

The Official Rule Book
Of
Olive Baptist Church
Spring Baseball, Softball, Tee Ball Leagues

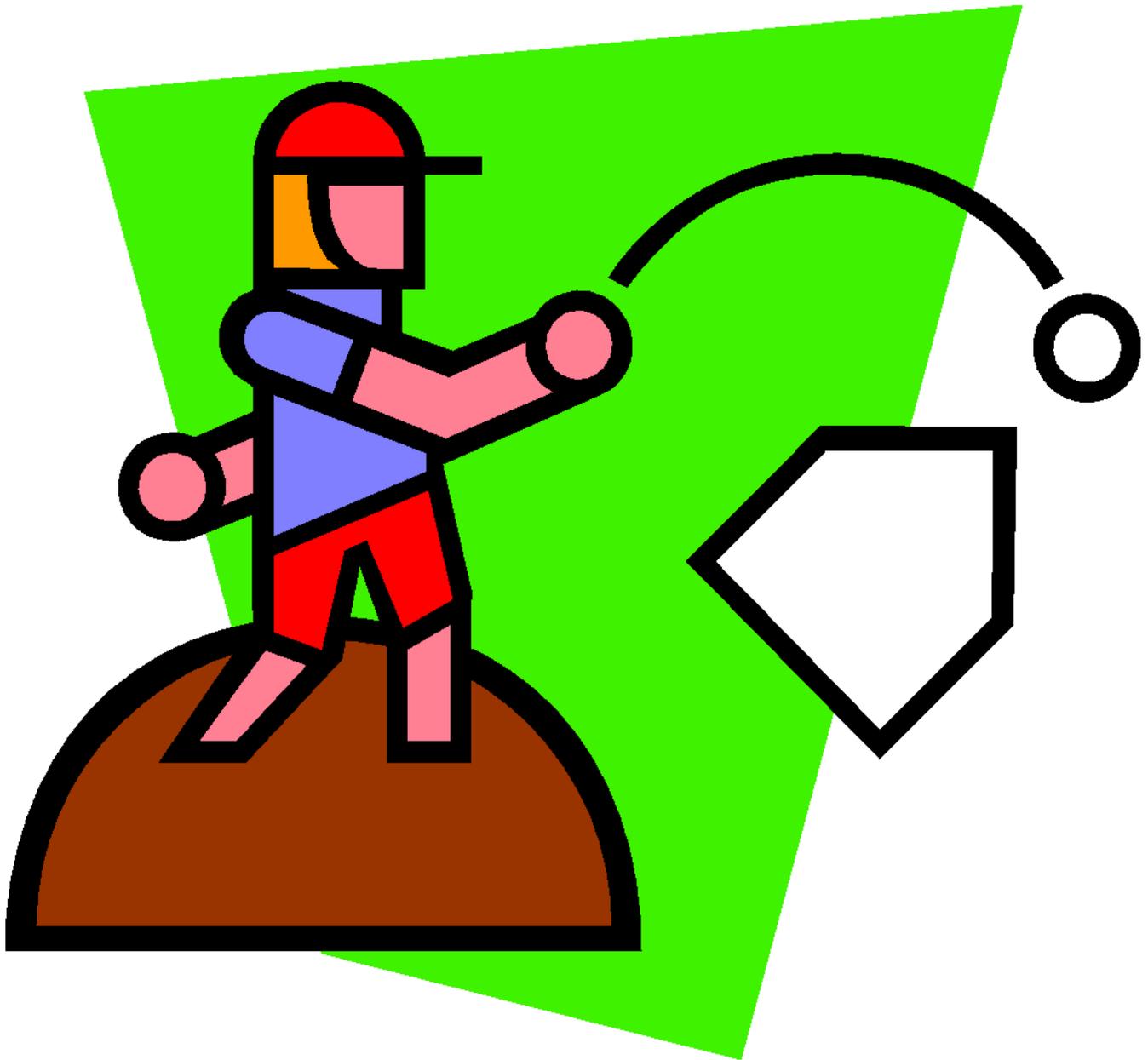


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The Official Rule Book Of Olive Baptist Church Recreational Outreach Ministry Baseball, Softball, & T-Ball Leagues

The rules and guidelines contained within this rule book have been adopted from Dizzy Dean Baseball, Inc.... The rules have been slightly modified to meet the requirements of the Olive Baptist Church Spring Baseball, Softball, and Tee Ball Leagues.

Olive Baptist Church assumes no responsibility or liability for any injury incurred while participating in our BST program. All participants are encouraged to have insurance coverage for their respective players. Players and spectators participate at their own risk.

MISSION STATEMENT

The primary mission of the Baseball, Softball, Tee-Ball (BST) leagues at Olive Baptist Church is to lead young boys, girls, men, and women to Jesus Christ, and to provide a safe and family friendly environment for youth to play baseball, softball, and tee ball.

OVERSIGHT AND ENFORCEMENT

The BST leagues will be governed by the ROC Director, the Team Sports Director, and the Team Sports Assistant.

The BST leagues at Olive Baptist Church will:

- Accept boys' and girls' four (4) to fourteen (14) years of age regardless of race, color, creed, or economic status to participate in our BST leagues.
- Teach the game of baseball, softball, and tee ball to young boys' and girls' as well as minister to them and their families.

The BST governing body shall:

- Address all conflicts regarding rule interpretations, rule violations, and complaints.
- Review, adopt, change or modify BST rules ONLY when necessary (Rule changes will NOT be made once the season has begun).
- Be responsible for the oversight of the BST leagues.
- Address, counsel, or dismiss any coach, player, or parent whose behavior is deemed detrimental to the primary mission of the BST leagues.

BST DIVISIONS OF PLAY BREAKDOWN

All players will be divided into their appropriate division of play before beginning the first practice.

The Divisions of League Play at Olive Baptist Church are as follows:

Tee-ball – Boys and Girls, ages 4 and 5

Coach Pitch Boys – Boys, ages 6 to 8

Coach Pitch Girls – Girls, ages 6 to 9

Varsity Girls Softball– Girls, ages 10 to 14

Minor League Baseball - Boys, ages 9-11

Major League Baseball - Boys, ages 12-14

Varsity Girls Kid Pitch – Girls, ages 10 to 14

These divisions of play may be altered, combined, or split based on the number of participants in a particular age range.

Any division of age groups can only be done by the Recreation Director or the Team Sports Director.

Player's do have the opportunity to play up to the next division of play if they meet the following requirements:

- A) Informing the Team Sports Department BEFORE the first practice AND indicating a desire to do so on the player's registration form
- B) The player MUST be in the highest age allowed in a bracket in order to move up
 - a. An 8-year-old boy may play up to the Minor League Division
 - b. An 8-year-old girl may NOT play up to the Varsity Girls Division

Players who are playing Tee-ball may NOT move up to Advanced Tee-ball.

BST COMMON RULES SECTION 1:00

THE PLAYING FIELD

- 1:01 The ROC Director and Team Sports Director shall oversee maintenance and preparation the BST fields for games and practices.
- 1:02 The home team shall be responsible for assisting with field preparation prior to the start of each game.
- 1:03 The infield is defined as “the clay area of the playing field.”
- The outfield begins at the grass.
- 1:04 No infield practice is permitted prior to the start of or during the game; however, teams are allowed to throw the ball around the bases but no more than twice per inning.
- 1:05 Each team will be responsible for cleaning up the trash in their dugout after their game has concluded.
- 1:06 PETS ARE NOT ALLOWED ON THE SPORTS COMPLEX GROUNDS; HOWEVER, PERSONAL ASSIST ANIMALS ARE PERMITTED.

BST COMMON RULES SECTION 2:00

EQUIPMENT

- 2:01 Players are required to wear their team jersey and cap during the game.
- 2:02 A six (6) inch number must appear on the back of each uniform shirt to assist the official scorer and spectators in identifying the players (Numbers are not required on coach’s shirts).
- 2:03 All players are required to have their shirts tucked in when they take the field.
- 2:05 A protective helmet with full ear flaps must be worn by all batters and base runners at all times (coaches are not required to wear a helmet while in the field of play).
- A player refusing to wear a helmet while batting or base running will not be allowed to continue as a player in the game and must be replaced by a substitute player. The substitute player will assume the ball and strike count if the player was a batter or will take their position on the base that was occupied if the player was a base runner.

2:06 All catchers must wear a chest protector, shin guards, protective cup (male catchers only), mask and throat protector.

BST COMMON RULES SECTION 2:00

EQUIPMENT (CONT)

2:07 Any player warming up the pitcher MUST wear a mask and a cup while in the down or crouching position.

2:08 Metal cleats are NOT allowed.

2:09 A leather mitt may be used by the first (1st) baseman and catcher only.

2:10 All baseball equipment must be kept in the dugout.

2:11 All cast, splints, and braces must be padded.

- Any cast, splint, or brace deemed to be unsafe by the umpire CANNOT be worn during the game. However, if the device can be padded in such a manner as to not cause harm or injury to the other players, the player will be permitted to play (umpire's decision).
- If the device (cast, splint, or brace) CANNOT be properly padded and if the player is required to wear it while playing for medical reason, he/she shall not be permitted to play.

2:12 Bats for all BST divisions shall be "Official Baseball/softball" bats. Bats MUST be official tee ball, softball, little league, or baseball approved bats; fast-pitch softball bats are acceptable for softball.

- Baseball bats shall NOT be altered in any manner. The following covers the bat age requirements for our league.
- Bats for ALL BST divisions must be a minimum of a "drop" three (-3) or greater.
- **NO composite bats are allowed.**
- The diameter of the bat shall be no larger than a 2¾ inch barrel and no longer than 36 inches.
- **BBCOR (Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution) bats are RECOMMENDED for ages 4-14 but NOT required (See page 50 for an explanation of BBCOR bats).**

- Damaged bats (broken, cracked, dented, defaced) are NOT allowed to be used during games or practices.
- There shall be no devices, attachments or wrappings that cause the handle to become flush with the knob. Molded grip and choke up knobs are NOT allowed to be used.

BST COMMON RULES SECTION 3:00

RE-ENTRY SUBSTITUTION

- 3:01** Any player may be removed from the game, and then returned to the lineup one (1) time; however, he must be inserted in the same position in the batting order that he was in at the start of the game.
- Any coach or player ejected from a game must sit out the remainder of the current game and the next two (2) games. Suspensions during the regular season carry over into tournament play.
- 3:02** When play is delayed due to the injury of a player and that player is removed from the game; he must sit out one (1) full inning before he/she can return to the game.
- 3:03** Under the re-entry substitution rule a pitcher may be replaced on the mound during any part of the game and return to the mound one (1) time.
- 3:04** INJURY/ILLNESS: If a player is injured or becomes ill during a game, the decision of a doctor (if present) or medical personnel will be final as to whether or not the player may continue in the game (this rule exist to protect the child. This rule applies to all BST divisions).

BST COMMON RULES SECTION 4:00

COACHES

- 4:01** Teams shall have a maximum of four (4) coaches.
- 4:02** ONLY two (2) coaches are permitted to coach the bases.
- 4:03** With the exception of the base coaches, all players and assistant coaches must remain in the dugout when their team is batting.
- Coaches may moderately dispute decision made by the umpire(s) or discuss any point with the umpire in a respectable manner. However, if at any time a coach makes any remarks or statements deemed offensive, derogatory, or exceedingly unsportsmanlike by the umpire

about the opposing player or umpire the offending coach(es) shall be immediately ejected from the game and will sit out the next two (2) games.

- 4:04 The head coach for each team is responsible for the conduct of his players as well as the conduct of his assistant coaches.
- 4:05 Only the head coach may discuss rule interpretations with the umpire; however, discussions about judgment calls are not allowed.

BST COMMON RULES SECTION 5:00

REGULATION GAMES

- 5:01 Teams will only be allowed to play more than one (1) game in one (1) day ONLY with the approval of the ROC Director, Team Sports Director, and the Team Sports Assistant.
- 5:02 Prior to the start of each game each team will line-up behind the first (1st) and third (3rd) base lines and the home team's coach will lead the group in prayer.
- 5:03 During league play each game will have a maximum time limit, once the maximum time limit has been reached the game will end after the third (3rd) out has occurred. No new inning will begin after the maximum time has been reached. The time clock for each for each game begins immediately after the umpire says "play ball." (For time limits refer to page 50).
- 5:04 Incomplete games that are called due to adverse weather conditions may be rescheduled by the Team Sports Director.
- 5:05 A complete game is defined as a game that completes the fourth (4th) inning of play OR a game that completes three and one half (3 ½) innings of play and the home team is in the run lead.
- 5:06 Team line-ups must be completed and turned in to the official scorekeeper before the start of the game or the game will be forfeited.
- 5:07 When there are two (2) outs and the catcher is a base runner; a pinch runner *may* be substituted for the catcher to allow him to put on his catcher's gear. The pinch runner shall be the player who has made the last out in the inning. This rule applies to Coach Pitch through Varsity divisions only.
- 5:08 Each team must have at least eight (8) players present in the dugout at game time or the game will be forfeited. An unofficial game may still be played but officiated by the coaches.

- 5:09 No out will be recorded for any division that has a missing batter in the line-up. Players who arrive late may be added to the bottom of team roster.
- 5:10 **NO player present may sit two (2) consecutive innings.** All teams must bat their bench.
- 5:11 Outside team(s) unable to play due to a church function, shall notify the Team Sports Director in advance (2 weeks) to assure that the game will be rescheduled. Failure to do so will result in a forfeit.
- 5:12 Olive Baptist Church Team Sports Ministry will provide game balls for each game.
- 5:13 The home and visiting team will be responsible for retrieving foul balls.
- 5:14 Overthrows during plays that leave the playing field, go into a dugout, or in some way become entangled in equipment will result in all runners advancing one base and the play being immediately dead.
- 5:15 Leading off the base WILL be allowed in our major league division (12-14). In all other divisions, base runners MUST remain in contact with the base until the ball leaves the pitcher's hand during a pitch or they will be called out (umpire's decision).
- 5:16 If the scorekeeper recognizes that a batter is batting out of order, he/she must alert the plate umpire to stop play and the correct batter must come to the plate. The correct batter will assume the ball and strike count for the illegal batter.
- If the scorekeeper fails to recognize the incorrect batting order and the opposing coach informs the plate umpire before the first pitch to the next batter, the team will be awarded one (1) out. However, the player will not be penalized and the correct batter will be called to the plate to bat.
- 5:17 After one (1) warning for slinging his/her bat, the batter will be called out for the next infraction, the ball will be called dead, and no runners will be allowed to advance to the next base.
- **The umpire will be in charge of deciding whether the first infraction is a warning for the currently batting team or for both teams.**
- 5:18 A pinch runner for a special needs player must be reported to the opposing team's head coach, the plate umpire and scorekeeper at the beginning of the game. The pinch runner shall be the player who has made the last out in the inning. This rule applies to Coach Pitch through Varsity divisions only.
- 5:19 Players in the outfield must begin each play with both feet on the outfield grass.

- 5:20 If a base runner's progress is impeded in any way by a defensive player without possession of the ball or while attempting to make a play on the ball, he/she will be allowed to advance to the next base. This includes a defensive player standing in the path of a base, standing on the base without the ball, or any interference in the umpire's judgment that has impeded the runner's progress to the next base.
- 5:21 Any team attempting to "ghost tag" will receive one (1) warning and after the first warning if it occurs again the player will be ejected from the game.
- 5:22 If the offensive coach (pitcher) catches a thrown or batted ball, the ball will be called dead and all base runners must return to the last base legally touched (This rule only applies to the Coach Pitch divisions).
- 5:23 A MAXIMUM OF SEVEN (7) RUNS PER INNING IS ALLOWED FOR ALL DIVISIONS EXCEPT TEE BALL AND ADVANCED TEE BALL (NO SCORE IS KEEP TEE-BALL).
- 5:24 The Run Rule (Mercy Rule) for Olive BST Regular Season Play is as follows:
15 runs after 4 innings -or- 8 runs after 5 innings

BST COMMON RULES SECTION 6:00

PITCHING RULES

- 6:01 Pitching changes must be reported to the home plate umpire and he will inform the scorekeeper of the change.
- Failure to do so will result in the pitcher being charged with all innings pitched until notification or recognition of change has been made.
 - The head coach must check the pitching record for accuracy and sign immediately after the game.
- 6:02 An inning is interpreted to mean the following:
- If a pitcher pitches to one batter and is removed from the pitching mound before he is retired, he is only charged with 1/3 of an inning.
 - If a pitcher is removed after retiring one batter but after he has pitched to the next batter he is charged with 2/3 of an inning.
 - If a pitcher is removed after he has retired two batters and has pitched one pitch to the next batter, he is charged with a complete inning.
- 6:03 Any coach who knowingly or unknowingly plays an illegal pitcher or player shall forfeit the game for his team and shall be suspended for one (1) game.

- An ineligible player is defined as a player who is legally a member of the team but is ineligible to pitch or play because of violating league rules or infractions in a previous game. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COACH TO KEEP A RECORD OF HIS PLAYERS AND PITCHERS.

6:04 Coaches (pitchers) must remain in line with the permanent pitcher's rubber and second base. Coaches (pitchers) are not allowed to move toward first (1st) or third base (3rd). The coach (pitcher) must leave the field once the ball has been hit and shall be responsible for retrieving the bat

BST COMMON RULES SECTION 7:00

PROTESTS

7:01 The BST leagues will operate without a protest policy. Our chief aim is to have leagues that honor Christ in every possible way. Disputes between umpires, coaches, and fans should be brought to the attention of the Team Sports Director first and if necessary to the ROC Director.

7:02 A team's HEAD COACH is allowed to moderately dispute an umpire call (such as, but not limited to, a rule interpretation or a missed base) as long as the dispute is made in a civil, Christ-like manner.

BST COMMON RULES SECTION 8:00

GAME SCHEDULES

8:01 BST league play will consist of an eight (8) game schedule.

8:02 Teams will play a minimum of one (1) game per week.

8:03 Coaches of opposing teams are not allowed to schedule games with each other without the approval of the Team Sports Director and the ROC Director.

8:04 Cancelled or postponed games will be rescheduled by the Team Sports Director.

8:05 Teams will be allowed to play double headers when it is necessary.

8:06 Umpires shall be furnished for all BST games.

- Tee Ball and Advanced Tee-Ball shall have one (1) umpire for each game.

- Coach Pitch and Varsity shall have two (2) umpires for each game.

BST COMMON RULES SECTION 9:00

CONDUCT RULES

- 9:01 Only players and coaches are permitted on the playing field during the game. In the event that a spectator(s) enter the playing field during the play of any game, the umpire shall ask that the spectator(s) leave the field immediately. If the spectator(s) refuse to leave the field of play the plate umpire will request that both teams enter their dugout. If the spectator refuses to leave after 5 minutes has elapsed the game will be postponed and rescheduled. The coaches and the umpire are to report the individual(s) to the ROC Director the next day.
- Parents will be allowed on the field in the event that their child becomes ill or injured during the game.
- 9:02 Only players and coaches are allowed on the bench or in the dugout during the game.
- 9:03 **PLAYERS WHO ARE EJECTED, ILL OR INJURED SHOULD REMAIN UNDER SUPERVISION OF A COACH UNTIL RELEASED TO THE A PARENT OF GUARDIAN.**
- 9:04 The Recreational Outreach Ministry seeks to provide a safe environment for the players, coaches, and families who participate in our team sports programs. The use of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, and profanity is strictly prohibited. Olive Baptist Church and the Recreational Outreach Ministry maintain the right to dismiss anyone violating the Sports Complex and BST conduct rules.
- 9:05 No coach, player, or parent shall at any time whether from the bench, the coaching box, or playing field or elsewhere:
- Incite or try to incite a demonstration from the crowd against the umpire or the other team.
 - Use language that reflects negatively upon the umpire or an opposing team.
 - Call time, employ any word or phrase, or commit any act while the ball is in play for the purpose of trying to make the pitcher commit a balk.
- 9:06 Any base runner who purposely attempts to run over a defensive player or does not attempt to avoid a fielder who has the ball in the proximity of the base waiting to make a tag shall be called out.
- Any base runner that maliciously attempts to run over a player waiting to make a tag shall be called out and ejected from the game.

9:07 No artificial noisemakers are allowed. Offenders will be asked to leave the Sports Complex after one (1) warning.

9:08 Any coach, spectator, or player that is ejected from the game must sit out the remainder of that game and the next two (2) games. Length of punishment can be altered by the Team Sports Department dependent of an investigation of the alleged infraction.

BST COMMON RULES SECTION 10:00

TEAMS

10:01 Each year the Team Sports Director and Team Sports Assistant shall be responsible for building the teams for the Baseball, Softball, Tee-ball leagues.

- The ROC Director, Team Sports Director, and the Team Sports Assistant shall approve all team rosters.

10:02 Once team rosters are finalized players will not be allowed to change teams.

- The team rosters shall not exceed 16 players.
- All players are required to be on their team's roster prior to entering an official game.

SECTION 11:00

PRACTICE

11:01 Each team shall have one (1) assigned practice per week at the Sports Complex fields.

- The coach will be responsible for giving a brief devotion talk to his players at each practice. Suggested devotions will be provided by Recreation Ministry at Olive Baptist Church. This is NOT optional.
- Team coaches are allowed to seek out and use other facilities for extra practices if they choose to do so. Space at the Sports Complex will only be accessible during a time where no other team is assigned to that space.
- Additional practices may NOT be mandatory for a participant.

BOYS' COACH PITCH

DIVISION RULES

The Boys Coach Pitch division will consist of boys' seven (7) to eight (8) years of age. With the consent of a parent(s) or legal guardian a six (6) year old can play in the Boys Coach Pitch division.

SECTION 1:00

PLAYING FIELD

- 1:01 First (1st) and third (3rd) bases shall be fifty (50) feet from the point of home plate.
- 1:02 The pitching distance from the point of home plate to the front of the rubber shall be 43 feet.
- 1:03 A halfway/commitment line at twenty-five (25) feet will be drawn.

SECTION 2:00

EQUIPMENT

- 2:01 All catchers must wear a chest protector, mask, shin-guards, and protective cup, and a throat protector.
- 2:02 Metal cleats are NOT allowed.
- 2:03 Tennis shoes or baseball shoes with rubberized cleats may be worn.
- 2:04 A NOSCAE approved helmet must be worn by batters and base runners.
 - Any batter who steps into the batter's box without his headgear is awarded a strike.
 - A base runner who deliberately removes his/her headgear while running the bases will be called out (umpire's decision).

SECTION 3:00

COACHES

- 3:00 Each team will be allowed a maximum of four (4) coaches.
- 3:01 Each coach shall pitch to his own team.

3:02 Coaches who enter the field of play to talk to a batter more than twice will be required to remove the current batter from the game and make a substitution in the lineup. The removed batter may re-enter the lineup at the completion of the inning if he can do so without violating the substitution rule.

3:03 Players, coaches, or any other participant may be removed from the game for unsportsmanlike conduct after the team has been warned one (1) time.

SECTION 4:00

REGULATION GAMES

4:00 Games shall be six (6) innings in duration.

- In the case of a tie at the end of the sixth (6th) inning of play the game shall conclude in a tie if the maximum time limit has been reached.
- The game will be called after the opposing team has been numerically eliminated by the run rule.

4:01 There will be a maximum of one (1) offensive and one defensive timeout per inning with each time out being no more than one (1) minute in length. The scorekeeper will keep a log of time-outs.

4:02 Two (2) defensive coaches are allowed to be in the outfield during the game.

4:03 Overthrows during plays that leave the playing field, go into a dugout, or in some way become entangled in equipment will result in all runners advancing one base.

- The batter / base runner shall only be allowed to advance one (1) base on an overthrown ball to first (1st) base unless further attempts to get him out are made.

4:04 A maximum of ten (10) players shall be in the field on defense; six (6) infielders and four (4) outfielders.

4:05 The "run down" is not allowed.

4:06 Time will be called by the umpire when an infield position player is standing in the infield while in possession of the ball and verbally or physically requests time.

4:07 If time is called and a base runner has passed the halfway/commitment line he will be allowed to advance to the next base.

- If he has not passed the halfway/commitment line he shall be allowed return to the previous base.

4:08 Any base runner who leaves the base before the ball leaves the pitcher's hand during a pitch is out (umpire's decision).

- The ball will be declared dead and all other runners shall return to base occupied prior to the pitch.
- The pitch will not count.

SECTION 5:00

PITCHING RULES

5:01 Each coach will pitch to his team. The coach can pitch either overhand or underhand to batters.

5:02 The coach (pitcher) can instruct the base runner until he reaches first (1st) base or after he leaves third (3rd) base. The coach (pitcher) will be replaced after one (1) warning of a violation for the remainder of that game.

5:03 Any batted ball that hits the pitching coach will be called a dead ball and the pitch declared a no pitch.

- If the coach (pitcher) intentionally allows the ball to hit him (*umpire's decision*), the batter will be called out and no runners will be allowed to advance.

5:04 The coach (pitcher) shall remain in the line with the permanent pitcher's plate and second base. Pitchers cannot move their position towards first (1st) or third (3rd) base.

5:05 The player in the pitching position must have 1 foot in the pitching circle until the ball is hit or in play.

5:06 The coach (pitcher) must leave the field once the ball has been hit and shall be responsible for retrieving the bat if the team does not have a regular bat boy.

SECTION 6:00

SPECIAL RULES

6:01 Three (3) strikes is an out even if the third (3rd) strike is dropped by the catcher.

- Any six (6) year old playing up in coach pitch will be allowed one attempt to hit a ball off the tee after the third strike. If the batter misses the ball or hits a foul ball, the batter will be called out.

6:02 If a coach feels that a runner has missed a base he can make an appeal to the umpire (*umpire's decision*).

SECTION 7:00

RE-ENTRY SUBSTITUTION

- 7:01 In league play, if a coach has used all of his eligible players and a player becomes too sick to continue or is ejected; the team will be allowed to continue with one (1) less player.
- In the case of an ejected player, he shall simply be scratched from the lineup and the team will play with a player short if there are no more eligible players on the bench.
 - No out will be charged to the team when an ejected or ill player misses his time at bat in the lineup.
 - No team shall play a regulation game with less than eight (8) players.

SECTION 8:00

OFFENSE RULES

- 8:01 Each batter will receive five (5) pitches before being called out.
- He will be called out on three (3) strikes.
 - If the fifth (5th) pitch is fouled, the batter may continue to bat.
 - If the fifth (5th) pitch is fouled and caught the batter will be out.
- 8:02 No bunting is allowed.
- 8:03 No player will be awarded a walk ("base on balls").

MINOR LEAGUE BOYS

DIVISION RULES

The Minor League boys division will consist of boys' nine (9) to eleven (11) years of age. With the consent of a parent or legal guardian an eight (8) year old can join our minor league division.

- Coaches and players for this division must comply with all the rules set forth in this section as well as the common rules sections in the BST official rule book.

SECTION 1:00

PLAYING FIELD

- 1:01 The Strike zone shall comply with Major League Baseball rules.
- 1:02 First (1st) and third (3rd) base shall be seventy (70) feet from the point of home plate.
- 1:03 The distance from the point of home plate to the front of the pitching rubber shall be forty-nine (49) feet.
- 1:04 The height of the pitching mound above the level of home plate shall be raised by a gradual slope to a height of eight (8) inches.

SECTION 2:00

EQUIPMENT

- 2:01 Metal cleats are not being allowed.
- 2:02 All catchers must wear a chest protector, shin guards, protective cup, and face mask and throat protector.
- 2:03 A NOSCAE approved helmet must be worn by players coming to the plate to bat and base runners.

SECTION 3:00

COACHES

- 3:01 Any coach who calls time and goes to the playing field more than once (1) in one (1) inning per pitcher (not game) to talk to a player or players, will be required to remove the current pitcher.
- If eligible the removed pitcher may return to the mound after the side has been retired.

- 3:02 Any coach going on to the playing field to talk to the same batter (or a batter going to the dugout or bench to talk to a coach) more than twice (2) in one (1) time at bat will be required to remove the current batter from the game and make the substitution in the line-up.
- The removed batter may re-enter at the completion of the inning if he can do so without violating the substitution rule. The only exception is in the case of an injured player or time is called by the umpire.
- 3:03 The head coach is responsible for the conduct of his assistant coaches and players during practices and games.

SECTION 4:00

REGULATION GAMES

- 4:01 Games shall be six (6) innings in duration.
- In the case of a tie at the end of the sixth (6th) inning the game shall continue until a winner is declared IF it has not reached the maximum time limit. If the game is tied and has reached the maximum time limit it shall end in a tie.
- 4:02 An inning is interpreted to mean the following:
- If a pitcher pitches to one (1) batter and is removed from the pitching mound before he is retired, he is only charged with one-third (1/3) of an inning.
 - If he is removed after retiring one (1) batter but he has pitched to the next batter he is charged with two thirds (2/3) of an inning. If he is removed after he has retired two (2) batters and has pitched one (1) pitch to the next batter, he is charged with one (1) complete inning.
- 4:05 Overthrows during plays that leave the playing field, go into a dugout, or in some way become entangled in equipment will result in all runners advancing one base.
- 4:06 Leading off the base is not allowed. (Any base runner leaving the base before the ball leaves the pitchers hand during a pitch is out (umpire's decision)).
- 4:07 The "run down" is not allowed.
- 4:08 The Infield Fly Rule is in effect.

SECTION 5:00

PITCHING RULES

5:01 When a pitcher is turned in on a lineup card (or any new pitcher who toes the rubber and throws a warm-up pitch to begin an inning), he is the pitcher of record and shall pitch to the batter then at bat, or any substitute batter, until such a batter is out or reaches first (1st) base before he can be replaced or substituted and he will be charged with a minimum of one-third (1/3) of an inning (unless the new pitcher becomes injured or ill, during warm-ups, and he will not be charged with any innings pitched).

- If the opposing coach recognizes that the pitcher on the mound is not the pitcher of record after he has begun pitching the batter and he protest to the plate umpire, the illegal pitcher shall be removed from the mound immediately and the batter's pitch count will reset to zero.
- NOTE: DO NOT VIOLATE THE PITCH/REST RULE.
- NOTE: Once an illegal pitcher toes the rubber and throws a warm-up pitch and the opposing coach protest, the illegal pitcher must be removed immediately and replaced with the correct pitcher.

5:02 Pitchers are ONLY allowed to pitch in consecutive games in the same day if he does not violate any of the following rules.

- Any pitcher playing in the same game may return to the mound one (1) time. If a game is delayed for any reason, he may be allowed to continue.
- A pitcher shall have eight (8) warm-up pitches per inning after the game has started.
- If a pitcher does not pitch violate the pitch count rule.
- Under the re-entry substitute rule a pitcher may be replaced on the mound during any part of the game and return to the mound one (1) time.
- EXAMPLE: A pitcher may pitch and be replaced with a substitute and then return to the mound one time as a pitcher. This rule applies to the same game only.
- Pitching rules applies to that game regardless of the delay.
- For pitching guidelines refer to the pitching/rest chart. (Pg. 49)

5:03 ANY PITCHER WHO PITCHES IN ANOTHER LEAGUE(S) WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PITCH IN OUR JV MINOR OR MAJOR DIVISIONS.

5:04 Pitchers are allowed to pitch a maximum of eighty five (85) pitches per game. If a pitcher pitches beyond his allotted pitches per game, per day, per week or per tournament because

of a double or triple play, there is no penalty. (He was legal when the pitch was made). The pitcher will be removed after the outs are made.

- A eight (8) year old playing in the Minor League division shall ONLY be allowed a maximum of seventy five (75) pitches per game.

MAJOR LEAGUE BOYS'

DIVISION

The Major League boy's division will consist of boys' twelve (12) to fourteen (14) years of ages. With the consent of a parent or legal guardian an eleven (11) year old can play in the Major League boys' division.

Coaches and players for this division must comply with all the rules set forth in this section of the rule book as well as the rules in the BST common rules sections.

SECTION 1:00

PLAYING FIELD

- 1:01 The strike zone shall comply with major league rules
- 1:02 First (1st) base and third (3rd) baselines shall be seventy (70) feet from the point of home plate.
- 1:03 The pitching distance from the point on home plate to the front of the pitching rubber shall be fifty-four and a half (54.5') feet.
- 1:04 The height of the pitching mound above the level of home plate shall be raised by a gradual slope to a height of eight (8) inches.

SECTION 2:00

EQUIPMENT

- 2:01 All catchers must wear a chest protector, face mask, shin guards, protective cup and throat protector.

2:02 Metal cleats are not allowed.

2:03 A NOSCAE approved helmet must be worn by players coming to the plate to bat and base runners.

SECTION 3:00

COACHES

3:01 Any coach who calls time and goes onto the playing field more than once in one (1) inning per pitcher (not game) to talk to a player or players will be required to remove the current pitcher.

- The pitcher may return to the mound after the side has been retired if eligible.

3:02 Any coach going on to the playing field to talk to the same batter (or batter going to the dugout or bench to talk to a coach) more than twice in one (1) time at bat will be required to remove the current batter from the game and make a substitution in the line-up.

- He may re-enter the game at the completion of the inning if he can do so without violating the substitution rule.

SECTION 4:00

REGULATION GAMES

4:01 Games shall be six (6) innings in duration.

- In the case of a tie at the end of the sixth (6th) inning the game shall continue until a winner is declared if the maximum time limit has not been reached. If the game is tied at the end of six (6) innings and the maximum time limit has been reached the game shall end in a tie.

4:02 An inning is interpreted to be the following:

- If a pitcher pitches to one (1) batter and is removed from the pitching mound before he is retired, he is only charged with one-third (1/3) of an inning.
- If he is removed after retiring one (1) batter but he has pitched to the next batter he is charged with two thirds (2/3) of an inning.
- If he is removed after he has retired two (2) batters and has pitched one (1) pitch to the next batter, he is charged with one (1) complete inning.

4:03 Overthrows during plays that leave the playing field, go into a dugout, or in some way become entangled in equipment will result in all runners advancing one base.

- 4:04 Players may lead off to the 5' line. The base runner's back foot must remain behind the line until the ball leaves the pitchers hand.
- 4:05 Any player leaving early will be called out by field umpire (this will be a judgement call by field umpire and non-debatable by coaches).
- 4:06 The Dropped Third Strike Rule is in effect.
- 4:07 The Infield Fly Rule is in effect.

SECTION 5:00

PITCHING RULES

- 5:01 When a pitcher is turned in on a lineup card (or any new pitcher who toes the rubber and throws a warm-up pitch to begin an inning), he is the pitcher of record and shall pitch to the batter then at bat, or any substitute batter, until such a batter is out or reaches first (1st) base before he can be replaced or substituted and he will be charged with a minimum of one-third (1/3) of an inning(unless the new pitcher becomes injured or ill, during warm-ups, and he will not be charged with any innings pitched).
- If the opposing coach recognizes that the pitcher on the mound is not the pitcher of record after he has begun pitching to the batter and he protest to the plate umpire, the illegal pitcher shall be removed from the mound immediately and the batter's pitch count will reset to zero.
- NOTE:** Once an illegal pitcher toes the rubber and throws a warm-up pitch and the opposing coach protest, the illegal pitcher must be removed immediately and replaced with the correct pitcher.
- 5:02 A pitcher shall have eight (8) warm-up pitches per inning after the game has started.
- 5:03 Pitchers can pitch in consecutive games in the same day if, he does not violate the maximum pitches per day/rest rule.
- 5:04 Any pitcher may return to the mound one (1) time in the same game of or if the game is delayed for any reason, he may be allowed to continue.
- 5:05 Pitchers are allowed to pitch a maximum of eighty-five (85) pitches per game. If a pitcher pitches beyond his allotted pitches per game, per day, per week or per tournament because of a double or triple play, there is no penalty. (He was legal when the pitch was made). The pitcher will be removed after the outs are made.

- 5:06 ANY PITCHER WHO PLAYS IN ANOTHER LEAGUE(S) WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PITCH IN OUR MINOR OR MAJOR DIVISIONS.

GIRLS SOFTBALL

GENERAL RULES

AGES 10-14

The girls' Coach Pitch and Varsity softball divisions will consist of girls' ten (10) to fourteen (14) years of age. Coaches and players for these divisions must comply with all the rules set forth in this section of the rule book as well as the rules in the BST common rules sections.

SECTION 1:00

UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT

- 1:01 Solid color under-shirts, including white, are allowed to be worn underneath the uniform.
- 1:02 If shorts are worn, sliding pants are allowed to be worn underneath.
- 1:03 Tennis shoes or softball shoes with rubberized cleats may be worn.
- 1:04 Jewelry, not just exposed, is not allowed to be worn during the game.

SECTION 2:00

PITCHING (GIRLS' VARSITY ONLY)

- 2:01 Pitching rules will be adopted from the high school federation pitching rules.
- 2:02 The pitcher(s) shall use a slingshot pitching motion to deliver the ball to the plate.
- 2:03 The windmill pitching motion is not allowed.
- 2:04 Any pitcher playing in the same ball game may leave the game and return to the mound one (1) time.

- 2:05 The strike zone shall be the area between the player's knees and armpits. A called strike is the judgment of the umpire and is final, the protesting of strikes and balls will not be allowed.
- 2:06 No intentional walks are allowed.
- 2:07 The pitcher shall receive eight (8) warm-up pitches when the defense takes the field.
- 2:08 When a pitcher is turned in on a lineup card (or any new pitcher who toes the pitching rubber and throws a warm-up pitch to begin a new inning) she is the pitcher of record and shall pitch to the batter then at bat, or any substitute batter, until such batter is put out or reaches first (1st) base before she can be replaced by a substitute pitcher and she will be charged with having pitched in the game (unless the new pitcher becomes ill or injured during warm-up, and she will not be charged with any innings pitched).
- 2:09 If the opposing coach recognizes that the pitcher on the mound is not the pitcher of record after he has begun pitching to the batter and he protest to the plate umpire; the illegal pitcher shall be removed from the mound immediately and the batter's pitch count will reset to zero.

NOTE: Once an illegal pitcher toes the rubber and throws a warm-up pitch and the opposing coach protest, the illegal pitcher must be removed immediately and replaced with the correct pitcher.

SECTION 2:00 Addendum ILLEGAL PITCHES

- If the pitcher makes a motion to pitch without immediately delivering the ball to the plate it is an illegal pitch.
- The pitcher must not use a pitching motion in which, after having the ball in both hands in the pitching position, the pitcher removes one hand from the ball and returns the ball to both hands in front of the body.
- The pitcher must not make a stop or reversal of the forward motions after separating the hands.
-

GIRLS COACH PITCH SOFTBALL

AGES 6-9

NOT APPLICABLE IN 2019

- The Coach Pitch softball division will consist of girls between six (6) to nine (9) years of age.

SECTION 1:00

PLAYING FIELD

- 1:01 The pitching circle will be ten (10) feet in diameter and the center will be forty (40) feet from the back of home plate.
- 1:02 The bases will be set at 50 feet.

SECTION 2:00

EQUIPMENT

- 2:01 Tennis shoes or cleats with RUBBERIZED cleats may be worn.
- Metal cleats are NOT allowed.
- 2:02 All batters and runners must wear NOSCAE approved batting helmet with a chin strap.
- Any batter who steps into the batter's box without her headgear will be awarded a strike.
 - Any player who deliberately removes her helmet while running the bases will be called out (umpire's decision).
- 2:03 All catchers must wear a chest protector, shin guards, NOSCAE approved helmet, mask and a throat protector.
- Shin guards must have knee and metatarsal protection (soccer styles shin guards are NOT acceptable).

SECTION 3:00

COACHES

- 3:01 Teams are allowed to have a maximum of four (4) coaches.

3:02 One (1) defensive coach will be allowed to be out of the dugout at the open end to instruct the defensive players.

- No coach, parent, or spectator is permitted to coach from any area outside the playing field.

SECTION 4:00

PITCHING RULES

4:01 The offensive coach shall pitch to his team.

- The coach (pitcher) is only allowed to coach the batter prior to reaching first (1st) base and after she leaves (3rd) base.
- The coach (pitcher) will be replaced after one (1) warning and be replaced as the pitching coach for the remainder of the game.

4:02 If a batted ball hits the coach (pitcher) it will be called a dead ball and declared a no pitch.

- If the coach (pitcher) intentionally allows the ball to hit him, the batter will be out and a ball declared dead (umpires judgment).
- No runner will be permitted to advance.

4:03 The coach (pitcher) must attempt to leave the field and pick up the batter's bat once the ball is hit into fair territory.

- The coach (pitcher) must make an effort to avoid interfering with the defensive team's ability to make a play on the ball.
- If the coach (pitcher) interferes with a defensive player's ability to make a play on the ball the batter will be called out.
- No runners will be allowed to advance.

SECTION 5:00

SPECIAL RULES

5:01 If a player is injured by being hit with a batted ball in the face, throat or head, time will be called immediately and all players will be awarded:

- One base if player injured is an infielder.

- Two (2) bases if the player is an outfielder.
- Awarded bases are from the time of the pitch.
- Any other injury deemed serious enough in the judgment of the umpire to halt play will be handled in the same manner.

SECTION 6:00

OFFENSE

- 6:01** Batters are not allowed to sling their bats.
- After one (1) warning per game per player for slinging her bat, the batter will be called out, a dead ball called and no runners advance.
- 6:02** The batter will be called out on three (3) swinging strikes.
- The batter will receive five (5) pitches before being declared out.
 - If the fifth (5th) pitch is fouled and not caught, the batter may continue.
 - If the fifth (5th) pitch is fouled and caught, the batter is out.
- 6:03** Base stealing is permitted; runners may advance at their own risk. However, any base runner leaving the base prior to the ball leaving the pitcher's hand during a pitch is out (*umpire's decision*).
- If a runner is called out for leaving the base early the ball will be called a dead ball by the plate umpire and the runner that has advanced must return to the previous base.
 - The pitch will not count.
- 6:04** If the batter makes contact with the ball and she has one foot entirely out of the batter's box she WILL NOT be called out.

SECTION 7:00

DEFENSE

- 7:01** Intentional rolling of the ball is not allowed.
- No outs will be allowed by rolling the ball.
 - Runners will automatically be safe if the defensive team rolls the ball (*umpire's decision*).
- 7:02** The infield fly rule WILL NOT be in effect.

- 7:03** A maximum of ten (10) players can be on the field (six (6) infielders and four (4) outfielders).
- 7:04** The defensive player listed as the pitcher will stay in the ten (10) foot circle until the ball is hit. The player may have one foot outside the circle.
- *PENALTY:* Offense gets the choice of the play or negates the last pitch thrown.
 - The player who plays in the pitcher's circle will be considered an infielder.
 - If a base runner misses a base, the defensive coach must make an appeal to the umpire.
- 7:05** If the team has less than ten (10) defensive players the coach shall fill the infield position first, he shall be allowed to move the short stop to the outfield but she must remain in the outfield for the entire inning.
- 7:06** The defensive catcher must be in a direct line no more than ten (10) feet behind home plate to make a play on a batted ball .
- Penalty: offensive team gets the choice of the play or the batter can re-bat.
 - The batter / base runner shall only be allowed to advance one (1) base on an overthrown ball to first (1st) base unless further attempts to get her out is made.

GIRLS VARSITY SOFTBALL

DIVISION

The girls' Varsity softball division will consist of girls between ten (10) to fourteen (14) years of age.

- Coaches, players, and umpires must operate according to the rules within this section as well as the common rules sections of the BST handbook.

SECTION 1:00

THE PLAYING FIELD

- 1:01** The pitching distance shall be forty (40) feet from the point of home plate to the front of the pitching rubber.
- 1:02** The distance from the point of home plate to first (1st) and third (3rd) base shall be sixty (60) feet.

SECTION 2:00

EQUIPMENT

- 2:01 The catcher must wear a chest protector, shin-guards, NOSCAE approved helmet, mask and a throat protector.
- Shin guards MUST have knee and metatarsal protection (soccer style shin guards are NOT acceptable).
- 2:02 The official softball for the Varsity division will be an optic yellow twelve (12) in maximum core MSP47 ball.

SECTION 3:00

COACHES

- 3:01 Each team is allowed to have four (4) coaches.
- 3:02 One (1) defensive coach may be out of the dugout at the open end to instruct their defensive players.
- 3:03 No coach or parent will be allowed to coach from any position outside of the playing area.

SECTION 4:00

PITCHING RULES

- 4:01 In league and tournament play a pitcher (10-12 years of age) CANNOT pitch in more than two (2) games in a day.
- According to the high federation of fast pitch softball rules there are no limitations or pitching restrictions for fast pitch softball pitchers thirteen (13) years of age and older. A pitcher can pitch in as many games as she would like; however, coaches are advised to use discretion with the unlimited pitch rule.

SECTION 6:00

SPECIAL RULES

- 6:01 A batter will not be called out on a fouled third (3rd) strike that is not caught.
- 6:02 The infield fly rule is in effect.
- 6:03 A base runner may steal more than one base at a time or may steal home at their own risk.

- 6:04 Base stealing is permitted; runners may advance at their own risk. However, any base runner leaving the base prior to the ball leaving the pitcher's hand during a pitch is out (*umpire's decision*).
- It shall be declared a no pitch.
 - The ball is dead and no runner will be allowed to advance.
- 6:05 Ten (10) players are allowed to be on the field at once (1), teams are allowed to have four (4) outfielders in league and tournament play.
- 6:06 Overthrows during plays that leave the playing field, go into a dugout, or in some way become entangled in equipment will result in all runners advancing one base.

OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

TEE BALL DIVISION

The Tee ball division will consist of boys and girls from four (4) to five (5) years of age. Coaches, players, and umpires must operate according to the rules in this section as well as the common rules section of the BST handbook.

SECTION 1:00

GAME

- 1:01 Tee-Ball teams will consist of boys' and girls' 4-5 years old.
- 1:02 All players must have the opportunity to bat each inning.
- 1:03 All players will play in the field every inning.
- 1:04 Each player will be allowed five (5) swings of the bat.
- 1:05 Official Score: No official score will be kept for tee-ball games. Tee Ball games are for participation purposes only, the keeping of an official scorebook is not required.
- 1:06 The sound of a whistle will start and stop play. Play stops when a defensive player has clean possession of the ball.

- 1:07 The pitcher must stay inside the circle until the ball is hit.
- 1:08 Seven (7) players may take up the infield positions on defense (one (1) on each base, the pitcher, catcher, and two (2) shortstops). A maximum of five (5) players shall be in the outfield and must stay on the grass until ball is hit.
- 1:09 During the game only two (2) coaches are allowed on the infield, on each side of second (2nd) base and one (1) in the outfield.
- 1:10 Coaches cannot physically help or assist the players while the ball is in play. This includes the coaches interfering with the ball in any way. In the case of interference an extra base will be awarded to each runner on base.
- 1:11 When a player comes to the plate to bat the ball will be placed on a stand/tee by the umpire. A ball that is hit must travel past the ten (10) foot line to be considered a fair ball.
- 1:12 Once the ball is in play, base coaches cannot touch the base runners.

SECTION 2:00

PLAYING FIELD

- 2:01 The distance from the point of home plate to first (1st) and third (3rd) base is fifty (50) feet.

SECTION 3:00

EQUIPMENT

- 3:01 Only official balls will be used for tee ball; the official ball is orange.
- 3:02 Composite bats are not allowed.
- 3:03 Catchers must wear a helmet and facemask.
- 3:04 Pitchers may wear helmet with facemask.
- 3:05 Olive will provide the tee unless otherwise designated.

OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

ADVANCED TEE-BALL DIVISION

(NOT APPLICABLE IN 2019)

The advance Tee ball division will consist of boys and girls from five (5) to six (6) years of age. Coaches, players, and umpires must operate according to the rules in this section as well as the common rules section of the BST handbook.

SECTION 1:00

GAME

- 1:01 Teams will consist of boys and girls between ages five (5) and six (6) years of age.
- 1:02 No player will sit out 2 consecutive innings.
- 1:03 A maximum number of ten (10) players will be allowed on the field for defense.
- 1:04 Each player shall have four (4) swings of the bat.
- 1:05 The maximum number of runs per inning is seven (7).
- 1:06 All teams will bat the bench.
- 1:07 Official score will be kept for record purposes in the score book. A flip-over scoreboard will *not* be used during games.
- 1:08 The sound of a whistle starts and stops play. Play stops when time is requested by a defensive player who has clean possession of the ball in the infield.
- 1:09 The pitcher must stay inside the circle until the ball is hit.

- 1:10** Only six (6) players may take up the infield positions; a maximum of four (4) players can be in the outfield and must stay on the grass until ball is hit.
- 1:11** Only two (2) coaches are allowed to be in the field of play during the game.
- 1:12** Coaches may not physically help or assist the players while ball is in play. This includes the coaches interfering with the ball in any way. In the case of interference an extra base will be awarded to each runner on base.
- 1:13** When a batter comes to the plate to bat the ball will be placed on the stand/tee by the umpire. It must travel past the ten (10) foot line to be considered a fair ball.
- 1:14** Once the ball is in play, base coaches cannot touch runners.
- 1:15** If the base runner has crossed the commitment line when time has been called they may progress to the next base. If not, the base runners shall return to the last base legally touched when the ball is declared dead or time has been called.
- 1:16** The run-down is not allowed. The base runner must advance or return to the base. If the runner fails to do this, he/she will be called out.
- 1:17** Base runners must be in contact with his/her base at the time the ball is hit by the batter (no leading off is allowed).
- 1:18** Overthrows that leave the playing field, go into a dugout, or in some way become entangled in equipment will result in all runners advancing one (1) base.

SECTION 2:00 THE PLAYING FIELD

- 2:01** The distance from the point of home plate to first (1st) and third (3rd) base is fifty (50) feet.

SECTION 3:00 THE EQUIPMENT

- 3:01** Only “official Tee Ball” bats will be used.

- 3:02 Composite bats are NOT allowed.
- 3:03 Catchers must wear a helmet and facemask.
- 3:04 Pitchers may wear helmet with facemask.
- 3:05 Olive will provide the tee unless otherwise designated.
- 3:06 The official Tee Ball is orange.

Pitch Count Limits by Age:

<u>Player's Age:</u>	<u>Number of Pitches:</u>
9-11.....	75
12-14.....	85

WARNING: Pitcher may exceed game maximum to complete a batter, however all pitches count against days of rest rule.

Full Days of Rest by Pitch Count:

<u>Number Pitches:</u>	<u>Days Rest:</u>
1-20.....	0
21-35.....	1
36-50.....	2
51-65.....	3
66+.....	4

NOTE: Limits are per Little League Rules Book

Minor League and Major League boys' baseball must adhere to the following pitch count/rest requirements:

- If a player pitches 66 or more pitches in a day, four (4) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 51 - 65 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 36 - 50 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 21 - 35 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 1-20 pitches in a day, no (0) calendar day of rest is required.

WARNING: DO NOT VIOLATE THE PITCH COUNT/REST RULES.

Time Limits Per League

Time Limit		Max # of Innings	No New Inning After
Tee Ball & Advanced Tee Ball	1 Hour	4	55 Minutes
Coach Pitch	1 Hour & 15 Mins.	6	1 Hour & 5 Mins.
Minor League/Major League/Varsity Girls	1 Hour & 45 Mins.	6	1 Hour & 35 Mins.

BBCOR Explanation:

- BBCOR stands for “Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution” and it focuses on how much of a trampoline effect the barrel of a bat has on a ball. Bat manufacturers will have to, in effect “deaden” the trampoline bounce that pitched balls experience when a batter makes contact. Basically, aluminum bats will theoretically be the same as wooden bats.

