

OAK FOREST BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

RULES & REGULATIONS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Tee-Ball - General Rules.....	2
General Field Rules for Play	3
Role of Manager.....	3
Game Rules	
Time / Official Complete Game Rule.....	4
Slaughter Rule	4
# of Batters Rule.....	5
Minimum Inning Rule	5
Substitute Runners	6
Roster Batting	6
Field Dimensions	6
Equipment	7
Base Stealing	7
Pitching	8
Other Game Rules	
Overthrows Out of Bounds	10
Bunting.....	10
Strike Zone	11
Hit By Pitch	11
Trips to the Mound	11
Warming up the Pitcher	12
Intentional Walks	12
Balks	12
Dropped Third Strike	12
Infield Fly Rule	12
Stopping Play	13
Runner Interference	13
Fielder Interference	13
Sliding Rule	13
Fan, Coach or Manager Interference	14
Farm Players	14
Injured Players	14
Protests	14
Special Safety Rules of Play	14
Game Control & Field Decorum	
Automatic Ejection	15
Warning Prior to Ejection	15
Forfeit	16
Game Cancellation	16
Code of Conduct.....	17
Coaches	17
Players	17
Parents	18
Violations.....	18
OFBA Board Members	20

TEE-BALL

GENERAL RULES FOR PLAY

- The mission of the Tee-Ball division is to introduce the game of baseball to young children and teach them the basic fundamentals. Tee-ball is an excellent start to team sports and provides them basic instruction to team work and good sportsmanship.
- All bats, soft balls, catcher's equipment, batting helmets and tees will be provided by OFBA.
- Under no circumstances (practice or games) should a wood bat or hard ball be used.
- Players must wear a helmet at all times when batting.
- Games are 3 innings long with a time limit of 1 – 1 ½ hours.
- The bases should be at 50 feet.
- Six players and one coach are allowed in the infield, one catcher behind home plate and the remaining players along with two coaches will be in the outfield.
- Coach-pitch will be the focus; the tee may be used for players that still have a hard time hitting a pitch.
- Each inning will be a continuous batting order where every child will bat once during the inning.
- A player will receive 5-6 coach pitches and if the batter does not hit the ball, the ball will then be placed on the tee for three chances to hit off the tee. If the player does not hit the ball off the tee, it is considered an out.
- If a fly ball is caught in the field the batter is out.
- If a fielder makes a play at a base and gets the runner out, the runner is out.
- Force outs and tag outs will be enforced.
- The play is considered dead when the ball is back to the pitcher, if the runner is between bases he/she may advance to the next base.
- Players must switch positions during the game; they may not play the same position twice.
- There will be no games postponed because a manager can't be at the game; a coach will have to take over.
- If you have any questions or problems with the rules, please contact the Tee-Ball Coordinator.
- Managers and coaches are encouraged to attend all general meetings.
- We will try and reschedule rain cancelled games.
- Each team will consist of one manager and two coaches. Coaches names will be submitted to the league before the first game. In the absence of a coach, the manager may choose another parent to replace the coach for the game.
- If you encounter problem with a parent or a child, please contact the Tee-Ball coordinator within 24 hours so that the situation can be resolved immediately.

GENERAL FIELD RULES FOR PLAY

- The home team is listed second on the league schedule.
- The home team has the third base dugout.
- A discussion of the ground and playing rules should take place before the start of the game between the managers and umpires.
- During the game, only managers may question the umpire. Coaches must remain within three (3) feet of the dugout or in the coach's box, if coaching first or third.
- No smoking or any tobacco products are allowed on the field or in the dugout.
- No soft toss with league balls is allowed against any fencing at any field.
- No hidden ball trick.
- Bats and helmets must be kept in the dugout. When a team is at bat, all players must remain in the dugout (except "on deck" players), except for retrieving bats.
- Dugouts and the stands must be cleaned up after each game by both teams.
 - Managers must be responsible for cleaning up the dugouts and stands after each game. If this is not done, the team playing after your game may lodge a complaint with the OFBA Board. The OFBA Board will then decide on what type of corrective action will be taken.
- Each manager must make every effort to control the actions of their players, fans and coaches.
- Players, managers and coaches are not allowed to yell or make negative comments about an opposing batter before, during or after a pitch.
- **NO BATTING PRACTICE** will be allowed on the field prior to a game.
- **NO** alcoholic beverages are allowed at any field.

ROLE OF MANAGER

- Managers will be selected by the Board at the beginning of each season. The Manager will be building the moral fiber, mental health and physical strength of young boys and girls who will be the citizens of tomorrow. These boys and girls are at a most impressionable age and the training that is given them, good or bad, will have a lasting effect on their young lives. For some playing on your baseball team may be their only contact with organized sports. We know you will want them to remember it as a pleasurable and meaningful experience.
- Each Manager and all Coaches must clear a criminal background check to be able to manage/coach a team.
- In fairness to the boys and girls, and because of pressure of conflicting schedules, no manager shall manage more than one team in any season. A manager may not serve as coach of a second team within the same division, but may serve as a coach in other divisions and only with approval of the OFBA Board.
- Managers and coaches cannot come out of the coaches' box or dugout to argue balls, strikes, or judgment calls.
- All managers should conduct themselves properly during the games, and are responsible for their players, fans and coaches conduct.
- Managers are responsible for the care of all equipment. Any throwing of equipment by players can lead to the player's immediate removal from the game.
- It is the Manager's responsibility to know these Rules and all other rules governing his/her team's play.
- Managers must attend all OFBA sponsored Coaching Clinics.

- Managers must attend all OFBA General Meetings.

GAME RULES

All divisions shall play by the following Rules.

TIME / OFFICIAL COMPLETE GAME RULE

- 2 HOUR TIME LIMIT for Pre-season games and Regular Season games only. This will be strictly enforced, whether there is a game following your game or not. No new inning shall start 2 hours after the start of the game.
 - Please note the exact time of the start of the game with the opposing manager and the umpire as the game commences.
 - Pre-season and Regular season, if a game has ended because of time limit restrictions and the score is tied, the game officially ends in a tie if the minimum number of required innings have been played (as set forth below). If the minimum number of innings has NOT been played (as set forth below) then play will continue until the minimum number of innings have been played.
 - IF THE TIME ELAPSES ON THE GAME AND IT HAS REACHED THE NUMBER OF INNINGS REQUIRED FOR AN OFFICIAL GAME, THE GAME IS CONSIDERED COMPLETE.
 - Playoff games and World Series games will not have a time limit.
- PINTO or MUSTANG official game is six (6) innings in length. If the time limit has expired, or because of inclement weather, an official game will be three and one-half (3½) innings when the visiting team is behind after four (4) times at bat, and four (4) innings when the home team is behind after three and one-half (3 ½) innings.
 - Playoff games and World Series games will play the full 6 innings, except when slaughter rule applies. Suspended & resumed games will be scheduled at the discretion of the Division Coordinator.
- BRONCO or PONY official game is seven (7) innings in length. If the time limit has expired, or because of inclement weather, an official game will be four and one-half (4 ½) innings when the visiting team is behind after five (5) times at bat, and five (5) innings when the home team is behind after four and one-half (4 ½) innings.
 - Playoff games and World Series games will play the full 7 innings, except when slaughter rule applies. Suspended & resumed games will be scheduled at the discretion of the Division Coordinator.

SLAUGHTER RULE

- PINTO – Six (6) runs per inning or one time through the batting order.
EXCEPTION: No six (6) run rule in the last inning of any game or the last inning of a shortened game due to the time limit rule.
- MUSTANG – If one team has a lead of ten (10) or more runs after the opposing team has come to bat four (4) complete times, the game will be declared a slaughter, and will end.

- BRONCO AND PONY – If one team has a lead of ten (10) or more runs after the opposing team has come to bat five (5) complete times, the game will be declared a slaughter, and will end.

OF BATTERS RULE

- PINTO - teams are limited to one time around the order per team in any one (1) inning. **EXCEPTION:** In the last inning of any game or the last inning of a shortened game due to the time limit rule or slaughter rule, the # of BATTERS RULE does not apply. In shortened games, the umpire must notify both managers prior to the start of the last inning that the # OF BATTERS RULE will not apply.
 - THE # OF BATTERS RULE APPLIES TO ALL REGULAR SEASON, PLAYOFF GAMES AND WORLD SERIES GAMES.
 - THE LAST BATTER IN AN INNING MAY SCORE. If the last batter in an inning puts the ball in play by hit, he/she and any runner on the bases may score and a hit ball will remain in play until the third out in the inning is recorded or the ball is in the possession of the pitcher or fielder and that player is standing on the pitching rubber. The final advancement of the runners will be determined as set forth in the rule “STOPPING PLAY: PINTO ONLY”
- MUSTANG, BRONCO, PONY – There is no one time around the order rule limitation in any one (1) inning.

MINIMUM INNING RULE

- PINTO and MUSTANG - Each player MUST play defensively in the field a minimum of THREE (3) FULL INNINGS. These required minimum innings do not need to be consecutive. Every player must play in the field in at least one of the first two innings. No player can sit out for both the first and second inning of any game.
- BRONCO and PONY - Each player MUST play defensively in the field a minimum of FOUR (4) FULL INNINGS. These required minimum innings do not need to be consecutive. Every player must play in the field in at least one of the first two innings. No players can sit out for both the first and second inning of any game. The MINIMUM INNING RULE shall not apply when a game is shortened by slaughter rule, inclement weather or when your team is the visiting team and home team does not bat in the bottom of the last inning.
- All player changes must be done before the first pitch of the inning unless there is an injury.

SUBSTITUTE RUNNERS

- **ALL DIVISIONS – PINTO, MUSTANG, BRONCO, PONY**
 - The catcher will be allowed a pinch runner to speed up the game.
 - The pinch runner can only be utilized with two (2) outs.
 - The pinch runner must be the player from that team who made the last out.

- If a base runner is removed due to injury, the last batter to have made an out must replace him. The opposing manager must be notified anytime that an injured player needs to be removed from the game.

ROSTER BATTING

- **ALL DIVISIONS – PINTO, MUSTANG, BRONCO, PONY**

- All roster players must take a regular turn at bat for the entire game.
- If a player must leave the game for an injury or illness, there are two options.
 1. The manager may keep the player's batting spot open by taking an automatic out every time that player is due to bat. When the player returns, he/she would again be allowed to bat in that vacated spot.
 2. The manager may remove the player from the entire game and delete that player completely from the batting order and not be charged an out.
 3. If a player leaves the game early or is ejected from the game, that spot in the batting order will be an out.
- In either case, the opposing manager and the umpire must be notified.
- If a player arrives late, he/she must be assigned the last position in the batting order and he/she must be able to play the minimum required innings defensively as set forth in the MINIMUM INNING RULE (subject to the exceptions explained in the MINIMUM INNING RULE) or he/she cannot enter the game.
- When a game is suspended and being played on another day and that player can not make the continuation of the original game, his spot in the batting order will be skipped and not be charged an out.

FIELD DIMENSIONS

- **PINTO**
 - Pitcher's Mound - 40 feet
 - Bases - 50 feet
- **MUSTANG**
 - Pitcher's Mound - 44 feet
 - Bases - 60 feet
- **BRONCO**
 - Pitcher's Mound - 48 feet
 - Bases - 70 feet
- **PONY**
 - Pitcher's Mound - 54 feet
 - Bases - 80 feet

EQUIPMENT

- All players must be in Full OFBA uniform; including hat, jersey, pants and socks. All uniform jerseys must be tucked in while playing.
- All players must wear a batting helmet when on deck, at the plate or on the bases.
- All boy players must wear a protective cup while playing in the game.
- Metal spikes are not allowed in any division, except for Pony.

- BATS
 - PINTO
 - No wood bats
 - **All 2 5/8 Barrel Bats must have the USA Bat Stamp and no other 2 5/8 bats are allowed.**
 - **2 3/4 Barrel Bats are NOT ALLOWED**
 - **2 1/4 Barrel Bats must have some type of a stamp on the bat.**
Ex. USA Stamp, BPF 1.15

 - MUSTANG, BRONCO
 - **All Bats must have the USA Bat Stamp and no other bats are allowed.**
 - **Barrel size of 2 1/4 and 2 5/8 are allowed**
 - **Barrel size of 2 3/4 are NOT ALLOWED**

 - PONY
 - Any size bat can be used and must be stamped USA Bat, BBCOR, USSSA, BPF 1.15 and wood bats are allowed.

BASE STEALING

- **PINTO**
 - NO STEALING.
 - All runners must remain on their base until the ball is hit in play.

- **MUSTANG**
 - Runners may steal bases, but may not leave the base they occupy until the pitched ball touches the catcher's glove or passes the catcher.
 - If a base runner attempting to steal leaves the base before the pitched ball touches the catcher's glove or passes the catcher, the pitch shall be declared a "dead ball" (no pitch). The first occurrence per team, a **warning** will be given and the runner must return to the base they came from. The second and further occurrences per team, the runner will be called "out".
 - NO DELAYED STEALING!
 - The first occurrence of a delayed steal per team, a **warning** will be given and the runner must return to the base they came from. The second and

further occurrences of a delayed steal per team, the runner will be called “out”.

- Example

- If a runner stops half way between bases and attempts to draw a throw from the catcher or pitcher.
- If a runner does not begin to steal until the catcher is throwing the ball back to the pitcher.
- The runner may advance if the ball is overthrown from the catcher to the pitcher.
- If the ball is returned to the pitcher and the pitcher is within three (3) feet from the pitching rubber, the runner must return to the base they occupied.
- If a base runner abandons his attempt to steal and begins to retreat to the base he came from, the pitcher (or any defensive player) must be within three (3) feet of pitching rubber with the ball in his/her possession (hand/glove), stopping play and requiring the runner to return to the base he came from.
- At anytime, if defensive action is taken against the runner and an attempt is made to throw or tag the runner out, play is open and the runners may advance.

- **BRONCO AND PONY**

- Runners may lead off and steal bases.
- When a defensive player is holding a runner on, he may not block the base to obstruct the runner from returning to the base.
- If an obstruction occurs, the runner will be awarded the next base and any other runners shall be advanced if forced by the advancement.

PITCHING

- **PINTO**

- First six (6) Pre-Season Games – These games will end as defined by a calendar date, due to possible rain outs. (some teams may not get six (6) pre-season games if games are rained out)
 - Coach Pitch three (3) innings, players pitch three (3) innings.
 - Pitchers shall not pitch more than one (1) inning in any one calendar day or more than four (4) innings in any one calendar week. One pitch constitutes an inning.
 - When the Coach is pitching, the batter will either hit the ball or strike out, no walks. The Coach must pitch from the mound.
 - When the Player is pitching and four (4) balls are thrown, the Coach will then pitch and the count will go to one (1) strike and the batter will either hit the ball or strike out, no walks. The Coach must pitch from the mound.
 - A calendar week is 12:01 AM Monday to 11:59 PM the following Sunday

- The Regular Season Games - These games will begin on a calendar date. (All teams may not get the same amount of pre-season games, due to possible rain outs.)
 - Coach Pitch two (2) innings, players pitch four (4) innings.
 - Pitchers shall not pitch more than two (2) consecutive innings in any one calendar day or more than six (6) innings in any one calendar week. One pitch constitutes an inning. Once a pitcher is removed, he cannot return as a pitcher.
 - When the Coach is pitching, the batter will either hit the ball or strike out, no walks. The Coach must pitch from the mound.
 - When the Player is pitching and four (4) balls are thrown, the Coach will then pitch and the count will go to one (1) strike and the batter will either hit the ball or strike out, no walks. The Coach must pitch from the mound.
 - A calendar week is 12:01 AM Monday to 11:59 PM the following Sunday
- Last three (3) Regular Season Games
 - Players pitch six (6) innings.
 - Pitchers shall not pitch more than two (2) consecutive innings in any one calendar day or more than six (6) innings in any one calendar week. One pitch constitutes an inning. Once a pitcher is removed, he cannot return as a pitcher.
 - When the Player throws four (4) balls, the batter will walk. No Coach pitch.
 - A calendar week is 12:01 AM Monday to 11:59 PM the following Sunday
- PLAYOFFS
 - Same as Last three (3) Regular Season Games above.
 - Pitching limits will reset for the World Series
- **MUSTANG**
 - First six (6) Pre-Season Games – These games will end as defined by a calendar date, due to possible rain outs. (some teams may not get six (6) pre-season games if games are rained out)
 - Pitchers shall not pitch more than two (2) consecutive innings in any one calendar day or more than six (6) innings in any one calendar week. One pitch constitutes an inning. Once a pitcher is removed, he cannot return as a pitcher.
 - A calendar week is 12:01 AM Monday to 11:59 PM the following Sunday
 - The Regular Season Games - These games will begin on a calendar date. (All teams may not get the same amount of pre-season games, due to possible rain outs.)
 - Pitchers shall not pitch more than three (3) consecutive innings in any one calendar day or more than eight (8) innings in any one calendar week. One pitch constitutes an inning. Once a pitcher is removed, he cannot return as a pitcher.
 - If three (3) consecutive innings are pitched by one pitcher, that pitcher must take the next full calendar day rest before pitching again.
 - A calendar week is 12:01 AM Monday to 11:59 PM the following Sunday
 - PLAYOFFS
 - Same as Regular Season above
 - Pitching limits will reset for the World Series

- **BRONCO**

These rules will apply unless different rules have been established and agreed upon by all the leagues involved.

- Regular Season Games
 - Pitchers shall not pitch more than four (4) consecutive innings in any one calendar day. One pitch constitutes an inning. Once a pitcher is removed, he cannot return as a pitcher.
 - If four (4) innings are pitched by one pitcher, that pitcher must take the next full calendar day rest before pitching again.
 - Pitchers shall not pitch more than ten (10) innings in any one calendar week.
 - A calendar week is 12:01 AM Monday to 11:59 PM the following Sunday
- PLAYOFFS
 - Same as Above
 - Pitching limits will reset for the World Series

- **PONY**

These rules will apply unless different rules have been established and agreed upon by all the leagues involved.

- Regular Season Games
 - Pitchers shall not pitch more than seven (7) consecutive innings per calendar day. One pitch constitutes an inning. Once a pitcher is removed, he cannot return as a pitcher.
 - If seven (7) innings are pitched by one pitcher, that pitcher must take the next two (2) full calendar day rest before pitching again.
 - Pitchers shall not pitch more than twelve (12) innings in any one calendar week.
 - A calendar week is 12:01 AM Monday to 11:59 PM the following Sunday
- PLAYOFFS
 - Same as Above
 - Pitching limits will reset for the World Series

OTHER GAME RULES

OVERTHROWS OUT OF BOUNDS

- **ALL DIVISIONS – PINTO, MUSTANG, BRONCO, PONY**
 - An overthrow from the infield that goes out of bounds, the runner gets one base.
 - An overthrow from the outfield that goes out of bounds, the runner gets one base, plus one base.

BUNTING

- **PINTO**
 - No bunting or attempting to bunt allowed at anytime.

- **MUSTANG, BRONCO**
 - Bunting is allowed.
 - There will be no swinging once a bunt attempt is made.
 - If a batter squares to bunt, the batter cannot then swing the bat. The batter must bunt or pull the bat back.
 - Violation of this rule, the Umpire will call the batter "out".
- **PONY**
 - Bunting is allowed with no restrictions.

STRIKE ZONE

- **PINTO**
 - The bottom of the batter's knees to the top of the batter's shoulders at the point where the ball crosses the plate.
 - The umpire shall assume a batter takes a normal batting stance for purposes of determining the height of the shoulders.
 - A pitch 'one width' of a baseball inside the plate and outside the plate will be considered a strike to encourage batters to swing at more pitches and to allow for a more generous strike zone for our young pitchers.
- **MUSTANG, BRONCO AND PONY**
 - The letters across the uniform shirt to the bottom of the kneecaps.

HIT BY PITCH

- **ALL DIVISIONS**
 - A hit by pitch is when the batter is in the batter box and the ball hits the batter (their clothes or some part of their body) whether in the air or on a bounce.
 - If the batter swings at the pitch and misses (does not foul tip the ball), and the ball hits the batter, the pitch will be called a strike and not a hit by pitch.
 - If the batter swings at the pitch and the ball hits the batter's hands on the bat, it is a "dead ball" and will be called a foul ball strike, not a hit by pitch.
- **PINTO**
 - If a pitcher hits two (2) batters in one (1) inning, a pitching change must be made.
 - Once removed from pitching (for any reason), a player may not return to pitch in the same game.
 - During the pre-season and regular season, the batter will have the option to take first base or continue to hit. During the last 3 games of the regular season and during playoffs, the batter must take first base.
- **MUSTANG, BRONCO, PONY**
 - If a pitcher hits two (2) batters in one (1) inning, or three (3) batters in a game, a pitching change must be made.

- Once removed from pitching (for any reason), a player may not return to pitch in the same game.
- Batter must take first base.

TRIPS TO THE MOUND

- **ALL DIVISIONS – PINTO, MUSTANG, BRONCO, PONY**
 - The manager is allowed only one trip to the mound per pitcher per inning.
 - Upon a second trip to the mound that inning, a pitching change must be made.
 - No more than six (6) players shall conference on the mound at one time.

WARMING UP THE PITCHER

- **ALL DIVISIONS – PINTO, MUSTANG, BRONCO, PONY**
 - Players warming up pitchers between innings shall wear catcher's helmets/masks.
 - A pitcher is allowed a maximum of five (5) warm-up pitches before the start of each inning.
 - New pitchers who are brought in during the progression of the game are allowed ten (10) warm up pitches.

INTENTIONAL WALKS

- **ALL DIVISIONS – PINTO, MUSTANG, BRONCO, PONY**
 - No intentional walks are allowed.

BALKS

- **PINTO and MUSTANG**
 - No Balks
- **BRONCO and PONY**
 - The Balk Rule is in effect
 - A warning will be given on each pitcher's first balk in each game.

DROPPED THIRD STRIKE

- **PINTO and MUSTANG**
 - No Drop Third Strike
- **BRONCO and PONY**
 - Is in effect.
 - A batter may attempt to advance to first base when the third strike called by the umpire is not caught by the catcher, providing 1) first base is unoccupied, or 2) first base is occupied with two (2) outs.

INFIELD FLY RULE

- PINTO and MUSTANG
 - No Infield Fly Rule

- BRONCO and PONY
 - Is in effect.
 - When runners are on 1st and 2nd or the bases are loaded with less than two outs and a batted ball is popped up to the infield, an automatic out is called. The runners may advance at their own risk.

STOPPING PLAY

- PINTO
 - Anytime the ball is in play and the base runners are advancing, once any defensive player with the ball in his/her possession (in the hand or glove of the player) is in the infield dirt area, the play is dead and all runners who are not at least half way to the next base must stop and return to the base they came from.
- MUSTANG
 - Anytime the ball is in play and the base runners are advancing, once the pitcher has the ball in his/her possession (in the hand or glove of the player) within three (3) feet of the pitching rubber, the play is dead and all runners who are not at least half way to the next base must stop and return to the base they came from.

RUNNER INTERFERENCE

- All Divisions – PINTO, MUSTANG, BRONCO, PONY
 - A base runner is out if he runs into or interferes with a fielder who is attempting to catch a thrown or batted ball, or throw a batted ball.

FIELDER INTERFERENCE

- All Divisions – PINTO, MUSTANG, BRONCO, PONY
 - A fielder may not block the base path of a runner attempting to advance a base or score unless he is attempting to catch/field a thrown or batted ball.

SLIDING RULE

- All Divisions – PINTO, MUSTANG, BRONCO, PONY
 - OFBA insists that all coaches instruct their runners to slide feet first when there is a play made at any base.
 - When there is a play made at any base, a runner who fails to slide, or fails to avoid contact (go around a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make a tag), is out.

- If a runner slides, where there is a play made at any base, the umpires judgement, safe or out, will be the call.
 - If a runner does not slide and makes contact with the fielder, the runner will automatically be called out.
 - If a runner does not slide and does not make contact with the fielder, the runner will NOT automatically be called out, the umpires judgement, safe or out, will be the call.
- A fielder must leave the runner a visible path to the base unless he already has the ball in his possession.
 - If the fielder intentionally attempts to block the base without the ball in his possession, the runner is safe.
 - Blatant and malicious contact by a runner or fielder with any other player, at any base, will result in automatic ejection from the game.
 - No head first sliding at home plate, no exceptions, player will be called out.

FAN, COACH OR MANAGER INTERFERENCE

- All Divisions – PINTO, MUSTANG, BRONCO, PONY
 - If a fan, coach or manager interferes with the progression of the game, they shall be given one warning.
 - Upon the second infraction, they will be asked to leave the playing field.

FARM PLAYERS

- All Divisions – PINTO, MUSTANG, BRONCO, PONY
 - A Team must have 8 players to start an official game.
 - In the event that a team falls below nine (9) players, that team may use a farm player, which is defined as a player in a lower age division.
 - Use of a farm team player must not conflict with the farm team player's regularly scheduled games and the farm team player must not play more innings than a roster player.
 - The farm team player must bat last in the batting order and must play the outfield only when in the game defensively.
 - The Division Coordinator and opposing manager must be notified before the game that a farm team player is being used.
 - The farm team player's manager must be asked and grant permission for the farm team player to be used.
 - Such permission must be received prior to the game in which the farm team player will participate.

INJURED PLAYERS

- All Divisions – PINTO, MUSTANG, BRONCO, PONY
 - No player will be allowed play in a game if that player is wearing any type of hard or soft cast or splint to protect a broken bone or injured part of the body.
 - Nor will that player be allowed to remove the cast or splint to enable him/her to play unless that player has written approval to do so from a licensed physician.

- A splint on a player's finger is an exception and will not be grounds to prohibit that player from playing.

PROTESTS

- All Divisions – PINTO, MUSTANG, BRONCO, PONY
 - **NO GAME MAY BE PROTESTED. ALL UMPIRE DECISIONS ARE FINAL.**

SPECIAL SAFETY RULES OF PLAY

- All Divisions – PINTO, MUSTANG, BRONCO, PONY

Safety is the primary goal at all times. The following rules are designed to minimize contact and avoid dangerous play. It is the manager's responsibility to understand and teach these rules to their players and coaches.

- All boy players must wear a protective cup.
- No player shall maliciously run into a fielder who has the ball or is attempting to field or catch a ball. Blatant, malicious contact by any player with any other player, will result in automatic ejection from the game.
- A runner who takes a direct path to the next base and merely comes close to a batted ball shall not be ruled out unless he changes his speed or path to the base to distract the fielder. However, the runner shall be called out if there is contact with a fielder who is in front of him. If a fielder runs into a runner from a point where the runner sees the fielder, then the fielder shall be guilty of interference. The purpose of this rule is to place the burden to avoid contact upon the player with the play "in front" of him.
- A runner is out if he intentionally runs into or interferes with a fielder who is attempting to catch a thrown ball. Therefore, a runner advancing toward first base must avoid intentional contact with the first baseman. If, however, the first baseman moves in such a way as to contact the runner in an attempt to catch an errant throw, then the first baseman shall be guilty of interference.
- A runner who fails to slide or fails to avoid contact (go around a fielder who has the ball and who is waiting to make a tag), is out. Combining the two previous rules means that any runner approaching a base where the fielder has the ball or is about to receive the ball, must slide or be called out. However, if a fielder has the ball or is about to field a ball and is not near the base that the runner is attempting to reach, then the runner shall not be forced to slide, but must attempt to go around the fielder.

- A fielder may not block the path of a runner attempting to reach a base unless the fielder has possession of the ball or is attempting to field the ball. The umpire shall determine if the fielder is in the process of fielding the ball or should yield to the runner.

GAME CONTROL & FIELD DECORUM

AUTOMATIC EJECTION

- All Divisions – PINTO, MUSTANG, BRONCO, PONY
 - An umpire may eject, without warning, a player, coach or manager for use of profanity, destruction of property or equipment or any act of physical violence.
 - Such acts may carry additional game or season suspensions.
 - Umpires, Managers and Ejected person shall notify OFBA Umpire Coordinator immediately after the game and submit a written report within 24 hours of the incident.

WARNING PRIOR TO EJECTION

- All Divisions – PINTO, MUSTANG, BRONCO, PONY
 - An umpire may eject a player, coach or manager after one (1) warning for throwing equipment such as helmets or bats, unsportsmanlike conduct or harassment of the umpire.

FORFEIT

- All Divisions – PINTO, MUSTANG, BRONCO, PONY
 - An umpire may declare a forfeiture of a game for the following reasons:
 1. Failure of a team to field eight (8) players after 10 minutes of the scheduled starting time.
 2. Failure to complete a game that has not been officially called by an umpire.
 3. Failure to comply with an umpire's directive to remove a fan, coach, player or manager previously ejected from within the umpire's field of vision.

Each manager is responsible for the actions of his team's fans, coaches and players.

If a fan, coach or player makes a negative comment to anyone other than his or her own team, the umpire will identify the disruptive person and a warning will be given to the manager. The manager will then have five (5) minutes to correct the problem. If unable to do so, the manager may ask for an OFBA Board Member to assist. If the manager does not attempt to do so, the game will be forfeited. The umpires shall then notify the Umpire Coordinator and file a written report with the OFBA Board within 24 hours of the incident.

GAME CANCELLATION

- All Divisions – PINTO, MUSTANG, BRONCO, PONY
 - In the event of inclement weather prior to the start of a game, the decision to play will be made by the Division Coordinator.

- Once the game has started, the decision to suspend and/or resume play will be made by both teams Managers after consulting the Division Coordinator.
- The Division Coordinator will attempt to reschedule a game suspended by inclement weather if the required number of innings have not been played to qualify as an official game.
- The game will resume at the point it was suspended and with the exact situation present.
- Managers need to record the exact point of suspension and report to the Division Coordinator.
- A pitcher who has pitched in the suspended game and had been removed may not pitch the continuation of that game. The pitcher who was currently pitching when the game was suspended may continue to pitch as long as doing so does not violate the established Pitching Rules for that age division. Players that were not present at the suspended game may play in the continuation of that game provided they bat at the end of the batting order and can play three (3) defensive innings without breaking the MINIMUM INNING RULE.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Coaches

All coaches, in your words and actions will;

- Enthusiastically support and practice the philosophies of positive coaching, honesty, loyalty, courage and good sportsmanship.
- Know the rules, and consult those rules before raising rules questions during/after games with other coaches, umpires or the league.
- Emphasize to my players that they must abide by the rules of the game at all times.
- Strive to teach my players the fundamentals of baseball, and then reinforce those fundamentals throughout the season.
- Show respect for the calls made by all umpires. In cases where I have valid concerns, I will raise those concerns tactfully between innings or at the end of the game with the umpires in question.
- Ensure that my team shows respect for our opponents, regardless of the outcome of the game.
- Ensure a safe environment for all players on both teams.
- Never verbally ridicule or physically touch a player in anger.
- Collaborate actively and respectfully with the coaches on the other team before, during, and after the game.
- Maintain the perspective that baseball is a game, to be played for fun.
- Be prepared to intervene in any sportsmanship issues caused by the parents or players on my team, if these issues disrupt any game and cause the game's umpire to take action to resolve them.
- Recognize that I am responsible for anything I write online (ie. Facebook, Twitter, Blogs, etc.) regarding commentary, content, or images that are defamatory, harassing or libelous.

On these social media outlets, I will write respectfully, knowledgeably, accurately and professionally about OFBA, players, parent or coaches.

- Insist on a drug-free, alcohol-free, and tobacco-free sports environment for all children and agree to assist by refraining from their use at all games, practices and events.

Players

All players, in your words and actions will;

- Play for the sake of playing a game, not just to please a parent or coach.
- Always give my best effort and work as hard for my teammates as I do for myself.
- Treat all players as I would like to be treated.
- Be a team player and not show off.
- Be a good sport and acknowledge good plays whether they are made by my team or by my opponents.
- Abide by the rules of the game.
- Respect my coaches, teammates, opponents, spectators and umpires.
- Never abuse or mistreat any equipment.
- Never argue with or complain about umpire calls or decisions. When I do have concerns, I will raise them with my coach and let him/her handle them with the umpires.
- Control my temper when I feel I have been wronged.
- Remember that the object of the game is to win, but the most important goal is to enjoy playing baseball.
- Recognize that I am responsible for anything I write online (ie. Facebook, Twitter, Blogs, etc.) regarding commentary, content, or images that are defamatory, harassing or libelous. On these social media outlets, I will write respectfully, knowledgeably, accurately and professionally about OFBA, players, parent or coaches.

Parents

All parents, in your words and actions will;

- Attend as many games as possible and participate actively in parent/coach/OFBAs general meetings.
- Be on time or early when dropping off or picking up my child for a practice or game.
- Ensure my child is supported and encouraged by family or loved ones at games.
- Encourage my child to have fun and keep the sport in its proper perspective.
- Define winning for my child as giving her/his best effort.
- Learn the rules of baseball and support the efforts of the umpires.
- Honor the game and show respect for all involved including coaches, players, opponents, spectators, and umpires.
- Applaud and encourage players from both teams and not yell out instructions.
- Not make negative comments about the game, coaches, umpires, or players in my child's presence.
- Encourage others to refrain from negative or abusive sideline behavior.
- Recognize that I am responsible for anything I write online (ie. Facebook, Twitter, Blogs, etc.) regarding commentary, content, or images that are defamatory, harassing or libelous. On these social media outlets, I will write respectfully, knowledgeably, accurately and professionally about OFBA, players, parent or coaches.

- Insist on a drug-free, alcohol-free, and tobacco-free sports environment for all children and agree to assist by refraining from use at all games, practices and events.
- *Types of violation of these pledges, corresponding sanctions, and a league process for deciding on sanctions will be described below.*
- *It is the responsibility of each coach, player and parent to understand and support these sanctions and the league's decision process.*
- *In case I observe a violation of these pledges for Coaches, Parents or Players, or have valid concerns re: umpire conduct, contact an OFBA board member*

VIOLATIONS TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT

- The Board shall have the authority to warn, suspend, dismiss, bar, or otherwise discipline any Player, Manager, Coach, Umpire, Officer, or other person whose conduct is in violation of the Code of Conduct or Rules and Regulations of this Association and/or is considered detrimental to the best interests of the League.
 - Persons subject to such discipline shall have the right to a hearing before the Executive board before such discipline is imposed.
 - In the event of discipline procedures involving a Player, or other person under the age of 18, that person's parents shall be invited to attend the hearing with the person concerned.
 - Persons, youth or adult, who refuse to comply with the Rules of Oak Forest Baseball, Oak Forest Park District, or the Association, may be considered for disciplinary action.
 - Recognizing the difficulty of establishing specific penalties for a variety of violations of acceptable conduct, the following penalties are suggested. The Board may impose the one which, in their opinion, appears to match the severity of the offense.
1. **WARNING.** The offending person is to be advised in writing of the offense, and further advised that repetition of the offense will result in a more severe penalty.
 2. **SUSPENSION.** The offending person is to be advised in writing that he or she has been suspended from all League activity for a specific number of games, or days.
 3. **DISMISSAL.** The offending person is to be advised in writing that he or she has been dismissed from the League for the remainder of the current year.
 4. **BARRED.** The offending person is to be advised in writing that he or she has been barred for present and future participation in the League, permanently, or for a specific number of years.

OFBA BOARD MEMBERS

President*
Vice President*
Treasurer*
Director of Player Personnel*
Director of Equipment/Purchasing*
Pony Coordinator
Bronco Coordinator
Mustang Coordinator
Pinto Coordinator
T-Ball Coordinator
Umpire Coordinator
Fields Coordinator
Batting Cage Coordinator
Travel Coordinator
Special Events Coordinator

*Executive Board Members