

WINTER PARK OPTIMIST CLUB BASEBALL PROGRAM

Local Option Rules

Effective March 1, 2015

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. The Local Option Rules, the Individual League Ground Rules, and the Rules of Babe Ruth Baseball (collectively referred to "the Rules") have been developed by the Winter Park Optimist Club Baseball Committee ("the Baseball Committee") and approved by the Winter Park Optimist Club Board of Directors ("the Board"). The Rules are designed to enhance the baseball experience for league participants.
2. When in conflict, the Rules are to be enforced in the following order:
 - A. The Local Option Rules; then
 - B. The Individual League Ground Rules; then
 - C. The Rules of Babe Ruth Baseball
3. Any situation that is not covered by the Rules should first be presented to the Baseball Committee for interpretation and a ruling. The ruling of the Baseball Committee may be appealed to the Board who may either hear the appeal or summarily affirm or overturn the decision of the Baseball Committee. The decision of the Board is final.
4. The Winter Park Optimist Club President or their designee will represent the Winter Park Optimist Club at Babe Ruth League functions.

THE BASEBALL PROGRAM

1. The Baseball Committee serves at the pleasure of the Board and has been assigned the responsibility of operating the Winter Park Optimist Club baseball program. The responsibilities of the Baseball Commissioners are delegated by and are subject to the approval of the Board and include but are not limited to the following:
 - A. Operating the baseball program in accordance with the rules established by the baseball committee and approved by the Board of Directors;
 - B. Scheduling sign-up dates, tryouts, drafts, practices umpires, and games;

- C. Assigning managers approved by the Board to specific league teams;
- D. Assigning sponsors approved by the Board to specific league teams;
- E. Ensuring league compliance with regulations of Babe Ruth Baseball;
and,
- F. Overseeing and approving all-star manager, coach and scorekeeper
selection;
- G. Assisting all-star managers in completing all-star tournament credentials;

MANAGERS AND COACHES

1 Baseball coaches and managers are not required to be members of Winter Park Optimist Club. However, those members who wish to coach or manage will be given priority over equally qualified non-members in the event those spaces are limited.

2 All managers and coaches must submit a new-signed application each year to the Baseball Commissioner who will present all applications to the Board for approval. Managers will be approved and given their team assignment prior to tryouts.

3 The managers and coach(es) for each team must attend their respective league meeting, which will be conducted by their League Commissioner under the direction of the Baseball Committee between the draft and opening night.

4 No individual may manage more than one team without the approval of the Baseball Committee.

5 The Baseball and league Commissioner(s) will attempt to select the most qualified applicants that have been approved by the Board when assigning managers to specific league teams.

6 In order to qualify as a coach or manager for an All Star team from WPO, persons must be members in good standing of the Winter Park Optimist Club as well as a regular season coach or manager in that division and league prior to opening night. It is the intent of this rule that each member of the all-star coaching staffs, including the scorekeeper, has been a member in good standing of the Winter Park Optimist Club during the entire spring season.

PLAYERS

1 Player eligibility is contingent upon (1) completion of the Player Application; (2) payment of the registration fee; and (3) presentment of a certified birth certificate to be kept by the Winter Park Optimist Club in the player's file. Player eligibility is subject to approval by the Baseball Committee and may be revoked at any time by the Baseball Committee. The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a player who has their eligibility revoked by the Baseball Committee may appeal to the Board. The Board may either hear the appeal or summarily affirm or overturn the decision of the Baseball Committee.

2 Players at Winter Park will play within their correct age group. The player's age is determined by the Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken league rules.

3 Once a player is assigned to a team roster, any request for reassignment of a player to any other team in any of the Winter Park Optimist Club baseball leagues must be submitted to the Baseball Committee in writing by the player's parent(s) or legal guardian(s). The written request must:

- A. Identify the name of the player;
- B. Identify the name of the league and team from whom the reassignment is sought;
- C. Identify the name of the league and team to whom the reassignment is sought;
- D. Affirm that the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) is making the request;
- E. State the reason(s) for the request;
- F. Grant permission to the Baseball Committee to discuss the request with the manager of both the team from whom reassignment is sought as well as the manager of the team to whom reassignment is sought;

G. Grant permission to the Baseball Committee to disclose the reassignment, if approved, to the other managers in the league(s) effected by the reassignment; and

H. Be signed and dated by the parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

The Baseball Committee will either grant or reject the request for Reassignment. The decision of the Baseball Committee may be appealed by the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to the Board who may either hear the appeal or summarily affirm or overturn the decision of the Baseball Committee. The Baseball Committee has the responsibility of notifying all managers in any league(s) affected by the reassignment if a reassignment request is approved. It is the intent of this rule that all managers will be made aware of reassignments to or from the roster of a team in their league.

1 All managers have the opportunity to have their child(ren) on the team that they manage. If a manager is assigned to a team and has a child(ren) that is a returning player on another team in the league in which the parent manages then prior to the draft the Baseball Commissioner and the League Commissioner will meet with both the manager of the team the child(ren) is/are to return to and the manager/parent to work out an equitable reassignment of the child(ren) to the manager/parent's roster. The decision of the Baseball Commissioner and the League Commissioner is subject to approval by the Baseball Committee. The details of the reassignment are to be disclosed to all managers in the effected league at the league draft. The returning child(ren) of a coach may not be reassigned to a different team from the team the child(ren) played on the preceding spring.

2 All players must participate in every game for which they are present. Present is interpreted as being at the field at the time the umpire instructs the teams to play ball. The player participation rules do not apply to players arriving after play has begun. Managers must inform the opposing team and head umpire after each half inning of any players who arrive after the game has started. The Individual League Ground Rules address the player participation rules for each of the respective leagues.

SPONSORS

1 Sponsors for league teams must sign a contract with the Winter Park Optimist Club and be approved each year by the Board.

2 Sponsorship of a team does not provide either the sponsor or the team being sponsored with the ability to protect or otherwise control the assignment or reassignment of any player including but not limited to the relatives of the sponsor or

relatives of employees of the sponsor.

3. The Baseball Commissioners will attempt to match a sponsor with the sponsor's desired team (roster); however, sponsorships will not result in the protection of any player with respect to the player's team assignment.

TEAMS

- 1 Team managers must submit their official team roster to their respective League Commissioner on the appropriate Babe Ruth League form prior to leaving their league draft.
- 2 A team's roster that falls below (12) players prior to the sixth game of the season must accept a replacement player assigned to them by the Baseball Committee.
- 3 The League Commissioner will provide each team with a practice schedule at the league draft, a game schedule within two weeks after the draft and the concession stand assignments within three weeks after the draft.
- 4 No team may practice outside the posted insurance dates of March 1 through October 31.
- 5 No team may practice with a player who is not on that team's roster and is eligible for the next draft in that team's league.

GROUND RULES FOR ALL LEAGUES

1. The only individuals authorized to be inside the fences during play are:
 - A. Players listed on the official roster of each team;
 - B. The manager of each team;
 - C. The coaches (two [2] per team);
 - D. The scorekeeper of each team;
 - E. The umpire(s);

2. The visiting team will occupy the first base dugout.
3. The home team will occupy the third base dugout.
4. Each coaching staff has the responsibility to clean their dugout after each game. This is an important responsibility that the Baseball Committee and the Board take seriously. Repeated violations of this rule by a particular coaching staff will result in a team sanction deemed appropriate by the Baseball Committee.
5. Each manager and coach is to wear a shirt and hat that identifies him or her with their team.
6. Teams are required to wear the uniform issued by the league. The league issued uniforms may not be altered in any way including putting player names on jerseys.
7. Practice times will be allocated to all teams on a non-preferential basis. The practice schedule will be distributed to all managers and will also be posted on the Internet at www.winterparkoptimist.org. Managers may sign-up for additional team practices on the open practice schedule posted on the bulletin board under the Winter Park Optimist Club Clubhouse. The Baseball Commissioner or his designee may override any practice times.
8. In order to maintain and prepare fields for play, each field to be used for league play on a particular day is closed from 3:00 pm until forty-five (45) minutes prior to the start of play. The infield of each field is closed until the grounds crew has completed preparing the field for league play.
9. Regular season play will be Monday through Saturday with no inning to begin after 9:30 pm.
10. The umpire is to call a ground rule double on any batted fair ball that:
 - A. Rolls or bounces between the fence offsets in center field;
 - B. Gets caught in a sign, advertisement or wind screen located on the inside of the outfield fence; or
 - C. Otherwise gets caught in or rolls under the outfield fence.
11. The umpire is to call a home run on any batted fair ball that either:
 - A. Lands beyond the outfield fence; or
 - B. Lands on the fly between the fence offsets in center field.
12. Speed up rules will be used in all league games as follows:
 - A. There will be no throwing the baseball around the infield after an out;
 - B. A pitcher starting an inning will be limited to five (5) warm-up pitches. The catcher may throw the last warm-up pitch to second base; and
 - C. Courtesy runners for the catcher are mandatory with two (2) outs. The courtesy runner

should be the player charged with the last out.

13. When batting, each team is granted one conference per inning between a member of the coaching staff and a batter and/or base runner(s). The umpire shall deny any subsequent request for a conference in that inning.

14. Any individual including a player, manager, coach or score keeper who the umpire(s) see(s) throwing equipment in a manner the umpire(s) deem(s) to be in anger or that poses danger to any other individual is to be immediately ejected.

15. Any manager, coach, player or score keeper ejected from a game is ineligible to participate in the next scheduled game including post-season tournament games. Any manager, coach, player or scorekeeper ejected from two (2) games during the season is suspended until such time as the Board may reinstate them. A request for reinstatement must be submitted in writing to the Board and contain the following:

- A. The individual's name;
- B. The name of the individual's team and the league in which they play;
- C. The date of each ejection;
- D. The name of the manager of the opponent being played at the time of each ejection;
- E. The name (if known) of each umpire who ejected the individual;
- F. A description of the event(s) that lead up to each ejection including the name(s) and phone number(s) of any witness(es) who can substantiate the individual's description of the event(s) leading up to each ejection;
- G. The reason(s) why the individual should be reinstated; and
- H. Be signed and dated by the individual. If the request for reinstatement is made on behalf of a player then the player's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must sign it.

Upon receipt of the request for reinstatement the Board may either schedule a hearing before the Board or summarily reject or accept the request without a hearing.

16. Players, coaches, and managers shall shake hands with the opposing team immediately following each game.

17. The managers in the Minor League, the Major League, and the Machine Pitch League (after tournament games only) shall confirm the final score with the head umpire following each game.

18. Each team will immediately clean and leave the dugout and playing field after their games are completed in situations where another game is scheduled to immediately follow on the field.

19. Players, managers, coaches, score keepers, and bat boys or bat girls are prohibited from using and/or consuming tobacco products, alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs while at the Winter Park Optimist baseball facility during league practice or game times. Violation(s) of this rule will result in the immediate indefinite suspension of the individual. A request for reinstatement must be submitted in writing to the Board and contain the following:

A. The individual's name;

B. The name of the league official who suspended the individual;

C. The date of the alleged violation;

D. The date the individual was suspended;

E. A description of the event(s) that lead to the suspension including the name(s) and phone number(s) of any witness (as) who can substantiate the individual's description of the event(s);

F. The reason(s) why the individual should be reinstated; and

G. Be signed and dated by the individual. If the request for reinstatement is made on behalf of a player then the player's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must sign it.

20. The Winter Park Optimist Club expects and demands that all league participants and fans conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner. Any fan(s) deemed to be acting in an unsportsmanlike manner by an umpire or league official will receive one warning to discontinue the objectionable conduct. If the unsportsmanlike conduct continues, the fan(s) will be asked to leave the Winter Park Optimist baseball facility. The game will be called and the team associated with the fan(s) will lose the game by forfeit

should any fan(s) either refuse to leave the Winter Park Optimist baseball facility or leave and return to the Winter Park Optimist baseball facility while the subject game is still being played. Managers are responsible for the conduct of fans of their team.

21. Refusing to play a game for any reason results in a forfeit for the team refusing to play.

The manager of a team that is unable to play a scheduled game has the responsibility to notify both the opposing manager and their League Commissioner that their team is unable to play at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the scheduled start of the game. Failure to do so will result in a two (2) game suspension of the offending manager.

22. Unfavorable weather conditions will be monitored utilizing a lightening meter as well as other methods. Once a game has either been stopped or delayed due to lightening all players are to immediately vacate the baseball facility and the game will be resumed at a latter date. Regardless of how quickly a storm may pass through the area or if there are apparent favorable weather conditions, all play will stop for the day upon detection of lightening in the area. If a game is stopped for rain and lightening has not been detected then there will be a rain delay and an effort will be made to continue play on the same day or night. The umpire(s), a member of the Baseball Committee or a member of the Board have the authority to stop play due to weather. The Baseball Committee will attempt to reschedule all incomplete games that are either stopped or cancelled by weather.