any player that will not bat will be scratched from the line-up.

#### **9. UNIFORM ATTACHMENTS**

Nothing is to be pressed or sewn on any part of a player's uniform unless specified by the Board, including without limitation hat pins, patches, and bands.

#### **10. COACHES' UNIFORMS**

Coaches shall wear the same color scheme shirt as their teams. All coaches must wear the same color shirt.

# **OVERALL GAME AND PLAYING RULES**

## **1. OFFICIAL GAME START TIMES**

The starting time for all games shall be set each season as directed by the Scheduling Director. The time limits for all games shall be as specified in the individual division rules, which time limits shall run from the official start time of the game. The official start time for all games shall be the time play begins, but in no event later than fifteen (15) minutes from the scheduled start time, except that in the event of a rain delay such start time may begin no later than 30 minutes from the scheduled time. Regardless of the official start time of any game, no inning shall start after 9:00 p.m. on any night. Innings will start when the 3rd out is made.

## **2. LINEUP SHEETS**

Completed line up sheets including the first and last name, position, and shirt number of the players, including substitutes, must be in the press box fifteen (15) minutes before the scheduled game start time. All teams must have nine (9) players to start or finish a game.

## **3. PRE-GAME INFIELD**

Pre-game infield will begin thirty (30) minutes before the game. Visitors will take infield first. Each team will be allowed ten (10) minutes for the infield. On double and triple headers, infield will be taken only as time allows.

## **4. MUST-SLIDE RULE**

Unless modified by applicable division rules, if there is a play in the batter's box/home plate area, the base runner must slide. If the runner fails to slide and makes contact with the catcher, he will be out. If no contact is made, he will be warned that if contact is made, he will be out. No player shall be subject to deliberate aggressive contact no matter where his position on the field. In this case, the runner will be declared out and subject to ejection from the game.

## **5. HEAD FIRST SLIDING**

Unless modified by division rules, there will be no "head first" sliding allowed. Any violation shall result in the runner being called "out." This does not include "dives" back to the bag in the instance of an over run, pick off attempt or any "hot box" run down..

## **6. THROWN BATS**

In all divisions but Tball, in the event that the batter throws or slings the bat in the process of hitting or attempting to hit the ball, whether the ball is fair or foul, the umpire will assess the following penalties; on the first offense per team, the team will be issued a warning. On the second and all subsequent offenses per team, the ball will be declared dead and the batter will be declared out. If the same batter commits the offense more than twice in any one game, the umpire may at his discretion eject the player from the game in addition to declaring him/her out. In the Tball division, if a thrown bat leaves the circle in the air at any time, the batter is out and the ball is dead.

If at any time, the umpire feels that the throwing or slinging of the bat was intentional and malicious in nature, the umpire may immediately eject the player, even if no warnings have been given.

## **7. COACHES' ASSISTANCE IN BASE RUNNING**

If a coach touches a base runner to assist the runner in any way while the ball is live the runner shall be called out.

## **8. JEWELRY**

No jewelry can be worn by any player except for medical identification. A team warning will be provided at the beginning of each game. On the second and subsequent warnings, an automatic out will be assessed to the player wearing the jewelry, which will be assessed at his (or his substitute's) next at bat. If a defensive player wears jewelry, then that player's team will start the next at-bat/inning with one out.

## **9. ON DECK BATTERS**

On deck batters shall face the batter's back in all divisions, except the 13 year old and above divisions where the on-deck batter may stand by his team's dug-out.

## **10. PITCHING RESTRICTION**

Any pitcher withdrawn from the mound and/or lineup, or a pitcher, who is withdrawn from the mound and stays in the game at another position, shall not be permitted to pitch again in the same game.

## **11. COMPLETE GAME**

Games shall be complete as determined by the Rules and Regulations of Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken, Pony, or any other organization under which the Association may be sanctioned in a particular division, whichever may be applicable.

## **12. TIE GAMES**

All tie games will be played to completion (subject to no inning beginning later than 9:00 p.m. on any night). If the game is still tied after the time limit has expired, will go to the Kansas City Tiebreaker format. Last out of the previous inning is placed on 2<sup>nd</sup> base, and the inning will begin with the batting team already having 1 out. This format will be used until a winner is determined.

## **13. RAIN-OUTS**

Rain-outs will be made up on the first available date by the Schedule Director. Weeks run from Monday morning to Sunday night. This rule will prevail even if it results in teams playing back to back games. If possible, no team will be scheduled to play more than three (3) games in any seven (7) day period.

## **14. RESCHEDULE OF GAME**

Any request to reschedule a game must be brought to the DVP and Schedule Director two (2) weeks in advance. NO EXCEPTIONS!

## **15. TIES IN THE STANDING**

If there is a divisional tie for first place, it will be decided by head to head competition and failing that, the teams will play a one (1) game playoff. All other ties will be settled by a tie breaker system set by the league, but no extra game will be played.

## **16. FORFEITURE**

Any team unable to field a team within fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled start time for the game shall forfeit such game. If a team has more than two (2) forfeits in any season, the manager of such team shall be required to appear before the Board and may be subject to disciplinary action by the Board. In these situations, upon the teams request the umpires will remain and a scrimmage game will be played. The team without enough players may “borrow” players from the other team in order to field a complete 9 man roster.

## **17. PITCHING AND BATTING TROPHIES**

Each Spring, the managers for each division within the Major, 13-15, and 15-18 Year Old Divisions will vote on a league MVP, Big Bat, and Cy Young winner for each such division in the following manner:

**MVP:** Voted first. Represents the best all around player as voted by the managers of the league within the division. (i.e. American or National League).

**Big Bat:** Voted second. Represents the best offensive player with respect to average, power, and total bases as voted by the managers of the league within the division.

**Cy Young:** Voted last. Represents the best all around pitcher as voted by the managers of the league within the division.

A player is only eligible for one of the above awards for the season.

In determining eligibility for the pitching and batting trophies, the following formula shall be used:

**Batting** - 2.5 plate appearances X the number of games scheduled

**Pitching** - 1 inning per scheduled games.

# **DISCIPLINE**

## **1. BEHAVIOR**

Managers are responsible for their conduct, as well as the conduct of their coaches, players, parents, fans, and spectators. Not being able to control their coaches, players, parents, fans or spectators may lead to the game being forfeited.

## **2. EJECTION FROM GAME**

Any player, manager or coach who is ejected from a game will have an automatic additional one (1) game suspension. Abusive actions following the ejection may result in additional suspension. Additionally, any manager or coach who is ejected may be called upon to come before the Board to discuss the ejection. The Board reserves the right to expel a player, manager or coach for the remainder of the season after a second ejection. All players, coaches and managers must serve their suspensions in the stands, unless otherwise banned from the park by the board.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAS THE AUTHORITY TO ASK ANY MANAGER, COACH, PARENT, PLAYER, FAN OR SPECTATOR TO LEAVE THE PARK FOR ANY UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT.**

Any player, manager or coach who desires to appeal an ejection must do so by filing a written request with any Board member within 24 hours. Failure to file such request within 24 hours acts as a waiver of any appeal right. Such filing will toll the suspension for the subsequent game until the Board has had an opportunity to hear the appeal. The denial of any appeal of an ejection may be subject to an additional game suspension (i.e., two games total) in the event the Board determines the appeal was not made in good faith.

## **3. DISCIPLINE OF MANAGERS, COACHES & PARENTS**

The Executive Board will consider any complaints regarding Board Members, managers, coaches, parents, players, fans or spectators brought to its attention in writing by the complaining party. The Executive Board will discuss the complaint and if, in its discretion, the complaint warrants additional investigation, it will conduct same. Such investigation may include interviews with the party complaining and the Board Member, manager, coach, parent, fan or spectator who is the subject of the complaint and any other person who may have relevant information.

The Executive Board shall have complete discretion in determining any sanction or penalty, if any, of any manager, coach, parent, player, fan or spectator. Such sanction or penalty may include but is not limited to, verbal reprimand by the DVP or President; written reprimand to be placed in the official records of the Association; and revocation, suspension, probation or expulsion from the Association's program. The full Board shall decide any sanction or penalty arising out of misconduct of a Board Member.

Complaints after consideration and/or investigation will be responded to in writing by the Executive Board and must be agreed to by a simple majority of the Executive Board Members present. In considering or investigating complaints and deciding any sanction or penalty, the Executive Board shall consider the Charter, By-Laws and all rules and regulations governing the Association, with special emphasis on ensuring compliance with the purposes, spirit and intent embodied in such rules and regulations. With respect to Board Member complaints, the full Board shall respond in writing.

## PLAYOFFS AND ALL STARS

### **1. ALL-STAR MANAGERS AND COACHES**

All-Star Managers and Coaches shall be chosen each year from all the divisions in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Manager Handbook.

### **2. ALL-STAR SELECTION**

All-Stars will be chosen by a vote of the managers in each Division on a date determined by the Board each Spring. Each manager will submit a list from his or another's team of the potential All-Stars prior to the meeting so the other managers may review these players. No more than 15 players will be allowed per team. Unless otherwise approved by the Board, a minimum of twelve (12) players must be selected for each team. No additions or deletions to the team roster shall be made by the All-Star managers without prior Board approval.

### **3. POST SEASON PLAY-OFF/TOURNAMENT RULES**

As soon as practicable at the beginning of each Spring season, the Board, in conjunction with the DVPs for the respective divisions, shall determine the post season play-off format, the number of teams eligible in each division for post season play, and the number of trophies and individual and team awards to be presented for each division.

Unless otherwise modified by the Board or specifically addressed herein, Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken, whichever may be applicable, shall govern all Association post-season play-offs. Games stopped (suspended) for any reason (i.e.: bad weather, light failure, etc.) will commence play from the point of stoppage, at the time and date set by the scheduling director. When a suspended game is continued at a later date, the same line-up will be used. However, a rostered player not on the original line-up of a suspended game may be inserted at the bottom of the batting order in a division that bats through the line-up, or as a substitute in divisions that use substitutes. A pitcher, once replaced as the pitcher, cannot return as a pitcher in the same game or continuance thereof. With respect to post-season play-off and tournament play in the Minor and Major Divisions, teams will bat through their line-up using the same maximum amount of batters per inning, and with play being stopped as they do during the regular season.

## **TRAVEL AND SCHOOL BASEBALL**

### **1. PLAYERS-RESTRICTIONS ON NON-ASSOCIATION PLAY**

Every player, coach, manager, and team registered with the Association shall give Okeeheelee priority during the Spring Season. Provided that no conflict exists with the Association's Spring baseball program, simultaneous participation in Association play and travel team play is permitted. The Okeeheelee Travel Policy Guidelines provided by the League shall govern such simultaneous play.

Notwithstanding the above, no player, coach, or manager shall be simultaneously enrolled in the Association's Spring baseball program and any other Babe Ruth, Little League, Pony, Florida Major-Minor, Dixie League, or other similar program that has post season "All-Star" programs and tournaments. Nothing herein is intended to preclude simultaneous play in the Association's Spring baseball program and high school or middle school baseball.

**OKEEHOLEE YOUTH BASEBALL, INC.**  
**T-BALL DIVISION RULES**  
**(5-6)**

**1. AGE OF PLAYER**

Players must be four (4) years old by April 30 of current season. Players must not be seven (7) before May 1 of current season.

**2. TEAM PARENT**

Each team will have a Team Parent who is allowed in the dugout but not on the field during games. He or she may also have an Assistant Team Parent assist in the dugout. Team parents must be certified by NYSCA.

**3. REGULATION GAME**

Regulation game is five innings. Game will be official if four (4) full innings are completed (3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead). There are no ten (10) run rules. NOTE: Monday through Thursday, no new inning will start after 9pm. If the game is still tied after the time limit has expired, will go to the Kansas City Tiebreaker format. Last out of the previous inning is placed on 2<sup>nd</sup> base, and the inning will begin with the batting team already having 1 out. This format will be used until a winner is determined.

**4. TIME LIMIT**

No inning shall start more than ninety (90) minutes after the official starting time, unless game is tied. Time will be kept by the umpire.

**5. MUST PLAY RULE**

All players must play at least three (3) innings of every game in the field. One of at least three (3) innings played by each player must be played in the infield excluding catcher. The position of short fielder is considered an infield position. Violation of this rule will result in forfeiting that game. Violations need to be brought to the Board's attention within 2 weeks of the violation in writing from any manager, coach, parent, or other association member in order to be acted upon. All team members will be in the batting order. No fielding changes need to be reported.

**6. BATTING**

Players must take a full swing at the ball. On the first two (2) offenses, the umpire will call a strike on the batter; on the third offense for the same batter in a game, the batter will be out. A strike is a missed swing at the ball or a foul ball. A foul ball is any ball that is knocked off the tee by the batter and either does not leave the circle or is called foul by the umpire for being outside the baseline. If the ball comes to rest on any part of the line in fair territory, it is a fair ball. If a batter has two (2) strikes he is allowed one (1) more foul; on the second foul, the batter is out. Each batter will be allowed three (3) approaches to the ball, with the 4<sup>th</sup> approach being called a strike.

**7. PER INNING RUNS/BATTER RULE**

Each team may score a maximum of five (5) runs per inning except the last inning in which each team may bat a maximum of ten (10) players, and score up to ten (10) runs.

**8. SLIDING**

Tball players may slide feet first into a base, not head first. If a player slides head first into a base, he will be called out. There is no must-slide rule in tball, sliding is optional.

## **9. EQUIPMENT**

Bat may not exceed 27 inches in length.

## **10. PLAY STOP**

A play stops when any defensive player with the ball steps on any base or home plate. Play does not stop by stepping on the pitcher's mound.

## **11. OVERTHROWS**

An overthrow of first base is an attempt to retire the batter at first base in which the ball is thrown past the first baseman. The ball may travel towards the sideline fence or into the outfield. On an overthrow of first base, the ball is "live," and runners may advance at their own risk. The batter/runner may be thrown out going to second base. However, on an overthrow of first base, once the batter/runner reaches second base, the play will end and the whistle will be blown to indicate the play is over.

- Should the batter/runner on an overthrow of first base, over run second base after touching the base he may not be tagged out because the ball is dead once he reaches second base safely.

## **12. PRACTICES**

Practice is limited to three (3) sessions per week until the season starts. Once the season starts, each team will be limited to 3 sessions (which includes practices and games) per week.

## **13. BASELINES**

Baselines are 60 feet in length.

## **14. OUTFIELD AND SHORT FIELD PLAYING POSITION**

Four outfielders will be used by each team and must play on the grass. The short fielder must be at least ten (10) feet behind the baseline.

## **15. DEFENSIVE COACHES PERMITTED ON FIELD**

Two (2) coaches are permitted on the field defensively in the outfield. The coaches must be on the outfield grass behind the players.

## **16. COACHES' ASSISTANCE TO BATTERS**

A coach may set a player squarely in the batters box, but cannot line the batter up to hit in a specific direction. However, a coach may verbally tell the batter where to stand as long as in the umpire's judgment it does not delay the game. The coach must NOT at any time touch the player. The coach may adjust the tee to speed up the game, as long as NO PORTION of the tee is off the plate.

## **17. PITCHER PLAYING POSITION**

The pitcher must remain completely in the pitcher's circle until the ball is hit and must wear a batter's helmet.

## **18. THROWING MOTION REQUIRED**

Defensive players must throw overhand, unless it is a natural movement.

## **19. PITCHER REQUIRED TO THROW TO FIRST**

Pitcher must throw the ball to first base as opposed to running it to the base if it is fielded on the third base side or within the pitcher's circle. An imaginary line from home to second base divides the field into a first base side and third base side.

## **20. CATCHER'S PLAYING POSITION**

Catchers must remain outside of the catcher's circle and behind home plate until the ball is hit and must wear a batter's helmet at all times. ALL teams must have a player in the catchers position. Catcher position is only considered an infield position for 4 year old players.

## **21. DEFENSIVE PLAYERS' POSITION**

Defensive players must stay behind the fifteen (15) foot line before the ball is hit. The fifteen foot line will be fifteen (15) feet in from first and third bases.

**OKEEHEELEE YOUTH BASEBALL, INC.**  
**ROOKIE DIVISION RULES**  
**(7-8)**

**1. AGE OF PLAYERS**

Player must be seven (7) years old by April 30 of current season. Player must not be nine (9) years old before May 1 of current season.

**2. TEAM PARENT**

Each team will have a Team Parent who is allowed in the dugout but not on the field during games. Team Parents need to be certified by NYSCA.

**3. REGULATION GAME**

Regulation game is six innings. Game will be official if four (4) full innings are completed (3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead). There is a ten (10) run rule in effect and the game shall be called if either team is ahead by ten (10) or more runs after the completion of four (4) innings (or 3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead).

**4. TIME LIMIT**

No inning shall start more than one hour forty-five minutes after the official starting time, unless game is tied. NOTE: Monday through Thursday no new inning will start after 9pm. If the game is still tied after the time limit has expired, the game will go to the Kansas City Tiebreaker format. Last out of the previous inning is placed on 2<sup>nd</sup> base, and the inning will begin with the batting team already having 1 out. This format will be used until a winner is determined. Time will be kept by the home plate umpire.

**5. MUST PLAY RULE**

All players must play no less than three (3) innings defensively of every game. Should the game not go six (6) innings and a player not play his or her three (3) innings; the player must then start the next ball game. Failure to comply with this "must play" rule will result in forfeiture of both ball games in which the infraction occurred — no exceptions. Violations need to be brought to the Board's attention within 2 weeks of the violation in writing from any manager, coach, parent, or other association member in order to be acted upon. If a player is physically unable to play or being disciplined, the situation must be reported to the press box and the other team before the game starts or the next pitch.

**6. BATTING**

Each player will receive five (5) pitches or three (3) swinging strikes. There will be no walks. If in the umpire's judgment, the fifth pitch is not hittable and the batter does not swing at the pitch, a sixth and final pitch will be awarded. Batter can foul off an indefinite number of consecutive pitches.

**7. TEN BATTER RULE**

There will be a limit of ten (10) batters in any inning from any team. After the tenth batter is up, a player with the ball in his possession may either make the third out or step on home plate and end the inning. If the catcher does not secure the ball, players can advance until someone does secure the ball and steps on home plate. Three (3) outs or ten (10) batters constitute a half inning.

**8. BASE RUNNERS**

A courtesy runner may be used when a runner is injured, at the discretion of the manager. Such courtesy runner shall be the last player to make an out on the team.

## **9. EQUIPMENT**

Full catcher's helmet and protective cups must be worn by all catchers.

## **10. PLAY STOP**

The umpire has discretion to call "time out" when player holding ball ahead of lead base runner requests time out or if runners are not seeking to advance when time out is requested.

## **11. OUTFIELD PLAYING POSITION**

The team's defense will consist of ten (10) players. Four (4) of these players will be outfielders, whose position is on the grass at all times while the ball is pitched. Two outfielders must be on each side of second base.

## **12. OFFENSIVE/BATTING RULES**

Each player on the roster must bat. Each team will play by the ten (10) batter rule set forth herein. There is no stealing. The ball is dead once it passes the batter, meaning if no contact is made, the ball is ruled dead.

## **13. COACHES PERMITTED ON FIELD**

There shall be permitted two (2) defensive coaches on the field who shall be positioned in foul territory along the right and left field lines behind the deepest outfield player, or alternatively one defensive coach anywhere in the outfield who must be behind the deepest outfield player. Offensively, the pitching coach must stay within the designated circle unless he is attempting to avoid a ball hit at him. Any batted ball striking the adult pitcher shall result in the declaration of a "dead ball" and the play shall immediately terminate. All players shall be placed back in the position they were prior to the pitch being thrown and the same count will continue. The pitching coach must make every attempt to stay out of play. He also must stoop to allow the third baseman to throw to first base. If the pitching coach interferes with an infielder attempting to catch the ball, the batter is out, and the play is dead. The pitching coach must have one foot in the circle when he delivers the ball. The pitching coach may coach runners only while he is within the pitching circle. The batting coach must stay near the backstop - one arms length - unless removing equipment out of play. It is the responsibility of the batting team to remove all equipment out of play near home plate.

## **14. PITCHER PLAYING POSITION**

All players occupying the pitching position shall wear a batting helmet for protection when playing the field and must have at least one foot inside the pitcher's circle when the ball is pitched.

## **15. BUNTING**

No team may bunt more than one (1) time per inning. No child may bunt more than one (1) time per game. Any additional bunts beyond this rule will be considered outs. The out must be called before the next pitch. No slash bunting or butcher boy bunting is allowed.

**OKEEHOLEE YOUTH BASEBALL, INC.**  
**MINOR DIVISION RULES**  
**(9-10)**

**1. AGE OF PLAYER**

Player must be nine (9) years old by April 30 of current season. Player must not be eleven (11) years old before May 1 of current season.

**2. REGULATION GAME**

Regulation game is six innings. Game will be official if four (4) full innings are completed (3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead). There is a ten (10) run rule in effect and the game shall be called if either team is ahead by ten (10) or more runs after the completion of four (4) innings (or 3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead).

**3. TIME LIMIT**

No inning shall start more than one hour forty-five minutes after the official starting time, unless game is tied. NOTE: Monday through Thursday, no new inning will start after 9pm. If the game is still tied after the time limit has expired, the game will go to the Kansas City Tiebreaker format. Last out of the previous inning is placed on 2<sup>nd</sup> base, and the inning will begin with the batting team already having 1 out. This format will be used until a winner is determined. Time will be kept by the home plate umpire.

**4. MUST PLAY RULE**

All players must play no less than two (2) innings defensively of every game; if a team has twelve (12) players or less, then all players must play no less than three (3) innings defensively. Should the game not go six (6) innings and a player not play his or her required number of innings, the player must then start the next ball game. Failure to comply with this "must play" rule will result in forfeiture of both ball games in which the infraction occurred — no exceptions. Violations need to be brought to the Board's attention within 2 weeks of the violation in writing from any manager, coach, parent, or other association member in order to be acted upon. If a player is physically unable to play or is being disciplined, the situation must be reported to the press box and the other team before the game starts or the next pitch.

**5. NINE BATTER RULE**

There will be a limit of nine (9) batters in any inning from any team. After the ninth batter is up, a player with the ball in his possession may either make the third out or step on home plate and end the inning. (The runner on third will score if bases are loaded and batter draws a walk.) If the catcher does not secure the ball, players can advance until someone does secure the ball and steps on home plate. Three (3) outs or nine (9) batters constitute a half inning. Teams will bat through entire roster.

**6. EQUIPMENT**

No skull caps permitted. Full catcher's helmet and protective cups shall be worn by all catchers. All infielders are urged to wear cups.

**7. FIELDING CHANGES**

All pitching changes must be submitted to the home plate umpire upon execution.

**8. WARM-UP PITCHING**

Teams playing the second game of a double header may use the bull pen to warm up a pitcher during the first game. This can only be done after the third inning and the pitcher must be accompanied by a coach, catcher and a back up. The teams playing the first game will have preference to use the mound.

## **10. PITCHING REGULATIONS**

The following rules shall govern the use of pitchers in the minor division. These rules will be in effect for the Spring and Fall recreational seasons.

**Pitch Count:** All pitchers will be limited to no more than 72 pitches in a single game. Once the pitcher reaches 60 pitches in a game, the scorekeeper shall notify the manager, giving the manager time to warm-up a replacement pitcher. When the pitcher throws the 72nd pitch, the scorekeeper will stop the game, and a new pitcher must be placed on the mound. The scorekeeper is responsible for keeping the official pitch count and has final say as to the number of pitches thrown, no exceptions. Failure to follow this rule will result in a forfeit.

**Innings Pitched:** Okeehelie Youth Baseball will also comply with Cal Riken Youth Baseball's inning pitched rule. This rule states that any player is allowed a maximum of 6 innings pitched in a calendar week, Monday through Sunday. In addition, if a player pitches more than 2 innings, the player is required to take at least 2 calendar days rest before pitching again.

**Pitcher/Catcher:** If a player has pitched at any point, for any amount of time in a game, that player may not be entered in to the same game as a catcher. Failure to obey this rule will result in a forfeit.

**OKEEHOLEE YOUTH BASEBALL, INC.**  
**CAL RIPKEN DIVISION RULES**  
**(11-12)**

**1. AGE OF PLAYER**

Player must be eleven (11) years old by April 30 of current season. Player must not be thirteen (13) years old before May 1 of the current season.

**2. REGULATION GAME**

Regulation game is six innings. Game will be official if four (4) full innings are completed (3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead). There is a ten (10) run rule in effect and the game shall be called if either team is ahead by ten (10) or more runs after the completion of four (4) innings (or 3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead).

**3. TIME LIMIT**

No inning shall start more than one hour forty-five minutes after the official starting time, unless game is tied. NOTE: Monday through Thursday, no new inning will start after 9pm. If the game is still tied after the time limit has expired, the game will go to the Kansas City Tiebreaker format. Last out of the previous inning is placed on 2<sup>nd</sup> base, and the inning will begin with the batting team already having 1 out. This format will be used until a winner is determined. Time will be kept by the home plate umpire

**4. MUST PLAY RULE / BATTING**

This division will use a free substitution format in which any player on the roster may be freely rotated into any defensive position (subject to further rules, i.e. pitching). Each player must play a minimum of two (2) defensive innings. Each team will bat a ten (10) man lineup. Substitutes must be entered into the batting order, having at least one (1) at-bat per game. Substitutes must be entered into the batting lineup prior to batting through your lineup a 2<sup>nd</sup> time. Starters may be re-entered into the batting order, after the substitute has fulfilled his/her playing requirements. Failure to meet either the defensive or offensive must play rule will result in forfeiture of the game and a one (1) game suspension for the manager on the first offense. Any subsequent offenses will result in forfeiture and the manager will be brought before the Board of Directors.

**5. EQUIPMENT**

No skull caps permitted. Full catchers helmet and protective cups will be worn by all catchers. All infielders are urged to wear cups.

**6. FIELDING CHANGES**

All pitching changes must be submitted to the home plate umpire upon execution.

**7. FIELD SET-UP**

The baseline will be 70' and leadoffs with steals are permitted. The pitching rubber will be set at 50'.

**8. PITCHING REGULATIONS**

**Pitch Count:** All pitchers will be limited to no more than 80 pitches in a single game. Once the pitcher reaches 70 pitches in a game, the scorekeeper shall notify the manager, giving the manager time to warm-up a replacement pitcher. When the pitcher throws the 80th pitch, the scorekeeper will stop the game, and a new pitcher must be placed on the mound. The scorekeeper is responsible for keeping the official pitch count and has final say as to the number of pitches thrown, no exceptions. Failure to follow this rule will result in a forfeit.

**Innings Pitched:** Okeeheelee Youth Baseball will also comply with Cal Riken Youth Baseball's inning pitched rule. This rule states that any player is allowed a maximum of 6 innings pitched in a calendar week, Monday through Sunday. In addition, if a player pitches more than 2 innings, the player is required to take at least 2 calendar days rest before pitching again.

**Pitcher/Catcher:** If a player has pitched at any point, for any amount of time in a game, that player may not be entered in to the same game as a catcher. Failure to obey this rule will result in a forfeit.

**OKEEHOLEE YOUTH BASEBALL, INC.**  
**13-15 YEAR OLD DIVISION RULES**

**1. AGE OF PLAYER**

Player must be thirteen (13) years old by April 30 of current season. Player must not be sixteen (16) years old before May 1 of the current season.

**2. REGULATION GAME**

Regulation game is seven innings. Game will be official if five (5) full innings are completed (4 ½ innings if the home team is ahead). There is a ten (10) run rule in effect and the game shall be called if either team is ahead by ten (10) or more runs after the completion of five (5) innings (or 4 ½ innings if the home team is ahead). If a team is ahead by fifteen (15) or more runs after 3 complete innings, the game will be called.

**3. TIME LIMIT**

No inning shall start more than two and one-quarter (2 1/4) hours after the official game start time, unless game is tied. In the event a double header is scheduled, all such games will have a time limit of 2 hours, with every effort to have a completed game at that time, except that any inning in progress at the expiration of 2 hours will be played to conclusion. NOTE: Monday through Thursday, no new inning will start after 9pm. If the game is still tied after the time limit has expired, the game will go to the Kansas City Tiebreaker format. Last out of the previous inning is placed on 2<sup>nd</sup> base, and the inning will begin with the batting team already having 1 out. This format will be used until a winner is determined. Time will be kept by the home plate umpire

**4. MUST PLAY RULE**

This division will use a free substitution format in which any player on the roster may be freely rotated into any defensive position (subject to further rules, i.e. pitching). Each player must play a minimum of two (2) defensive innings. Each team will bat a ten (10) man lineup. Substitutes must be entered into the batting order, having at least one (1) at-bat per game. Starters may be re-entered into the batting order, after the substitute has fulfilled his/her playing requirements. Failure to meet either the defensive or offensive must play rule will result in forfeiture of the game and a one (1) game suspension for the manager on the first offense. Any subsequent offenses will result in forfeiture and the manager will be brought before the Board of Directors

**5. BATTING**

This division will utilize an EH(Extra Hitter) as a position and will have a ten (10) person batting order. The player designated as EH for a game shall be permitted to play in the field defensively. A nine person batting order may only be utilized in the event a team does not have a tenth player during a game.

**6. EQUIPMENT**

Skull caps are permitted. Either full or skull catcher's helmets and protective cups will be worn by all catchers. All infielders are urged to wear cups. Batting helmets must be approved for High School play.

**7. SLIDING**

No must slide rule is in effect for this division. However, if in the discretion of the umpire contact is deemed to be malicious, the player will be called out, ejected from the game, and suspended from playing the next game. Head first sliding shall also be permitted at any base but home plate in this division, but is not recommended.

## **8. SPECIAL PITCHER/CATCHER DRAFT RULE:**

The Babe Ruth division has adopted a process to identify the top pitchers and catchers in the draft. This system will be followed as outlined in the Standard Operating Procedure and the Manager's handbook.

**OKEEHEELEE YOUTH BASEBALL, INC.**  
**FALL LEAGUE RULES**

1. During the Fall Season, the following exceptions to the Association's regular rules shall apply as set forth below.
2. In the event any team has three or more rainouts, the third rained out game and any further rainouts will be made up on Sundays if both managers agree to make up such game. In the event there is no agreement between the managers, the game will not be made up. Games will be rescheduled on other days only when all times on Sunday are full. Failure to show up for any scheduled game will result in such team forfeiting that game.
3. If a game is tied at the end of its applicable time limit, it will be declared a complete game. Tie games will not be rescheduled. If time limit is reached in the middle of an inning, the inning will be played to completion.
4. Failure by any team to comply with any division's "must play rule" will result in such team forfeiting that game. Repeated offenses will result in manager being brought in front of the Board for disciplinary action.
5. The league will not award pitching or batting trophies or any other individual trophies for the Fall Season. Also, there will be no All-Star teams in any of the Fall Season divisions.

**6. T-BALL DIVISION (4, 5 & 6 Year Olds)**

There will be no scoreboard used.

There will be no standings kept.

An additional defensive coach will be allowed on the field behind the pitcher's mound.

A player must play a minimum of three innings per game, two of which must be in an infield position not including catcher.

Each game will end after five complete innings or one hour and thirty minutes, whichever occurs first.

**7. ROOKIE DIVISION (7 & 8 Year Olds)**

There will be no scoreboard used.

There will be no standings kept.

An additional defensive coach will be allowed in the outfield.

All players must play a minimum of three innings per game, two of which must be in the infield. Should the game not go six (6) innings and a player not get in his or her three (3) innings, that player must start the next game.

**8. MINOR DIVISION (9 & 10 Year Olds)**

There will be no scoreboard used.

There will be no standings kept.

A coach will be allowed three trips to the mound, but if he returns to the mound the third time, he must remove his pitcher. A coach will not be charged with a visit if he calls time to talk with players in another position on the field besides pitcher.

All players must play a minimum of three innings per game, two of which must be in the infield. Should the game not go six (6) innings and a player not get in his three (3) innings, that player must start the next game.

No pitcher may pitch more than two innings per game or more than four innings per week; provided,

however, that in any week in which a team has scheduled three (3) games, the maximum innings per week any pitcher may pitch shall be increased to six innings.

A nine year old must pitch two of the first four innings of every game. An inning for the purpose of this rule shall be three outs or eight batters.

Visiting team will supply the announcer for the game. No scorekeeper will be provided by the Association.

All teams shall bat through their roster. An inning shall conclude at the earlier of three (3) outs or after the eighth batter's at bat.

## **9. MAJOR DIVISION (11 & 12 Year Olds)**

There will be no scoreboard used.

There will be no standings kept.

A coach will be allowed three trips to the mound, but if he returns to the mound the third time, he must remove his pitcher. A coach will not be charged with a visit if he calls time to talk with players in another position on the field besides pitcher.

All players must play a minimum of three innings per game, two of which must be in the infield. Should the game not go six (6) innings and a player not get in his three (3) innings, that player must start the next game.

An eleven year old must pitch two out of the first five innings of each game. An inning for the purpose of this rule shall mean three outs.

No pitcher shall be allowed to pitch in more than three (3) innings per game or more than four (4) innings per week; provided, however, that in any week in which a team has scheduled three (3) games, the maximum innings per week any pitcher may pitch shall be increased to six innings.

Visiting team will supply the announcer for the game. No scorekeeper will be provided by the Association.

All teams shall bat through their roster. An inning shall conclude at the earlier of three (3) outs or upon completion of a team batting through its roster.

Intentional walks are not allowed.

## **10. 13 YEAR OLD AND ABOVE DIVISIONS**

Score will be kept; however if a team is ahead by ten or more runs after five innings, the game will be ended.

There will be no standings kept.

A coach will be allowed two trips to the mound, but if he returns to the mound the second time, he must remove his pitcher. A coach will not be charged with a visit if he calls time to talk with players in another position on the field besides pitcher.

Announcers/scorekeepers for the games will be provided by the Association.

The time limit for all games will be two hours, except that any inning in progress at the expiration of two hours will be played to conclusion.