



ONSLOW COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

BY-LAWS GOVERNING YOUTH BASEBALL/SOFTBALL/T-BALL

ARTICLE I NAME & PURPOSE

- Section 1.1 This organization shall be known as the Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department's Youth Baseball/Softball League. Members of this league shall consist of the following four districts: (1) Dixon, (2) Richlands, (3) Southwest, and (4) White Oak as applicable.
- Section 1.2 The purpose of this organization shall be to provide organized baseball and softball for youth throughout Onslow County. The program shall emphasize participation, sportsmanship, fellowship, and skill development while promoting physical fitness through participation in youth sports.
- Section 1.3. Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department will have full supervisory authority over county-supported programs and reserves the right to take any action deemed necessary to ensure quality programs for all participants.

ARTICLE II LEAGUE MANAGEMENT & MEETINGS

- Section 2.1 The governing authority of the Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department's Youth Baseball/Softball league shall be vested in a Board within each district. The Board in each district will consist of Co-Presidents or Co-Vice-Presidents (If one President then two Vice Presidents and vice versa), Secretary, and Treasurer. The Onslow County Parks and Recreation's Athletic Program Supervisor or an appointed representative shall serve as an official member of the board. All actions of the board are subject to the approval of the Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department. A majority of the members of the board shall constitute a quorum at any meeting and a majority vote shall prevail in all matters. Elections for board positions will be held in a staggered format per the following rotation:

Election Year:

2023: President and Secretary

2024: Vice President and Treasurer

2025: President and Secretary

2026: Vice President and Treasurer

- Section 2.2 All districts must conduct an election meeting no later than the last Saturday of regular season games for the board positions to be filled that year. The elected volunteers will serve on the board for the following season. Nominations and voting (must be 18 or over) are open to the district public and to other parents/guardians whose children are eligible to participate in the district. If running, the nominee will need to submit a personal narrative and picture via email to the OCPR Athletic Supervisor two weeks prior to the election. Public notice (Facebook) of the election meeting must be advertised at least one week prior to the meeting. If a district does not hold an election meeting, OCPR will schedule a



meeting within 30 days of the conclusion of post-season play. All elected volunteers must pass an annual background check to serve in their elected position.

Section 2.3 All districts must host a parent meeting for all parents before the first game of the season. OCPR must be notified of all parent meetings in advance.

Section 2.4 Coach Procedures & Expectations

2.4a All Coaches, including assistant coaches, must attend and pass an approved Onslow County Coaches Class, or an equivalent course offered by one of the four districts governed by the Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department. All coaches must pass a background check and be certified by OCPR staff before being assigned to a team and cleared to practice.

ARTICLE III BOARD DUTIES

Section 3.1 The Board Members shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. All board members must sign an Agreement of Accountability form at the beginning of each season.

Section 3.2 The President shall:

- (a) Conduct business lawfully, professionally, and in accordance with the subject bylaws of this League.
- (b) See that the League adheres to the rules, regulations, and policies as set forth in the Leagues bylaws and in other referenced documents as County and Park rules.
- (c) Preside at all meetings.
- (d) Bring any decision regarding league structure or league issues to the Board for consideration/vote.

Section 3.3 The Vice President shall:

- (a) Assist the President in all duties described above.
- (b) Act as President in the absence of the President.
- (c) Assume the role of President if the President is no longer able to perform his or her duties.

Section 3.4 The Secretary shall:

- (a) Contact all Board of Directors and notify them of meetings.
- (b) Record, maintain and publish the minutes of all meetings.
- (c) Maintain an active list of Board of Directors and committee directors contact information.
- (d) Assist with filings to league national affiliation.
- (e) Maintain active rosters, birth certificates and legacy players.

Section 3.5 The Treasurer shall:

- (a) Submit monthly bank statements and monthly league financial reports to OCPR.



- Section 3.6 District President and Treasurer may not serve as a coach, scorekeeper, or official. In case of emergency only, President and/or Treasurer may serve as a coach, scorekeeper, or official. The District Vice President and Secretary may serve as an official in case of emergency only if these duties do not conflict with the duties of the office they hold. In the case where the President is out of town or not available due to illness, the Vice President and the Secretary may act as President if approved by OCPR in advance.
- Section 3.7 District boards will be financially responsible for the operation of concession sales that occur during the regular season games.
- Section 3.8 Failure to carry out any of the assigned tasks charged to the position you are elected to, will result in immediate removal from the league board. Removed board members will be banned from running for any positions for no less than 3 years.

ARTICLE IV TEAM SPONSORS

- Section 4.1 Team sponsorships are the responsibility of the district board. All sponsors must be preapproved by OCPR. The sponsor shall have no voice in the operation of the district. All sponsors must follow the Onslow County sponsor guidelines.
- Section 4.2 The Youth League can offset the financial responsibility of furnishing uniforms, practice balls, and other necessary equipment for teams to play by operating concessions or soliciting outside groups and businesses to sponsor teams. Outside sponsorships are limited to supplying the demand for physical equipment needs of a team.

ARTICLE V FINANCES

- Section 5.1 The finances of the district shall be directed in a way that will not give any one team an advantage over another team or teams.
- Section 5.2 District entry fees shall cover the cost of officials, scorekeepers, necessary equipment and supplies, awards, Dixie insurance, and the all-star jersey for all youth all-star teams.

ARTICLE VI REGISTRATION AND PARTICIPATION

- Section 6.1 Participants may ONLY register and pay online at Onslow.recdesk.com.
- Section 6.2 Players and coaches should be residents of Onslow County. Residents are defined as those people who physically reside or attend school in Onslow County. A player must live in or attend school within the district boundary.
- Section 6.3 Non-residents may register, but only in a district, that is adjacent to their county of residence. If there is a Dixie-sanctioned organization in the county where they live, then they are not eligible to register in the Onslow County program.



Section 6.4 If there are not enough participants in a particular age division, the participants will be refunded.

Section 6.5 A player may play in only one Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department League during simultaneous seasons (i.e., person cannot participate in girls softball and boys baseball programs).

Section 6.6 If a player quits a team for any reason, they will not be permitted to play on another team during that season. If they wish to play the following season, participation in the draft is required.

Section 6.7 A player may play up one year into the next age group with a letter of request the parent and the approval of the district board, OCPD staff, and/or the advisory committee. A skills assessment must be held to determine the player's ability. This rule is for the exceptional player and is not intended as a rule of convenience. A request to play up only because the child has an older sibling playing will be denied. Once a player is approved to play up, he/she will not be allowed to move back down.

Section 6.8 The T-Ball division is a mixed division where girls and boys play on the same team. All other age divisions are not considered mixed. However, girls may register to play on boy's teams.

Section 6.9 Player Conduct

6.9a If a youth's actions or attitude become detrimental to the team and program, the situation should be brought to the attention of the Athletic Coordinator and District Officers through written documentation.

6.9b The Athletic Coordinator will determine the immediate disciplinary action if necessary, at the time of the incident (i.e. removal from facility, etc.). All actions taken must be documented and submitted to the Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department.

6.9c Incidents that warrant consideration for game suspension or expulsion from the league must be appropriately documented and sent to the OCPD Athletic Supervisor for review. The OCPD Athletic Supervisor, in coordination with the Athletic Coordinator involved, will determine the extent of consequences that are necessary.

Section 6.10 A coach may not cut a player from a team.

Section 6.11 If a coach, or player is ejected from a game, they are automatically suspended for the next game (they are not allowed to attend as a spectator). If a coach, or player is ejected for the second time in a season, they are suspended for the remainder of the season.

ARTICLE VII DRAFT PROCEDURE

Section 7.0 Assessment Procedures

7.0a Assessments will take place for each age division in each district. All players will be assessed and given ratings based on their performance (A,B,C). All players will be



distributed during the draft evenly based on assessment results (i.e.. Each team will have three "A" players, three "B" players, and three "C" players, etc.).

7.0b Assessments will be conducted for each age division will be conducted by coaches registered to coach a different age group to ensure the validity of assessment and avoid bias in player selection during the draft.

7.0c Players may not play in an age division above the one in which their age dictates unless all of the following criteria are met:

- Player must be in the last eligible season for their current age division
- Player must be assessed per the age division they are trying to advance to.

*Any exception to these guidelines will require documentation submitted to OCPD for Advisory Board approval prior to beginning the season with an older age group.

Section 7.1 Draft Rules & Procedures

7.1a The drafting of players on a team will be administered by the district board members (at least two must be present including the district president) and coaches with an OCPD employee being present.

7.1b Teams will be totally re-drafted every year.

7.1c Only the head coach's child in which they have legal guardianship over will be guaranteed automatic draft selections for a team. This selection will constitute the coach's first round pick in the draft procedure. If a coach has more than one child playing on the team, it will constitute the succeeding draft picks until all children have been rostered. These draft picks must be identified for each team prior to the start of the draft.

7.1d Assistant coaches must be identified prior to the draft. For each team, only one assistant coach will have an automatic draft selection for their child. This draft selection will constitute the draft pick following any preceding head coach picks. These draft picks must be identified for each team prior to the start of the draft.

7.1e Coaches will blind draw a number (1-10) to establish the drafting order. The coach drawing the lowest number will have the first round first selection. In the second round, the order will be reversed with the last coach drafting first. This procedure will be used until all players are drafted.

7.1f Siblings in the same age division should play on the same team unless requested otherwise by legal guardians. If a player with a sibling in the same age division is picked in the draft, the sibling automatically becomes the coach's pick in the next round.

7.1g The District Board must turn in their drafting order sheets with their rosters to the OCPD department. The drafting order sheets will be used to place additional players on teams and used to check to make sure the proper drafting procedures were followed

7.1h Once the draft is complete, the coach must sign the roster for verification of draft results.



- 7.1i If draft misconduct of any sort is brought to the attention of the OCPR department, a re-draft for all teams within the age group can occur.
- 7.1j Any intentional “stacking” of teams that alters the distribution of talent will warrant a re-draft for the age group.

Section 7.2 The draft will be overseen, and rules enforced by each district board along with the OCPR department when necessary.

ARTICLE VIII REGULAR SEASON GAMES

Section 8.1 The Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department will schedule all games for the districts (traveling and non-traveling). All games scheduled by the OCPR Department will be played. A two-game suspension of the Head Coach will be enforced for refusal to play any game on his or her schedule. This coach will not be allowed to coach any all-star team that season.

Section 8.2 The number of regular season games per team can be NO MORE than 16 games, unless written approval is given by the Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department.

Section 8.3 All requests for rescheduling regular season games must be submitted prior to the scheduling deadline date as determined by the OCPR Department. Requests must be submitted through the District President to the OCPR Athletic Supervisor. Rescheduling requests will only be considered if they are due to legitimate schedule conflicts such as prescheduled school functions, etc.

Section 8.4 Games that are canceled due to inclement weather will only be rescheduled by the OCPR Athletic Supervisor. A scheduled makeup date (if possible) will be provided within five days of the cancelled game.

Section 8.5 No regular season games will last longer than 120 minutes.

Section 8.6 No games will be held without an OCPR Athletic Coordinator present.

Section 8.7 Where games are scheduled, and a high heat index advisory is in effect, please take special precautions. Steps should include encouraging frequent breaks with plenty of fluids on hand, having ice and cold towels available, and consistent monitoring of the participants.

Section 8.8 Regular Season Game Times

Monday-Friday: No game may begin before 6:00 PM or after 9:00 PM.

Saturday: No game may begin before 8:00 AM or after 9:00:00 PM.

Sunday (makeup games only): No game may begin before 10:00 AM or after 9:00 PM.

Section 8.9 The minimum number of players required to start each game shall be 8 for all age groups. If the minimum number of players are not present by the expiration of the grace period, the team will forfeit.

Section 8.10 No bat person is allowed other than a team member.



- Section 8.11 Each player must play 6 consecutive outs and 1 bat. Penalty for violations will result in forfeit. Protest of violation must be made before the end of the game.
- Section 8.12 If a child is injured and blood is showing on the child or his clothing, the clothes must be changed, and all blood removed from the child before he can return to the game. A five-minute period is permitted for this to be done. *(If a clean uniform is not available, the child may participate in other activewear.)*
- Section 8.13 No noise makers of any kind will be allowed at the games.
- Section 8.14 Each team is responsible for cleaning out their dugout after each game.
- Section 8.15 Guest players may only be obtained if a team will otherwise forfeit the game due to minimum player requirements. Players may only be borrowed from within the team's district. Documentation of guest player request must be submitted to the district board and OCPR at least two days prior to the scheduled game.

ARTICLE IX PRACTICE

- Section 9.1 Pre-Season: No more than 3 days per week. No practices will be scheduled on Sundays. During Season: No more than 2 days per week. No practices will be scheduled on Sundays.
- Section 9.2 No practices will last longer than 90 minutes.
- Section 9.3 No practices can be held unless an OCPR Athletic Coordinator and OCPR approved coach is present.

ARTICLE X TOURNAMENTS

- Section 10.1 There will be a countywide tournament at the end of regular season play. One All-Star team in each division from each district, will be eligible to participate. Each team will consist of 12 players.
- Section 10.2 Tournament hosting responsibilities will rotate annually.
- 10.2a The host district(s) may charge a \$45.00 per team fee to the other districts. This fee should be submitted to the host district(s) at the annual pre-tournament meeting.
- Section 10.3 The playing sites used during the tournament will be determined by the Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department.
- Section 10.4 Regular season rules will apply during county tournaments, with the following exceptions:
- 10.4a EXCEPTION: No time limit in championship game(s).
- 10.4b EXCEPTION: Suspended games will resume at the point of interruption. All games must be completed unless the 10-run rule or time limit restriction is in effect.



10.4c EXCEPTION: Protests will be handled at the playing site. Games will resume once a decision is reached by the district president, vice president, and Athletic Coordinator.

10.4d EXCEPTION: Mandatory playing rules for the county all-star tournament are in effect and the coach has the right to substitute as he or she deems necessary for all age divisions except 8U baseball and softball.

Section 10.5 Each player's registration form and birth certificate must be turned in to the district board prior to taking the field. If the registration form and/or birth certificate is not in possession of a board member before the start of the game, the player will be considered ineligible. If the head coach plays a player that is ineligible, disciplinary action could result based on the rules governing playing illegal players.

ARTICLE XI SELECTION OF ALL-STARS/DIXIE ROSTERS

Section 11.1 The All-Star age divisions will follow age divisions utilized in regular season play.

Section 11.2 One month, before the season ends, voting for All-Star head coaches will take place. All head coaches will be given a full point vote, all assistant coaches will be given a ½ point vote. Only three voters total per team (includes head coach and two assistants) are allowed except for 8u teams in which there are 4 voters allowed (to include one head coach and three assistant coaches). This voting is to be proctored by the board and witnessed by the OCPR Athletic Coordinator. All assistant coaches will be selected by the nominated head coach.

Section 11.3 Twelve (12) players shall be chosen for each All-Star team.

Section 11.4 A player who participates during regular season in an age division higher than is determined strictly by their age will be required to participate in the All-Star division for that same age group.

Section 11.5 The head coach will select the All-Star team through try-outs or season stats with the assistance of the district board. The tryout process and/or selection will not occur earlier than two weeks prior to the date of the final regular season game for the entire county league.

Section 11.6 A team may not add an additional player to the roster if the Onslow County Tournaments have started unless the team is in a situation where it will have to forfeit.

ARTICLE XII AWARDS

Section 12.1 Regular season awards, other than the personalized certificates, shall be determined and financed by the district.

Section 12.2 County Tournament Champions will receive trophies that will be furnished by the Onslow County Parks & Recreation Department. The first and second place teams are to receive one team trophy each and an individual award for each player on the roster of that team.



ARTICLE XIII PROTESTS

Section 13.1 Athletic Appeal Process: All appeals must be made in writing to the OCPR Athletic Supervisor within three days of consequence assignment.

13.1b Parents, guardians, and affected district board members or coaches have the right to be present at appeal.

13.1c Based on review of the appeal, the Athletics Supervisor will adjust, revoke, or sustain the action.

13.1d The athlete is not eligible to participate in competition or activity during the appeal process.

13.1e In cases where the action was taken directly by the Athletic Program Supervisor and where dissatisfaction exists with the results of the appeal hearing, an appeal may be made, within three (3) days in writing to the Parks and Recreation Director. This is the final level of appeals.

13.1f The athlete and/or parent/guardian will be notified of the results of the appeal within 24 hours. This decision is final.