

**GOLDEN GATE OPTIMIST CLUB
2008 BASEBALL PROGRAM
GENERAL RULES PERTAINING TO ALL DIVISIONS**

THE LEAGUE: The League will be governed by its President, Secretary, Baseball Commissioners, Baseball Committee and the other officers for the Committee as appointed by the Golden Gate Optimist Club.

The goals of the League are to promote participation, team-work, fellowship and sportsmanship.

For the purposes of competition and awards, the Pee Wee "A" and Intermediate Divisions are the sanctioned divisions. The Pee Wee "B" teams are considered as an instructional division and will be recognized only for scheduling and sportsmanship awards.

Boundaries of the League will be from San Francisco extending to Concord (north) to Oakland (east) and to San Mateo or Hayward (south).

If, for any reason, any additional players are desired to be added to the roster during the season after the League establishes the team, the Manager will first apply to his respective Commissioner stating the reasons. If the Commissioner approves, the Manager making the application must get telephone approval from every coach in his division. Any need for arbitration rests with the President of the League.

Managers may release players upon approval of the Commissioner.

Managers must reply to all communications of the League and the opposing Managers within 72 hours of receipt.

Insurance covering games, practices, and travel is required for all players.

Canceled games will be rescheduled by the home team and the home team shall report this to the Secretary of the League within 72 hours. Should the Secretary of the League fail to get such notice within the allotted time, then the Schedule Commissioner shall arbitrarily reschedule the game and both teams must adhere to the decision.

Each team will designate a player Captain. The Captain can either be elected by the team or selected by the Manager and can be chosen for each game of the season. Pre-game ceremonies will include the Captains, Managers, and Umpires meeting at the mound for discussions of playing boundaries and rules.

ROSTERS: Team rosters will accompany individual waiver sheets and must be handed into the respective Commissioner. This will be considered the official registration of the Teams and the players. Rosters must include the sponsoring organization's name, team colors, team officials and insurance company. **Each player on each team is expected to pay a \$25.00 fee at the beginning of the season.**

WAIVED PLAYERS: There will be no more than three (3) waived players allowed on each team. Waived players in the Pee Wee "A" Division may not pitch and waived players in the Intermediate Division may not pitch or play catcher.

PLAYER RECRUITMENT AND LIMIT: Recruiting shall be determined by the Baseball Commissioners at all times. A minimum team roster of twelve (12) players should be kept, but not if it involves hardship, as determined by the respective Commissioner. No maximum limit of players per team will be observed, however, the official roster for the recognition of awards shall be fourteen (14) players. Teams may submit additional names for awards provided the teams bears the costs of additional awards over fourteen (14). All decision of the Commissioners shall be final.

ADULT PARTICIPATION: No game shall be played unless each team is fielded with three (3) adult supervisors. Managers and coaches shall be entirely responsible for transportation, insurance, score keeping, news releases and the sportsmanship of both the team and the grandstand.

PLAYING FIELDS: Home team must report to the field at least one-half (1/2) hour before the reservation time indicated in order to reserve the field. Failure to report, especially in San Francisco, will jeopardize the balance of the season's schedule. San Francisco Parks and Recreation Board will curtail all future assignments if scheduled fields are not used. **HOME TEAMS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FIELDS.**

The home team Manager will be responsible for calling the game should the field be unplayable (due to a wet or unplayable field). In consideration of the visiting team's travel time, **it is the responsibility of the home team Manager to give at least three (3) hours notice to the visiting team Manager whether a game will be canceled or not. Unless there is a definite continuing rain the home team Manager must report to the field to notify the playground supervisor that the game is being canceled. It is imperative that fields are called unplayable by physically inspecting the field.**

Playing fields are to be reserved by the home team. For the Pee Wee "A" and Intermediate Division games, each field is to be reserved for a MINIMUM OF TWO AND ONE-HALF (2-1/2) HOURS, and if at all possible, the home team will attempt to reserve the playing field for three (3) hours. For the Pee Wee "B" Division games, each field is to be reserved for a MINIMUM OF TWO (2) HOURS, and if at all possible, the home team will attempt to reserve the playing field for two and one-half (2-1/2) hours.

GAME TIME LIMITS: If there are other games scheduled on a field or if the field is not otherwise available, the time limit for the Pee Wee "B" Division games will be two (2) hours and any new inning will not start once a game has progressed one and three-fourths (1-3/4) hours, but if the new inning has started in time, the entire inning must then be completed (unless the home team is ahead after the half-inning is completed). The time limit for the Pee Wee "A" and Intermediate Division games will be two and one-half (2-1/2) hours and any new inning will not start once a game has progressed two and one-fourths (2-1/4) hours, but if the new inning has started in time, the entire inning must then be completed (unless the home team is ahead after the half-inning is completed). Otherwise games for ALL Divisions must be completed to the full number of innings, unless agreed upon by the Managers of both teams.

UMPIRES: Home teams must provide two (2) neutral umpires. Failure to provide two neutral umpires shall call for the selection of umpire(s) that are mutually agreeable to the Managers of both teams. Teams may choose one parent from each team and one neutral party, totaling three (3) umpires. Umpires should be independent of playing teams as much as possible.

EQUIPMENT:

1. Uniforms will consist of, at least, a baseball cap and jersey shirt for all divisions.
2. Intermediate and the Pee Wee "A" Division teams will use regulation baseballs. The Pee Wee "B Gold & B Silver" Division teams will use a regulation size "softcore" baseball.
3. Full protective catcher equipment must be worn during play which includes face mask, chest protector, shin guards, metal fiber or plastic cut-type supporter and a catcher's helmet.
4. Batters and all base runners must always wear protective helmets during play. Protective headgear must give protection to the temples, ears, and base of skull.
5. Only rubber soled, rubber cleated or plastic cleated shoes are permitted. **Absolutely no metal spikes in any Division.**
6. Home team will provide at least two (2) game balls, pitching rubber, bases and a batting tee (if applicable).

RULE CHANGES OR INTERPRETATIONS: The cardinal rule for Managers is that all Officials are not professional ballplayers and as such discretion must be the rule of the field. Infraction or arguments must be carried on in "conference" style in the middle of the field, away from the grandstand and bleacher areas, with the Officials. Any rule change or interpretation, for the good of the League and Program, will be welcomed. Managers must submit suggestions to their respective Commissioners and the Baseball Committee will rule by directly notifying the Manager of the decision.

PROTESTS: Protests, other than judgment calls, must be filed with the Umpire before the next play begins. Managers filing protests must report this in writing to their respective Commissioner. The Commissioner will notify the teams involved before the start of the next scheduled game of his decision.

SCORE DISPARITY AND SPORTSMANSHIP: One of the main goals of the Optimist Club is that everyone's experience with participation in the Golden Gate Optimist Club's Baseball League is as positive as possible. It is usually fairly obvious when the skill levels of various players and teams are not realistically matched and when these situations do occur, "running up" the score does not allow the lesser skilled players or teams to feel a sense of accomplishment or satisfaction and serves no purpose. If the score differential in a game becomes too large, then coaches of the higher skilled team are strongly encouraged to rotate their infield and their pitchers with their lesser skilled players and in the latter innings to allow the other team to bat through their line-up.

SPORTSMANSHIP AWARDS: The Optimist Club will present Sportsmanship Awards to three (3) representatives from each team in the Pee Wee "B", Pee Wee "A", and Intermediate Divisions.

CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS: The Optimist Club will also present Individual Championship Awards for the Pee Wee "A" and Intermediate Divisions.

AWARDS BANQUET: The Awards Banquet is currently scheduled to be held on **June 15th, 2008** from 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm. This will be held in conjunction with the year end Optimist Tournament/Jamboree which will be held on June 14th and 15th and hosted by the SF Associates.

RULES FOR SPECIFIC DIVISIONS:

PEEWEE "B" DIVISION: Age Limits: Min: 7 years old on or before December 2, 2007. Max.: 9 years old on or before December 2, 2007.

Pitching: Pitching will be done by a person designated by the Manager to pitch to his own team. Pitching distance will be approximately forty-six (46) feet from the pitchers mound to home plate. The distance between the bases will be sixty (60) feet.

Batting: Every player on each team will bat once (and only once) each inning. If the teams do not have the same number of players, the team with the lower number of players will not get additional "at bats". When the last player of each team has batted, the half-inning will end regardless of the number of "outs" recorded. If a player leaves a game after it has been started, that player's turn in the lineup will be passed with no penalty to the batting team.

Batters will each be allowed a maximum of ten (10) pitches (whether the pitches are balls or strikes) in order to hit the ball "in play". Once the ten (10) pitch count has been reached, the batter will then be required to use a batting tee (use of the tee is not an option). The batter, and any baserunners, may only advance one base from a ball that is hit from the batting tee. There will be no bunting allowed. There will be no batter strike-outs enforced for an out and batters may swing and miss or foul-off as many pitches that are allowed up to the maximum pitch count. Put outs and fly outs will be recorded. When the fielding team records three outs, the bases will be cleared and any base runners must return to the dugout. When three more outs are recorded, the bases will again be cleared and the base runners must return to the dugout. This process will continue until every player of the batting team has batted each half-inning.

Fielding: All players on the team who suit up and attend the game must play. Each team will field a regulation infield (including pitcher's helper) and all the rest of the players on the team will be allowed to play in the outfield. The outfielders must remain in the outfield designated areas before moving to field batted balls.

Running: Baserunners will not be allowed to steal or advance on a wild pitch or passed ball under any circumstance. Baserunners will not be allowed to leave the base they occupy until the pitch is hit by the batter and baserunners leaving the base early will be called out upon the discretion of the umpires. Play will be halted when the ball is returned to the pitcher's helper, or, thrown into the vicinity of the pitcher's mound. On any overthrows, whether in play or not, base runners will be limited to one base. Baserunners are encouraged to slide feet first.

Score keeping: Neither team shall maintain a record of the total runs scored.

Managers' Meeting: Prior to the commencement of each game, the Managers shall meet to go over the rules. For the "B-Gold" Division, the Managers may decide to modify the rules (i.e. lower the maximum number of pitches, agree to only three (3) outs per half inning), but any modifications or changes must be agreed to by both teams.

PEE WEE "A" DIVISION: Age Limits: Min.: 10 years old on or before December 2, 2007. Max.: 11 years old on or before December 2, 2007

Regulation baseball playing rules will apply and games will be seven (7) innings. No metal spikes will be allowed in either practices or games. The pitching distance will be forty six (46) feet from the pitchers mound to home plate and sixty (60) feet between bases and the bases must be tied down. Each team will field a standard complement of nine (9) players on defense.

Pitchers must not pitch more than three (3) innings per game and one pitch is considered an inning. When a pitcher has been removed from the mound, the same pitcher cannot re-enter the mound to pitch in the same game. Pitchers may pitch from a full wind-up or stretch position, no pick-offs will be allowed and there will be no balks called on the pitchers. Catchers will not be required to catch the third strike for the batter to be called out. No hidden ball play will be allowed.

Baserunners will not be allowed to steal or advance on a wild pitch or passed ball under any circumstance. Baserunners will not be allowed to leave the base they occupy until the pitch crosses home plate or is hit by the batter and baserunners leaving the base early will be called out upon the discretion of the umpires. Baserunners are encouraged to slide feet first.

The maximum number of players who will be allowed to bat in an inning (assuming that three outs have not been reached) is determined by the lowest number of players that each team has participating in the game. As an example, if one team has ten players and another team has twelve players, then only ten players may bat in any particular inning for either team.

Last Batter Rule: When the last batter of a half inning comes to the plate, the batting team's scorer or coach must alert the home plate umpire and the fielding team.

If the ball is hit, play ends when the third out is recorded.

If a third out is not recorded, play will end when a member of the fielding team has secured the baseball and touches home plate.

PARTICIPATION RULE - All Players on a team who suit up and attend the game must play both on offense and defense. There will be continuous batting through the line-up and there will be unlimited substitution for the players playing in the field. Each player must be allowed to play in the field at least two (2) full innings (consisting of three (3) outs per inning) in each game.

When a player leaves a game after it has been started, that player's turn in the lineup will be assigned an "out", when it is that player's turn to bat only if the team has nine (or fewer) players, otherwise, that spot in the lineup will be passed. If the player is on the team with the lowest number of players, the player's absence shall not affect the number of players who may bat each inning, which shall remain the same as established at the beginning of the game pursuant to the Optimist rules.

If a player arrives to a game after it has been started, and, he is on the team with the lowest number of players, his presence shall not affect the number of players who may bat each inning, which shall remain the same as established at the beginning of the game pursuant to the Optimist rules.

INTERMEDIATE DIVISION: Age Limits: Min.: 12 years old on or before December 2, 2007. Max.: 13 years old on or before December 2, 2007.

Regulation baseball playing rules will apply and games will be seven (7) innings. No metal spikes will be allowed in either practices or games. The pitching distance will be fifty-one (51) feet from the pitchers mound to home plate and seventy-five (75) feet between bases and the bases must be tied down. Each team will field a standard complement of nine (9) players on defense.

Pitchers must not pitch more than three (3) innings per game and one pitch is considered an inning. When a pitcher has been removed from the mound, the same pitcher cannot re-enter the mound to pitch in the same game. Pitchers may pitch from a full wind-up or stretch position and no pick-offs will be allowed. Catchers will not be required to catch the third strike for the batter to be called out. No hidden ball plays will be allowed.

Once a pitcher has started his delivery to the plate, baserunners can attempt to steal or advance on a wild pitch or passed ball to second or third base, but baserunners will not be allowed to steal or advance on a wild pitch or passed ball to home plate under any circumstance. Baserunners will not be allowed to leave the base they occupy until the pitcher has started his pitching motion (no lead-offs). If a pitcher starts his delivery and then stops or throws to a base then a balk will be called, but balks for other types of pitching infractions will not be enforced. Baserunners leaving the base early will be called out upon the discretion of the umpires. Baserunners are encouraged to slide feet first.

The maximum number of players who will be allowed to bat in an inning (assuming that three outs have not been reached) is determined by the lowest number of players that each team has participating in the game. As an example, if one team has ten players and another team has twelve players, then only ten players may bat in any particular inning for either team.

When a player leaves a game after it has been started, that player's turn in the lineup will be assigned an "out", when it is that player's turn to bat only if the team has nine (or fewer) players, otherwise, that spot in the lineup will be passed. If the player is on the team with the lowest number of players, the player's absence shall not affect the number of players who may bat each inning, which shall remain the same as established at the beginning of the game pursuant to the Optimist rules.

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Last Batter Rule: When the last batter of a half inning comes to the plate, the batting team's scorer or coach must alert the home plate umpire and the fielding team.

If the ball is hit, play ends when the third out is recorded.

If a third out is not recorded, play will end when a member of the fielding team has secured the baseball and touches home plate.

ADDITION RULES AND INFORMATION:

PARTICIPATION RULE - All Players on a team who suit up and attend the game must play both on offense and defense. There will be continuous batting through the line-up and there will be unlimited substitution for the players playing in the field. Each player must be allowed to play in the field at least two (2) full innings (consisting of three (3) outs per inning) in each game.

REPORTING GAME RESULTS: IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE HOME TEAM MANAGER to report the results of the Sunday games to the Secretary of the League. Please email the results to Bob at: satakey@comcast.net. League will cause the standings (unofficial) to be e-mailed to managers and coaches on a weekly basis.

DIVISION STANDINGS: The Official standings of all teams in all division will be maintained by the Secretary of the League.

UMPIRE FEES: Home teams will be reimbursed at the end of the season for allowable umpire fees expended for games registered on the official standings ONLY WHERE GAME RESULTS HAVE BEEN MAILED BY THE HOME TEAM IN A TIMELY FASHION AND RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARY OF THE LEAGUE.

You may call any of the following Optimist Officials if you have any question during the seasons. They may not have the answer to your question when you call but they will get the answer for you. **ANY PROTEST MUST BE MADE IN WRITING AND MAILED DIRECTLY TO THE COMMISSIONERS.**

President of the League Mark Yogi (415) 894.8855(office) myogi@jfc.com

Secretary of the League Bob Satake (925) 676.3995 (home) satakey@comcast.net

Commissioner Paul Ohtaki (415) 661-6311 (home)

IMPORTANT NOTICE: TEAMS MAY ON MUTUAL AGREEMENT CHANGE THEIR SCHEDULED DATES BUT IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THEY NOTIFY THEIR RESPECTIVE COMMISSIONER OF THESE CHANGES (DATE, TIME, AND PLACE).