

Oakland Recreation Commission – Baseball By-Laws (edits approved December, 2014)

Recreation Baseball

Recreation Baseball is open to all Oakland boys and girls Kindergarten through 9th grade. Playing Levels are determined by grade child is in when the season begins:

T-Ball – Kindergarten
Farm – 1st/2nd Grade
Minors – 3rd/4th Grade
Majors – 5th/6th Grade
AAA – 7th, 8th % 9th Grade

Practice season begins on or around April 1st, games begin on or around May 1st (each depending on weather and field quality) and terminate by the time the Oakland public school calendar ends.

Each playing level is divided into teams. Each playing level will attempt to have 12 players on a team, t-ball attempts to have teams of 10 players. The number of teams is accomplished by taking the number of children in each playing level and dividing by 12 (or 10 at t-ball). Another determining factor is having sufficient coaches at each level.

Age Level Coordinator Selection Process:

The baseball commissioner chooses coordinators. A potential coordinator is someone that has coached for at least a year; has shown the ability to be organized, punctual and communicative with other coaches; and must be able to receive direction from the baseball commissioner without issue. At the end of each season, the baseball commissioner reviews the job the coordinator performed and makes the determination if the coordinator will be asked to return. Coordinators may be replaced mid-season if they demonstrate poor performance as outlined above.

Manager and Coaches Selection Process:

Each child's sign-up registration form includes a check box as to the parents desire to be a manager or coach. Each coordinator records the names of the desired managers and forwards them to the baseball commissioner. The baseball commissioner makes the determination as to whether any of candidates are disqualified based on (but not limited to): past negative issues, violations of the code of conduct; or any behavior unbecoming of what the Oakland Recreation program wishes to have as it's representative. Priority is given to parents of children in the program.

The team manager can nominate 1 Lead Assistant coach (with Commissioner approval) prior to the draft (for Minors, Majors and AAA Divisions) and after the draft nominate 2 additional coaches (with Coordinator approval). For T-Ball and Farm Divisions, the Manager can nominate coaches from his roster (with Coordinator approval).

All coaches must be Rutgers and concussion (on-line course & test) certified, background checked; and behave according to the Oakland Recreation Code of Conduct.

Any manager or coach that demonstrates poor sportsmanship, abusive behavior towards other coaches, players or umpires may be disciplined including but not limited to suspension, removal or file Recreation Commission grievance charges by the Baseball Commissioner.

Player Selection for Teams:

T-Ball and Farm teams are assembled to keep the children within their elementary school districts (Manito, Heights and Dogwood). Minors through AAA, teams are assembled by draft, with no effort made to keep children within any school geography. The drafts are held one night prior to the season start. At the draft players are rated on a scale from highest to lowest per each grade. The highest rated players are chosen first; middle rated players chosen next, etc. until all players are selected. This drafting method is used in an attempt to give each team players of equal playing ability; and the league parity. At the conclusion of the draft all rating sheets are returned and destroyed as to not allow this rating to get out to the public.

Baseball Season:

We strive to have each season conclude with a ceremonial baseball/softball parade weather permitting (as determined by the Oakland Recreation Commission). The parade is a “celebration” of the season, although official games may still be played before the parade. The parade is open to all player participants t-ball through minors.

League Rules:

Each league will have a set of rules. The rules may be modified at the draft based upon coaches’ desires. The baseball commissioner must approve all rule changes before they become official. Rules may be modified mid-season if issues arise and the baseball commissioner feels a necessary fix is in order.

All league rules will have the stipulation of 1. All children must equal playing time; 2. Upon managers discretion children considered a risk to his/her safety will not play 1st base, pitcher or catcher and 3. Fun is the primary objective.

All-Star Game/Playoffs/Awards:

T-Ball and Farm do not have any playoffs, as there are no scores kept for each game. Each player participant will receive a trophy at the end of the season. Minors and Majors participate in a playoff format ending with a 2 out of 3 World Series. The playoff format AAA will be determined based on the number of participating teams &/or the inclusion of another town’s teams (like Mahwah in 2013 and 2014). All Minors – AAA teams regardless of record participate in the post-season games. First and Second place teams only receive trophies.

Minors and Majors participate in an exhibition, in-town All-Star game. Each individual team selects the players it will have represented in the All-Star game.

Umpires

Minors and Majors use teen-age umpires to officiate their games. The Oakland Recreation baseball program wishes to continue to develop our youngsters; and once they reach the age of 14 they are eligible to umpire games. The AAA level uses primarily adult umpires or approved applicants over the age of 16. All umpires must attend a training class held prior to the season as well as have all working papers, applications and tax documentation that the boro of Oakland requires.

Poor Behavior:

Any and all behavior contrary to the Oakland Recreation Code of Conduct (or our philosophy of safety, fun and good sportsmanship not specifically cited therein) will be dealt with by zero tolerance. This includes behavior by managers, coaches, spectators and players. Suspensions, expulsions and Oakland Recreation Commission grievance charges may be enforced.

Travel Baseball

MANAGER SELECTION PROCESS:

The selection of a travel baseball manager comes from a joint interview between candidate(s), the Baseball Commissioner & the Travel Baseball Director. The Baseball Commissioner & the Travel Baseball Director select Travel Baseball Managers.

Dad's or non-Dad's of players are either recruited or come forward and request to be considered Managers of the town Travel baseball team.

Once the potential Manager pool is in place, the interview process takes place between the candidates and the Recreation Baseball Commissioner and Travel Baseball Director.

Post interview(s), a Manager is either selected or returns for a second interview, where soon thereafter, a final, single selection is made.

All coaches must be Rutgers and concussion (on-line course & test) certified, background checked; and behave according to the Oakland Recreation Code of Conduct.

PLAYER SELECTION PROCESS:

We encourage all players to try out with their grade in an effort to have all grades play 2 seasons on each size field and to graduate a unified, experienced "class" of players to HS. No players can try out ahead of their current grade. Age-eligible players have the choice to try out below their grade.

At each Grade/Age Level (group), independent evaluators (non-team Managers and Coaches) are in place to evaluate the skills of the boys. The evaluation process will be thorough for every group.

Participants are evaluated during tryouts and scored on hitting, fielding, pitching, base-running and mental approach / attitude. Players' results and managers' stack ranking and evaluation from the previous season are also considered. Finally, positional alignment is considered to ensure a balanced team.

The participant is graded in comparison to others trying out in that group level.

Upon completion of the evaluation process, the Rec Baseball Commissioner and Travel Baseball Director weigh the criteria and log the scores. The top 11 or 12 players are selected to make the "Gold" team. The 11 or 12 players selected for the "Gold" team is up to the sole discretion of the Commissioner and Director. Determining factors for roster size are safety and skill level; and whether the 12th player would be better served in his development by playing on the "Blue" team. If there are an insufficient number of players to field a "Blue" team at any age group, those additional players (above 11 or 12 players selected for the "Gold" team) who tried out will not be selected to play Oakland Travel Baseball that season; but will be encouraged to try out again the following year.

PLAYING TIME:

Although there is NO absolute mandatory minimum or maximum playing time rule enforced, all Managers are strongly encouraged to make sure each participant plays a minimum of 2 innings in the field and gets at least 1 at bat at the 8 Year Old – 12 Year Old level. At the 13 Year Old and 14 Year Old levels (HS preparation) the manager has full discretion to play his players as many or as little innings (including no playing time) per game.

AGE REQUIREMENTS:

The Oakland Braves Travel Program participates in leagues with eligibility requirements based on age, not grade. However, the Program encourages all participants to tryout at his GRADE Level in an effort to graduate an entire team to High School. Trying out above a player's age is NOT permitted. If a participant is "age eligible" to play with a LOWER grade level, the participant has that option. It is the strong opinion of the Baseball Commissioner and Travel Director that the best travel baseball experience a boy can get is to play with his grade. This not only keeps the continuity of his team right up to High School, but also guarantees that the participant will get 2 years on the High School size field, which will only help in his transition to High School baseball.

Age Eligibility Levels (based on Travel Baseball Leagues Oakland Teams regularly participate):

- 14 (14 years old as of April 30 of that year)
- 13 (13 years old as of April 30 of that year)
- 12 (12 years old as of April 30 of that year)
- 11 (11 years old as of April 30 of that year)
- 10 (10 years old as of April 30 of that year)
- 9 (9 years old as of April 30 of that year)
- 8 (8 years old as of April 30 of that year)

TRAVEL BASEBALL and RECREATION:

Travel baseball players are NOT REQUIRED to play Recreation baseball, but are strongly encouraged to do so. This enables the Travel Baseball player to enjoy more baseball (due to field priority use for Recreation versus Travel) in a different environment – competing against his friends and classmates. That player will also improve his skills with more baseball repetitions and be in a position to play positions he would normally not play in Travel Baseball. The Recreation Division will also benefit from having additional player participation.

POOR BEHAVIOR:

Any and all behavior will be dealt with by zero tolerance. This includes behavior by managers, coaches, spectators and players. Suspensions, expulsions and Oakland Recreation Commission grievance charges may be enforced.

Baseball Field Scheduling:

1. The baseball commissioner who is in charge of the fields collects all paperwork and insurance information at the beginning of the season from potential renters from outside of Oakland Recreation. Once all paperwork is in order and the process has been completed that team or program is given permission to use the fields; and paperwork is filed. As the season moves on and the renter(s) need fields on a week-to-week, or day-to-day basis; then

the fields are doled out based on availability. Once a date is available and offered to renter, the renter representative delivers payment and the field permit is issued. It is impractical to schedule a renter to use a field weeks or months in advance because as the Oakland recreation and travel baseball seasons move on there are rain-outs/school functions and other reasons the games need to be postponed and/or rescheduled. If a renter were given permits and scheduled field time too far in advance (too far meaning more than a week), Oakland recreation games would not have availability for make-ups. Priority is given to: 1st Oakland recreation teams, 2nd Oakland travel baseball teams, 3rd Other Borough departments, agencies, Boards and Commissions, 4th Oakland Board of Education or Ramapo Indian Hills Regional High School District, 5th Other Educational Institutions located within the Borough, 6th Oakland based non-profit athletic organizations where a majority of participants are Oakland residents, 7th Other Oakland based non-profit organizations serving the Oakland community, 8th Oakland based businesses, 9th Non- profit organizations of any type, whether educational, athletic, charitable or service, that do not serve the Oakland community and / or where the majority of participants are not from Oakland; and finally 10th Businesses located outside of Oakland

Only the baseball commissioner is informed of all in-town scheduling and rescheduling and is the only one with the ability to make the quickest field scheduling decisions based on the priority list above.