

COOPER CITY OPTIMIST BASEBALL

Playoff and Championship Game Rules

Updated May 19, 2023

All games will be played according to Cooper City Optimist Official Playing Rules with the following exceptions:

1. All games must end with one team being declared the winner. Normal time & inning limits apply. EXCEPTION: Championship Games – see below.
2. Requests to reschedule games will not be entertained. Games will only be rescheduled in the event of inclement weather or if field conditions prevent the game from safely being played. CCO Baseball will only consider coaching conflicts in cases where a registered Head Coach is on the roster of 2 or more CCO Baseball teams when assigning game dates and times.
3. 10U & up:
 - a. Any pitch count violations will be suspension of the Head Coach for the remainder of the Playoffs, an automatic forfeit of the game, and the disqualification of the pitcher for the remainder of the playoffs to play the pitcher position.
 - b. No Scheduling considerations for pitching divisions shall be made. Plan accordingly. There is a possibility of 3, 4, or 5 games in the 7-day pitching window. The 6-Day pitching window rules remain in effect.
4. 8U: Only registered coaches for the 8U team, or a Coach registered in another age division at CCO but not on another 8U team, can pitch for that 8U team in the playoffs.
5. All Levels: all bats shall be inspected prior to the start of the game by the umpires to ensure compliance with the current Drop Rules. See CCO Baseball Official Rule Book.
6. There will be Playoff Practices at the Cooper City Sports Complex scheduled by the league. Practices on the Master Schedule has priority for use for their scheduled time. All other unscheduled field space is considered first-come first-serve.
7. Players pulled for illness (not injury) will be counted as an out the if not announced prior to the start of the previous half-inning. (i.e. if they were not announced as an illness withdrawal and their team played defense then they must bat)
8. If a regulation game is called due to weather with the score tied and one (1) or more innings has been completed beyond; four (4) innings in a six (6) inning game or five (5) innings in a seven (7) inning game, the score shall revert back to last completed inning, or last completed half (1/2) inning if the home team leads but back no further than the third (3rd) inning.
9. All games that for any reason cannot be declared a regulation game shall be a suspended game. A suspended game, when resumed, will resume from the exact point of suspension. An official scoresheet shall be completed, signed, and submitted for the activity of the game up to the time of the suspended game for use upon resumption of the game. Additionally, the Home Team Head Coach shall submit images of the home-team scorebook to the division coordinator signed by both Head Coaches.
10. **Tie-Breaker System for Play-Off games only (Non-Championship Games):** If a play-off game is tied **before the time limit has elapsed**, a normal extra inning(s) is played. **After the time limit has elapsed**, the "Kansas City" tie-breaker rule will go into effect. The "Kansas City" tie-breaker will be used until the tie is broken and the game is complete. In the "Kansas City" tie-breaker new innings will start as follows:
 - a. Runner on 2nd base (Last batter that completed a full at-bat in the previous inning)
 - b. Inning begins with one (1) out.
 - i. If after one (1) whole inning have been played without a winner being declared, all future innings will begin with two (2) outs.
 - c. **Updated 10/25/22: Fall Consolation/Losers Bracket Games can end in a tie. No additional innings shall be played after time limit has elapsed. Spring Consolation/+1 games can end in a tie. No additional innings shall be played after time limit has elapsed.**

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11. Championship game protocols:
 - a. Spring:
 - i. No Time Limits.
 - ii. No Mercy Rule shall be implemented.
 - iii. Inning run limits:
 1. 6U, 8U, & 10U: From the 6th inning onward, there will be no run limits per inning (“no run limit” inning). Rotation/Substitution Rules still apply.
 2. 12U: From the 7th inning onward, there will be no run limits per inning (“no run limit” inning). Rotation/Substitution Rules still apply.
 - iv. Tie-Breaker System (Championship Game only): If tied after above “no run limit” inning, additional “no run limit” innings shall be played as follows:
 1. One (1) normal inning
 2. If tied after above, one (1) “Kansas City” tie-breaker
 - a. Runner on 2nd base (Last batter that completed a full at-bat in the previous inning)
 - b. Inning begins with one (1) out.
 3. If tied after above, additional innings “Kansas City” tie-breaker
 - a. Runner on 2nd base (Last batter that completed a full at-bat in the previous inning)
 - b. Inning begins with two (2) outs.
 - b. Fall
 - i. Normal Time Limits
 - ii. Normal Mercy Rule shall be applied after the 4th inning and onward for age division
 - iii. 5th inning onward in all divisions will be unlimited runs (there is no guarantee you will play the 5th inning if Mercy Rule is applied after 4th inning)
12. The Coaches Code of Conduct will be strictly enforced. Umpires have been advised to adhere to our ZERO TOLERANCE policy. **No warnings are required to be issued.** In the event a coach is ejected from a play-off game the coach will be suspended for the remainder of the season. If a coach is ejected from a Championship Game that coach must appear in front of the Disciplinary Review Committee before he can resume the position of a coach in any future season.
13. Weeknight Games: The winning team must turn in game sheet no later than 10:00 PM (ten) on same date game is played. Turn in your game sheets as determined by your Division Coordinator.
14. Weekend Games: The winning team must turn in game sheet no later than 2 hours after your game has finished on the same date game is played. Turn in your game sheets as determined by your Division Coordinator.
15. Tournament format will be:
 - a. Spring: a seeded double-elimination tournament format.
 - b. Fall: a seeded single-elimination tournament format.
16. The home team will be the higher seeded team in all play-off games, except for the Spring Championship game (when only 2 teams remain, and 1 team already has a loss). In that game the team with 0 losses will be the home team. If the team with 1 loss wins that game, then another game to determine the tournament winner will be played as per the published Bracket schedule. In that final game (when each team has 1 loss) the higher seeded team will be the home team.

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17. Appeals:

- a. Managers or coaches contemplating a protest on violations of playing rules on the field of play must notify the head umpire immediately of the desire and before the next pitch. Managers and coaches can file protests as per league rules found in Section 10 of the Cooper City Optimist Baseball Official Playing Rules. The only difference is the protest must be addressed before the next pitch. Any and all time to protest referenced in Section 10 will not apply. **Note Section 10E: \$200 cash fee to protest.**
- b. The head umpire will contact the league representative present at the Sports Complex at that time to issue a ruling on the protest. The time clock does not stop for protests regardless of the length of time it takes the league representative to issue his/her ruling.
 - i. Order of Seniority:
 1. Current CCO Baseball Commissioner (all divisions)
 2. Previous CCO Baseball Commissioner (all divisions)
 3. Adult Umpire Coordinator (10U & up)
 4. Youth Umpire Coordinator (all divisions)
 5. Assistant CCO Baseball Commissioner (all divisions)
 6. Division Coordinator of age division of game
 7. Division Coordinator of another division

18. Farm-up Rule modification:

- a. Spring: a player who has been chosen for a summer all-star team may not be farmed up.

19. ORDER OF RULE PRIORITY

- a. Cooper City Optimist Baseball Playoff and Championship Game Rules posted in Coaches Corner
- b. Cooper City Optimist Baseball Official Playing Rules posted in Coaches Corner
- c. USSSA Official Baseball National By-Laws & Rules posted in Coaches Corner
- d. Official Rules of Major League Baseball 2021 Edition posted in Coaches Corner