

2026 U15/U18 Game Rules

1.) Game length rules:

- a. All games in U15/U18 Advanced and U15 divisions will be 7 inning games
- b. **No New Inning to start after 8:45pm**, according to the home plate umpire's time. Bottom half (if required) can finish

2.) Mercy Rules

a. **U15/U18 division will play with a 5 run rule per inning max. 7th inning is unlimited runs (must be 7th inning)**

b. All divisions (U15 and U15/U18) will have the following mercy rules applied for total game scores:

i. **15 runs after 4 innings**

ii. **10 runs after 5 innings**

3.) Divisions:

- a. U15– all players will pitch from 54 feet, the front rubber on the pitching mound
- b. Base paths are 80'
- c. U18 program pitch from 60'
- d. Base paths are 90'

4.) Pitching Rules: American League Division Teams

- **New for the 2026 season**

- For **weeks 1 & 2** pitchers will be limited to **50 pitches total in a game**, with no more than **30 pitches in an inning**. If a pitcher reaches either 30 or 50 during an at bat the pitcher can finish the at bat and then must be removed from pitching.
- For **weeks 3 & 4** pitchers will be allowed up to **60 pitches per game**, but will still have a limit of 30 in an inning.
- **For weeks 5 & 6, and through the playoffs the limit will be increased to 75** for a game, and we will still have a max of 30 pitches in an inning.

* A pitcher removed from the mound and can remain on defense in the game.

* **U18 Advanced Pitching limit: 95 pitches per day**; with the exception of finishing the batter he is facing

Rest days:

76 or more pitches in a day, 4 calendar days of rest must be observed;

61-75 pitches in a day, 3 calendar days of rest must be observed;

46-60 pitches in a day, 2 calendar days of rest must be observed;

31-45 pitches in a day, 1 calendar day of rest must be observed;

1-30 pitches in a day, no rest is required

* **Pitch count must be verified after every ½ inning**

5.) Pitching Rules: U15

- a. **Catcher – Pitcher Rule:** If a player is used in both the pitcher and catcher position, he is limited to a total of **5 innings combined between the two spots**. If a player only plays the position of catcher, there is no limit on his available innings.
- b. Once a pitcher is removed from the mound, he is ineligible to return as a pitcher. He can stay in the game at another position (catcher rule may apply).
- c. Mound visits: 1 per inning allowed, 2nd visit in the game and the pitcher must be removed

6) Bat Rules

The following rules will apply to the two divisions

- a. 15U - all **2012 and 2011 born** athletes will have to use **drop 5** or heavier bats. The bat can be either **BBCOR, USSSA, USA, or wood**.
- b. 15U - all **2013 born** players can not use bats lighter than **drop 10**. The bat can be either **USA, USSSA, or BBCOR, as well as wood**.
- c. 15U - It is going to be the **responsibility of the coaches** to make sure that all players are using the proper equipment.
 - i. Infractions will result in:
 - 1. **First offence** - Player will be called out and the bat will be confiscated for the remainder of the game.
 - 2. **Second offence** - The player will be removed from the game for the rest of the game, the head coach will also be removed from the rest of the game.
 - a. Further repercussions can occur if this is continually repeated.
- d. 18U - **all players** in the 18U division will be only allowed to use **drop 3 bats** either **BBCOR or wood**.
- e. Infractions - will be the same as above.

7.) A continuous batting order will be used in all divisions.

8.) We will play 10 fielders (5 infielders, 4 outfielders) Free defensive substitution is used in all divisions.

9.) Base coaches: the base coaches must either be rostered coaches or players. If a player is acting as the base coach, they must wear a helmet.

10.) On Deck Batter – the on-deck batter can practice on the field providing they are positioned behind the current batter. This may require the on-deck batter to move to the other dugout to ensure they are in the correct position.

11.) Coaches can warm up pitchers between innings and in the bullpen if required.

12.) An adult coach must be in the dugout during the game (meaning two players would have to base coach if only one coach is at the game)

13.) To be considered a legal game, a **minimum of 8 players** must be in the lineup. If a team has less than 8 players, they will forfeit the game. Its encouraged to play an exhibition game in this situation by combining teams if needed to not penalize those players who showed up.

14.) Players on the Field: U15 and 18U division will be allowed to field 10 players, by utilizing a 4th outfielder.

15.) No jewelry should be worn on the field, however it is permitted

65.) No spitz permitted on the field. Coaches may choose to implement a “spitz free dugout” at their discretion.

17.) Equipment:

- a. CSA certified batting helmet must be worn
- b. **All players must wear a jock**

18.) Safety Bags

New to OBA will be the use of safety bags at first base. The base will be two parts (half will be white, on the inside side of the foul line, and the other half will be orange, on the outside side of the foul line).

- a. **To make an out** the defensive player has to touch the white part of the bag. If they make the play on the red side of the bag the runner will not be called out. The defensive player has to touch the white part of the bag to make the out.
- b. **Initial Play:** On a ball hit to the infield where there is a play at first, the runner must touch the colored bag, and the defender uses the white bag.
- c. **Extra-Base Hits/No Play:** If the ball is hit to the outfield and there is no close play, the runner may touch either bag.
- d. **Returning to Base:** After overrunning the base or returning to first, the runner must use the white bag.
- e. **Exceptions:** If a throw pulls the fielder into foul territory, the fielder can use the colored bag, and the runner can use the white bag to avoid collision.

Game/Field Management:

- 1. The home team will: (listed as the bottom team on the schedule)
 - Occupy the bench on the third base line of the infield
 - Be responsible for setting up and returning all bases
 - Be responsible for raking home plate, areas around the bases and the pitcher’s mound
 - Supply a new game ball
 - No infield prior to the game
- 2. The visiting team will: (listed as the top team on the schedule)
 - Occupy the bench on the first base line of the infield
 - Supply a decent back up ball for the game

Conduct:

1. During a game, all players not participating on the field **must remain in the bench area**.
2. Adults in the bench area will be limited to **one head coach and three assistant coaches**.
3. The Head Coach will be responsible for all discussions with the umpire. If he is unable to attend one of the assistants may fill this role.
4. The penalty for ejection of a player or coach shall automatically include a suspension for the next game. An additional penalty may be imposed by the executive committee.
5. If a coach is to talk to a pitcher or player on the field they need to **ASK for time** from the Umpire before walking onto the field.
6. **Coaches and players** require a mask when warming up a pitcher at the start of an inning.