

**OBGC Broncos Rules**

## **STANDINGS AND OBGC PLAYOFFS**

* Regular season win/loss records will be used to determine postseason playoff seeding.
* Winning team to email scores to jandrron@aol.com
* Playoff games will be played to completion with the following exceptions:
* Mercy Rule will be in effect. If home team is leading after 4 ½ innings by 10 runs or more, the game will be called and the result will stand. If visiting team is up by 10 runs after 5 complete innings, the visiting team is the winner.
* If weather stops Playoff game, the game will be completed as soon as possible and pick up from the exact same situation as when the game was suspended. The only exception to this will be if weather is an issue during the playoffs, the league president may make a determination on whether the game is continued, if we need to get the games in before the end date of the season. (A game less than 3 innings will have to continued; more than 4 innings, a determination may be made as to the winner if one team was clearly ahead)

(*Mercy rule is only in affect during the Playoffs, not during the regular season*.)

**SPORTSMANSHIP**

* Players will not taunt or tease players on the opposing team. Clapping of hands or wildly waving a bat with the intent to distract or deceive players on the opposing team will not be permitted.
* Parents and fans watching the game are not to abuse the Umpire or other team’s players or Coaches. Head Coaches are encouraged to talk with their parents before the season to remind them that the Umpires are mostly high school kids who are doing their best and that we need to set a good example of sportsmanship for our kids.
* Deliberately removing the batting helmet when on the field while the ball is alive will not be permitted.
* Throwing a batting helmet or bat on or off the field will not be permitted.
* Penalty for Unsportsmanlike activity; each team will be given one warning; the next infraction will be declared an out for the violating team. If the same individual is repeatedly warned, that person will be ejected from the game. Ejected players will be allowed to stay at the field and watch the game while sitting on the team bench.
* Please encourage your players to stay in the bench area during a game and not go back and forth out of the dugout.

### EQUIPMENT

* Cleats: Rubber or molded Plastic only for Bronco Level (No Metal Spikes of any kind)
* Bats: No Restrictions

### UMPIRES

* *OBGC uses high school students and parents to umpire the games. There will be questionable calls made by the Umpires. Let it go*! Players, parents, and coaches will not argue any umpire judgment calls. Gross calls, based on inadequate knowledge of baseball or OBGC rules, should be resolved quietly between the umpire and the two head coaches. Please follow up with an email to the league president explaining the incident, so the Umpire coordinator can correct the understanding of the rules if the Umpire made an error.
* Remember, regular season games will determine playoff seating.

### GENERAL GUIDELINES (REGULAR SEASON)

* Games are six (6) innings long
* Try and play as many innings as you can. Have your team take the field as soon as the ½ inning ends. Please have your catcher ready to go. *(See Courtesy runner option under offense)*
* Limit warm-up pitches to 8 between innings.
* On Saturdays when there is a game following yours, please abide by the times of the games. Your game is over at that time regardless of the situation on the field.
* Home team will use the bench on the 3rd base side
* Home team will provide the bases and set up the field
* Pitching rubber will be set 50 feet from the back of home plate
* Base distance will be set at 70 feet (2nd base is 99 feet from the back of home plate)
* The HOME Team will provide two new game balls to the umpire
* Players, coaches, and spectators are not allowed to stand directly behind the backstop at any OBGC game field. This is so the catcher, pitcher, batter, and umpire are not distracted.
* Only players and Coaches should be allowed in the Dugouts or on the playing field during a game. No Bat Boys allowed.
* After the game, please make sure that the dugout areas are clean and that if there is a game following yours, that you collect all equipment and meet with the team in another area so the teams for the next game can get set.
* If there is no game before you, the visiting team can take the infield for practice 1/ 2 hour before the game, with the home team taking the field 15 minutes before game time. In most instances the field will have to be shared at the same time equally by each team for warm ups.
* There is no batting practice at Freeman Fields before a game, however, you are permitted to pitch and hit whiffle balls in the outfield.

#### DEFENSE

* Coaches must have their defensive line-up completed before the game begins.
* Player Participation:
  + Each player must play at least 4 innings in the field of which two (2) innings must be in the infield and one (1) in the outfield, **within the first five (5) innings of the game**.
  + If 12 or fewer players are scheduled to play – no player will sit out more than 2 innings.
  + No player will sit 2 innings before all players have sat out 1 inning.
* NO INFIELD FLY RULE, NO DROPPED 3RD STRIKE RULE
* Players should not stand directly in the baselines and the first baseman should not stand in the middle of the base when fielding a thrown ball.
* Base runners will automatically be awarded a base if:

1. a fielder impedes a runner when they do not have the ball
2. a fielder blocks a base without possession of the ball

* Coaches should rotate players in different positions during the regular season unless putting a player in a specific situation could result in injuries. A player should not play a whole game at one position after taking into consideration the requirements set forth in point 2 above. It is okay to have a player play multiple innings in a position, just not every inning.

### OFFENSE

* All players will bat in a continuous batting order consisting of all available players until three (3) outs have occurred.
* Only two players can swing the bat at the same time. One batter at the plate and one on-deck batter. The on-deck batter should be on the field in foul territory. No tees, jug nets, or hitting sticks should be used during any game.
* No team may score more than five (5) runs in any inning, other than in the last “declared” inning**.**
* Batters will not throw their bats. Each team will be given one warning per game. Every successive teammate who throws a bat will be declared out. Runners will not advance.
* Leading off on all bases is permitted up to 3 feet from the base being occupied and a base runner may not move to steal the next base until the ball leaves the pitcher’s hand.
* Teams can only steal 3 bases per half inning and only if they are not winning or winning by less than 6 runs.  Runners may steal any base, ***except home base*.**
* A base runner advancing on a batted ball, base on balls (walk) or another batter being hit by a pitch is not considered a stolen base.  A runner advancing on a passed or ***over thrown ball*** is considered, a stolen base, except on a failed pickoff attempt.  ***A*** base runner taking a lead may be picked off. ***A base runner may advance on a failed pickoff attempt. This is not considered a stolen base.*** Base runners ‘baiting’ is not allowed. ***The base runner must return to the base when AN IN FEILDER has control of the baseball.***
* A courtesy runner may be used for the catcher with two outs in the inning; **the player making the last out must be used as the replacement runner.** **Opposing team’s permission is not necessary**.
* Coaches should teach players not to slide headfirst.

### PITCHING

* Any pitcher who hits three (3) batters in a game must be removed from the pitching position for the remainder of the game.
* Coaches or players are **permitted (1) one visit** to the mound per inning per pitcher, any subsequent visit in the same inning will require that the pitcher be removed from the game.
* Once a pitcher is removed from the game for any reason, he cannot return to that position for the remainder of that game.
* Coaches should keep track of pitch counts to ensure the health and safety of the pitchers.
* One (1) pitch constitutes one inning.
* Pitchers may not pitch more than ***two (2)*** innings in a single game ***and not more than four (4) innings in a 48 hour period.*** Pitchers shall be allowed to pitch no more the Ten (10) innings in one calendar week (includes travel team obligations). A calendar week is from 12:01 Monday to 12 midnight the following Sunday.
* Balks will not be called in the Bronco league. However the umpire will call the Balk and let the pitcher know what he did wrong. If the balking is consistently blatant, the umpire does have the discretion to award a base.

### COLLISION RULE

* If a fielder is making a play at a base and there is a collision at that base and the baserunner did not slide, then the runner will be declared out and the play will be called dead. If there is no collision, there is no harm and the runner will be safe, except if the runner jumps over the body of the fielder, then the runner is out.
* If a fielder is making a play on a runner and there is a collision with malicious intent, the runner will be declared out and the play will be called dead. The umpire will suspend the runner from that game. The suspended player may continue to watch the game from the team bench.
* If a player is suspended from a game by an umpire for any reason, that player is not allowed to play in the next game, scheduled or unscheduled.

### INCLEMENT WEATHER

### See Previous email from commissioner

### TEAM COMMUNICATION

* As a courtesy to your players and their families, please do not telephone them after 10:00 PM. Rarely, is the information important enough to disturb them late at night. E-mails that require a reply work well and can save time.
* Coaches should organize and prepare for each practice and game. When planning your upcoming activity, ensure you have an adequate number of assistant coaches and/or parent helpers to oversee your players at make it fun. No coach can do it all. Before leaving practice or a game, ensure all players and parents are aware of your next practice or game. All players should be informed of all team activities.

### GAME TIME-LIMIT

* When there is more than one game on a field during the same day, regular season games will end two (2) hours after their scheduled start time. Games should not end before the two-hour limit (unless completed).
* On Saturday’s we need to play four or five games on a field before the sun sets on the last game. If you have the last game of the day, the drop dead rule does not apply.
* There are 15 minutes of transition between the games. Five minutes are for the two leaving teams to pack up and for the two arriving teams to set out their equipment. There should be a 5 minute period for each team to take the field. Coaches should shorten or not take infield practice if the scheduled start time is threatened.
* If the scheduled umpire is not there five minutes prior to the start of the game, get a parent or coach to umpire. Do not wait for game time to notice the umpire is not ready to start the game. Please notify the league Commissioner after the game if an umpire does not show up.

### PLAYOFFS

* Team listed on the bottom of the bracket will take the 3rd base side of the dugout and be responsible for setting up the field if needed.
* A coin flip will determine the home and away team with the team on the top of the bracket calling heads or tails.
* The team coming out of the winner’s bracket will be the home team in the first game of Championship. If a 2nd game is needed, a coin flip will determine home and away.
* If an umpire is not at the field 10 minutes before came time, please call the league Commissioner as soon as possible so they can call the Umpire coordinator right away to try and get someone to you. You may need to use a mutually agreed upon coach or parent.
* We understand the playoffs can get a little bit spirited, however same rules apply as far arguing and intimidating the umpires and other team. If there is a rules disagreement, call time and quietly speak with the umpire at home plate with the other coach present.
* Full lineups and defensive positioning will be given to the opposing coach before the game begins. They are subject to change and a coach does not have to stick to the defensive positioning concretely.
* Inning rules concerning number of outfield and infield innings played will apply.
* All pitching rules will apply.
* 5 run rule is in affect for the first 5 innings.
* Games will be played to completion except as noted above due to Mercy rule or weather considerations.
* Trophies are awarded to the league Champions and runners-up only in the Bronco league.