



2017 SELECT LEAGUE SPECIAL LEAGUE RULES

Age Control and Team Selection

- Age control date is the player's age on April 30, 2017.
- Players of a younger age shall not be allowed to play in an older age division, nor is an older aged player permitted to play in a younger age group without a doctor's note to the individual association.
- **If there is more than one team, teams will be drafted** based on a tryout format for each park. It is expected that each park have no less than 25% of an age groups registered participants selected for their program. Any exceptions must be voted by all participating parks and have unanimous approval.

Host Park Responsibilities

- Provide game balls and fields.
- Provide scoreboard
- Line off fields, place bases, and turn lights on and off.
- Home team is determined by the **game schedule** and may not necessarily be the "host" park
 - The home team is responsible for keeping the official scorebook, and the visiting team will be responsible for operating the scoreboard.
 - The home team will occupy the first base dugout and visitors will occupy the third base dugout.
- Starting game time will be set by the home plate official. Umpires will keep official game clock. The clock will run continuously until time expires, and the game is over. Game time will begin at the conclusion of the umpire/coach plate meeting.
- There will be a ten (10) minute grace period on the first scheduled game of the day or night only. **This rule will only be in affect if a team is either waiting for a ninth player or their first coach.**

Equipment, Uniforms, Clothing

- All baseball players ages must wear rubber molded cleats/tennis shoes and are **NOT ALLOWED TO WEAR STEEL OR METAL CLEATS.**
- Catchers must wear a catcher's mask attached to a helmet or a "Hockey Style" catcher's helmet. A hard, plastic protector manufactured for the purpose of protecting the throat shall be securely attached. (Homemade devices made from other pieces of equipment may not be used for this purpose.)
- **MALE CATCHERS MUST WEAR A PROTECTIVE CUP WITH SUPPORTER IN ALL GAMES FOR ALL AGE GROUPS.** Other players are also encouraged to wear a protective cup to prevent injury, but it is not mandatory.
- A player shall not be allowed to play with any type of plaster or metal cast on any part of the body.
- Bat barrels can be up to 2 3/4 in diameter and must contain "BPF 1.15" label OR drop 3 "BBCOR" label.

Playing Field Dimensions

League	Distance of Pitcher's Mound	Base Distance
9 & 10 (Rec & Select)	46 Feet	65 Feet
11 & 12 (Rec & Select)	50 Feet	70 Feet

Length of Games and Time Limit

- An official game shall be six (6) innings unless:
 - A. Time limit has expired
 - B. The *Mercy Rule* has been invoked
 - C. The score is tied and the time limit has not expired

- There will be a **1 hour & 45** minute time limit imposed on each game. A new inning begins on the third (3rd) out of the bottom half of an inning. Time limit constitutes an official game regardless of the number of innings played. All games will play their entire time to complete innings already started. If home team is already ahead and batting, game is over at time limit.
- *Mercy Rule:* If team is leading by 15 runs after three (3) innings; 10 runs after four (4) innings and 8 runs after five (5) innings, the game shall be called at that point. An inning started must be completed unless the home team has reached the Mercy Rule in the bottom of said inning, or in the previous inning and the visiting team did not score enough runs to constitute continuation of the game. (the losing team must have as many or more at bats than the winning team).
- In case of rain or any other reason, and the time limit has not elapsed and play is shortened, the following will constitute an official game: **4 innings (3 1/2 if home team is ahead)**
NOTE: The score of a called official game shall be the score at the end of the last complete inning, unless the home team at bat has scored more runs than the visiting team at bat in the incomplete inning. In this case, the score shall be that of the incomplete inning.

If the required time and enough innings were not played to be an official game, this constitutes a suspended game. **A game must complete 1 full inning to be considered suspended; failure to do so shall constitute a re-start.**

Playing Time & Substitution

- Each team is required to have a minimum of seven (7) of your team's own players at game time (with respect to the grace period).
- There will be no borrowing of players in the select baseball league.
- All players present at game time shall be listed on the line-up and must bat in turn for the entire game.
- Players arriving after the game has begun shall be placed at the bottom of the order.
- Injured players may be removed from the line up with no penalty. If a batter is injured during his/her at bat there will be no penalty. If a baserunner is removed due to injury, that player will be replaced by the last batted out. Should the injured player not be able to return before his/her next at bat they will be removed from the remainder of that game offensively and defensively.
- **Defensively, no player shall be omitted from the defensive lineup in two innings until everyone on the team has been omitted from the defensive lineup in one inning. No player shall be omitted from the defensive lineup in any two consecutive innings. This includes substitute players.**

Ejections and Suspensions

- A manager or coach ejected from a game must leave the playing field and dugout, and be out of sight, for the remainder of that game. A player ejected must leave the playing field and remain in the dugout for the remainder of that game. Being allowed to remain in the dugout is at the discretion of the umpire.
- Any player or coach ejected from a game will be suspended for the next game that his or her team plays.

Batting/Bunting

- A pitch that touches the ground and bounces through the strike zone it is a "ball". If such a pitch touches the batter, he shall be awarded first base. If such a pitch is struck at, it is a live ball.
- A pitch that is in the strike zone when it touches the batter, it shall be called a strike, whether or not the batter tries to avoid the ball.
- If a batter fakes a bunt and then swings, the batter will be called out. The batter may show bunt and then pull the bat back, but cannot swing.
- A bunted foul ball with two strikes shall be an out.
- Suicide squeezes are not allowed. Safety squeezes are allowed. If a suicide squeeze is attempted, the runner will be called out. (suicide squeeze is defined as runner leaves third during the pitcher's delivery trying to score as the ball is bunted; safety squeeze is defined as a runner leaving 3rd base – or from a paused position in the baseline once ball is bunted).
- The batter becomes a runner when: A. He hits a fair ball. B. The third strike called by the umpire is not caught, providing (1) first base is unoccupied, or (2) first base is occupied with two out.

NOTE: A batter who does not realize his situation on a third strike not caught, and who is not in the process of running to first (1) base, shall be declared out once he leaves the dirt circle surrounding home plate.

Base-Running

- Infield fly rule will be in enforced for 11-12 year olds **ONLY**.
- Runners in the 9-10 age group will NOT be allowed to lead off bases. They must be in contact with their base when the umpires indicates "ready to play" to the pitcher. If a runner leaves the base before the pitch reaches the batter and the ball is put into play, the umpire shall give the delayed dead ball signal until the play is over. He will then give the team in the field two options. Option "A" – the play is called dead and the offending runner declared "out". Option "B" – the defensive team can accept the results of the play as it occurred.

- Runners in the 11-12 age group may lead off bases and steal at their own risk. (**EXCEPTION: Base runners may NOT straight steal home plate**)
- *Baserunners are responsible for avoiding collisions with fielders.* Baserunners are expected to either slide or go around a fielder to a base/plate. The umpire will judge whether the fielder is obstructing the runner, and if so, they will award the next base/plate to the runner. Baserunners who initiate contact shall be declared out and if judged by the umpire to be flagrant or intentional, could possibly be ejected from the game.

Pitching

- Pitching limits:
 - 9-10 – 65 pitches/day
 - 11-12 – 75 pitches/day
- Rest between pitching:
 - Pitchers who pitch 25 pitches or less can pitch the next calendar day
 - Pitchers who pitch 26-50 pitches must take a calendar day off before pitching again
 - Pitchers who pitch 51-65 (75 for 11-12) pitches must take two calendar days off before pitching again
 - NOTE: A calendar day is from Midnight to Midnight
- A pitcher that reaches his max pitches allowed for the day may continue to pitch to the current batter until he is put out or reaches base. A pitcher shall not be permitted to pitch a NEW batter once their max pitches per day have been met.
- Intentional walks may be requested without counting toward the pitch count (unless pitches are actually thrown).
- A manager shall be entitled to request time, on defense, to talk to his PITCHER without penalty. On the second time out, he shall be required to remove the pitcher *from the mound* for the inning. (but that player can be placed at any other position in the field).
- In 9-10 league only, a pitcher that hits a SECOND (2ND) batter, in the same inning, an official visit to the mound by the coach is **required**. If the player hits a THIRD (3RD) batter in the same inning, a second visit from the coach is required and removal of the pitcher from the mound is MANDATORY. NOTE: If a coach has already visited his pitcher once in an inning for any reason, the **first required** visit (as stated previously) will constitute the second visit and a MANDATORY Pitching Change must take place.
- Any pitcher removed by a coach can return to the mound one (1) other time to pitch in any subsequent innings during the same game (with respect to the pitch count limit).
- Balks will only be called in the 11-12 league. NOTE: Balks are immediate dead balls. There will be 1 team warning issued per team per game during the regular season; during playoff games there will be NO warnings.
- With each pitching change in the same inning, a new time out will be allowed for the manager to call a defensive time out and visit the new pitcher.
- All suspended/makeup games will adhere to the regular season pitch count rules.

Cold Weather Policy:

- **Weeknights**- if the temperature at the host park is measured by www.Weather.com, is “feels like” 40 Degrees OR LESS at 4:30pm games, will be cancelled. In addition, if the forecasted temperature is at or below 40 degrees during the scheduled event, it will be terminated at the time the temperature drops to 40 degrees.
- **Weekends**- if the temperature at the host park is measured www.Weather.com is “feels like” 40 Degrees OR LESS at Game Time, those Games will be cancelled or delayed until the temperature is 40 degrees or higher.

Weather Hotline/Websites:

- **Roswell:** 770-641-3836
- **Alpharetta:** <http://www.wpyba.org/fieldstatus>
- **Ocee Park:** Text the keyword OPAA to 74700 to sign up for Sumotext Alerts (must sign up every year).
- **Hopewell:** <http://www.hopewellbaseball.org/>

Park Addresses:

- **Hembree Park:** 850 Hembree Park Roswell 30076
- **Ocee Park:** 10900 Buice Rd Johns Creek 30022
- **Hopewell Park:** 15250 Bell Park Drive Milton 30004
- **Wills Park:** 11925 Wills Rd Alpharetta 30009
- **Webb Bridge:** 4780 Webb Bridge Rd Alpharetta 30005