



## OWENSBORO CATHOLIC LEAGUE (OCL)

### RULES - General

2026

- 1 Each coach will emphasize and teach each child the care of equipment, safety measures, and shall practice and preach good sportsmanship and Catholic values at all times. The home team coach shall lead all coaches and players in a pre-game prayer.
- 2 All coaches are required to complete the Diocese of Owensboro's Safe Environment Program and successfully pass the associated background check. Coaches who fail to do this shall be notified by the OCL Board, given a brief time period to complete the requirements and if they are not compliant within the defined period, shall not be allowed to practice with their teams and they shall forfeit all games until they achieve compliance.
- 3 No player, coach, umpire or fan is allowed to use tobacco products or alcohol on OCL property during games or at any practice.
- 4 Players must not wear watches, rings, pins, jewelry or other metallic items (Exception: Jewelry that alerts medical personnel to a specific condition is permissible). For live pitch leagues (Major, Minor, 13U, 10U), Any part of the pitcher's undershirt or T-shirt exposed to view shall be of a solid color. The pitcher's undershirt sleeves, if exposed, shall not be white or gray. Neoprene sleeves, if worn by a pitcher, must be covered by an undershirt. NOTE: A pitcher shall not wear any items on his/her hands, wrists or arms which may be distracting to the batter, e.g. sweat bands
- 5 Ground rules shall be covered and agreed upon between the coaches and umpires before the start of each game. If a question shall arise as to the rules, interpretations, etc., during the game only the coach in charge may appeal to the Head Umpire.
- 6 A mandatory meeting of coaches, umpires and/or umpire coordinator, board and rules committee shall take place before season begins to review the playing rules, changes, answer questions, etc.
- 7 In all cases, the home team shall be the official scorer and the visiting team shall confer with the home team scorekeeper if any discrepancies arise. If consensus can't be reached between scorekeepers, the umpire(s) shall make the final judgment.
- 8 Coaches and players shall make up games that are suspended or rained out as scheduled by OCL. Make up games will be played the following weekend or as determined by the OCL Board. Any team failing to play or have the required number of players by game time plus 10 minutes on the assigned makeup date shall forfeit the game. Two teams failing to play or have the required number of players for the scheduled makeup game shall both forfeit and each team will be penalized with a 1 game loss.
  - a. Game Cancellation Policy
    - 1 Every effort should be made to play games as scheduled. Decision to cancel games will not be made before 5:00pm unless approved by the OCL president.
    - 2 If rain moves in and is falling after 5:00pm, then any available OCL board members and the umpires will use their discretion on cancellation of games. Cancellation of the early game does not necessarily mean the later game is cancelled as well. The available OCL board members and the umpires will use their discretion on cancellation of the late game.
    - 3 If a game is cancelled prior to 5:00pm without OCL board approval, then those coaches will be responsible for scheduling the make up game around practice times, finding umpires, concession stand, and dragging and marking the field



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- 9 If any coach, assistant coach or player is ejected from a game, they must also sit out the next scheduled game. If a coach or assistant coach is ejected, they are not allowed in the dugout or to coach in any way from the stands. The umpire has the authority to eject any coach, player, or fan from the game for use of foul language, unsportsmanlike conduct or use of alcohol or tobacco on OCL grounds. **There is a zero tolerance on verbal or physical altercations on athletes, coaches, or umpires. You will be ejected from the game.** If further action is needed, the umpire and the coach will need to make sure the fan leaves the playing area. If the fan refuses to leave, it will be an automatic forfeit for the team they are associated with.
- 10 Teams shall only be allowed to have three “outings” per week, Monday to Sunday for the purpose of playing games or conducting practice/hitting/pitching until school is officially out for the summer. Pre-game warm-up time of one hour or less shall not count as a separate outing. However, if a team gathers for more than one hour prior to a game for the purposes of hitting and or fielding, that time shall count towards one of the maximum three outings per week.  
Example: If a team plays two games in one week, they are only allowed to practice once during that week.  
Example: If a team plays three games in one week, they shall not be allowed to practice during that week.  
  
NOTE: There is to be NO practice, warm-up, or parking at the old Major/Minor field closest to St. Pius Church (top of the hill). Any team using that field for any reason will forfeit their next game.
- 11 Each child must play at least ½ of the regular season games plus one game to be eligible for tournament play. To qualify as a “game played” the player must have met the Mandatory Playing Rules.  
Exception: this rule is subject to OCL Board review and reversal if the player’s ineligibility is due to injury or illness and the player did not play in any other league or for a travel team.
- 12 The League Board will resolve any protests. (Board members with children playing in the league that is being protested shall refrain from voting on the particular protest.) All coaches should exercise diligence to avoid a protest situation. Judgment calls are not grounds for filing a protest. Only rule infractions are grounds for protests. Any protest of a regular season or tournament game will be filed in the following manner: A written protest must be filed with the League Board, along with a \$75 protest fee, within 18 hours of the completion of or the suspension of the game in which the protest was made. If the team filing the protest wins, the \$75 protest fee will be returned. If the team filing the protest loses, the \$75 protest fee will be deposited into the Owensboro Catholic League operating account.
- 13 The coach of the winning team will need to submit the score via GroupMe-Scores chat