

**SECTION 1 TEAM FORMATION**

1. Leagues may form their Fall Ball teams in any manner, with equity in mind, but remember that Gold Select teams are more competitive than Silver Select teams and recreational teams have the goal for every girl to play and improve their skills.
2. Each team may have a maximum of 15 players on their roster.
3. SELECT TEAMS
  - a. In the 10U and 12U divisions, teams will be placed in one of two divisions and will be defined as either a Gold or Silver team based upon the makeup of the team. In the 8U and 14U divisions all teams will be placed in the same division.
  - b. In the 10U and 12U divisions all ASA/USA Designated B-leagues are required to provide a team that meets the "Gold" team requirements or is competitive enough to play a "Gold" level schedule. Exceptions will be considered by OCFB board.
  - c. "Gold" teams will be defined as: Teams having on their Fall Ball roster, five (5) or more current year district (Gold) All Star players or eight (8) or more current year district + tournament (Silver) all-stars. Teams will play each other during the season and tournaments. (District allstar is defined in section 2.6)
  - d. "Silver" teams will be defined as: Teams having on their Fall Ball roster, four (4) or less current year district (Gold) All Star players or seven (7) or less current year district + tournament (Silver) all-stars. Teams in this category have the option of playing up in the "Gold" division during the season or tournament play.
  - e. For Select player eligibility see section 2.2(a)
4. REC TEAMS
  - a. There will be no 14U recreational teams in OC Fall Ball. All 14U teams are considered SELECT teams.
5. Practices for Fall Ball can start no earlier than July 31st .
6. The teams that finish in 1st place in the Pumpkin Tournament must play Gold level in the Turkey Tournament.
7. Only OCFallBall approved leagues are eligible for any OCFallBall tournaments. NO outside teams.
8. Rosters will be FROZEN October 1st. No new players can be added.
9. Current year USA rules shall apply except as modified herein.
10. 14 and Under Division Only: Incoming High School players will be eligible to participate. A maximum of two (2) players entering their second year of high school are allowed per 14U team.
11. Any select player may sub on a higher division team but not within the same or lower division for all non-tournament games. Rec players may sub on a select team in the same or higher division for all non-tournament games. All players for tournament games must be rostered on the team to be eligible to play on that team.
12. (Tournaments Only) Each team staff is required to carry and be prepared to show proof of the following items: VALID YEAR PHOTO USA CARDS OR A NON PHOTO USA CARD AND A PICTURE FOR ALL PLAYERS AND COACHES/MANAGERS, PROOF OF INSURANCE FROM THEIR LEAGUE, AUTHORIZATION TO TREAT A MINOR, CONCUSSION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ROSTER and an UP-TO-DATE PLAYER

ROSTER at all times. These items will be required at tournament check-in and must remain with the team. All teams will be asked to show their USA CARDS at Check in and again to a representative at the beginning of the championship games.

## SECTION 2 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

1. All players in OCFallBall must be registered with USA Softball by September 18, 2022 (third Sunday in September.)
2. SELECT TEAMS
  - a. All players must play in the respective age division which they will participate in during the following spring season with the following exceptions:
    - i. USA Softball "B" league Select Gold teams shall be allowed up to two (2) players who did *not* play on their league's same division primary All-Star team ('gold' team) and who did *not* play for any travel team since April 1st to "stay down" and be rostered on a Select 'gold' team for their current age group. Any players "staying down" may not pitch or catch in any tournament games.
    - ii. USA Softball "B" league Select Silver teams shall be allowed up to two (2) players who did *not* play on any of their league's same division All-Star teams and who did *not* play for any travel team since April 1st to "stay down" and be rostered on a Select 'silver' team for their current age group. Any players "staying down" may not pitch or catch in any tournament games.
    - iii. USA Softball "C" leagues shall be allowed up to four (4) players who did *not* play for any travel team since April 1st to "stay down" and be rostered on a Select 'gold' team for their current age group. Any players "staying down" may not pitch or catch in any tournament games.

### *Examples:*

*A "B" league's 10U Gold team may roster up to two players with 2011 birthdays, who played on their All Star secondary ('silver') team.*

*A "C" league's 12U Gold team may roster up to two players from their 12U All Star team with 2009 birthdays*

- b. If an ALL STAR player is Playing Up in a higher division during the Fall Ball season, they will not be considered an All Star player for the purpose of team classification. (i.e. a 10U All Star playing in 12U is not considered an All Star for that team).
3. REC TEAMS

- a. OCFallBall recommends that all players be registered in the division they will be playing in the following spring, to maximize skill development and familiarity with division rules prior to the spring season.
  - b. Individual leagues are encouraged to use their own discretion when determining the appropriate level of play for each of their players, considering ability, experience, and safety of play.
  - c. In the 12U division, recreational players with 2009 birthdays who have not played All-Stars or travel ball are eligible to continue to play in the 12U division for the current fall season.  
*Note: the intent of this rule is to allow beginner to moderate current 12U players an opportunity to play rec ball*
4. To be eligible to participate in the Select Tournaments, a player must have played in at least 50% of the Fall Ball Select scheduled regular season games.
    - a. Select teams must maintain records of participation in all games through rosters on GameChanger or physical score books, including player numbers and last names
    - b. Exceptions may be made for players who missed games due to documented injuries and must be explicitly approved in writing by the OCFallBall Board. Be aware this applies to multiple sport athletes and travel ball players.
  5. OC Fall Ball will decide on all appeals and exceptions to player eligibility on a case by case basis. OC Fall Ball understands the potential for league transfers of players due to unforeseen circumstances.

### SECTION 3 GAME FORMAT

1. SELECT
  - a. Two (2) Select games will be played consecutively (doubleheader) on each non-tournament weekend between September 11th and November 13th. These games may be day or night games and may be played on Saturday or Sunday, depending upon field availability.
  - b. The host team will be the HOME team for the first game of the double header and the visiting team will be the HOME team for the second game.
  - c. Each team is required to provide one (1) new ball and a good back-up ball for one of the Double-Header games each weekend.
  - d. Umpire fees are to be \$60 per team payable IN CASH at the beginning of game 1 at the plate meeting
  - e. Drop dead at one (1) hour twenty (20) minutes in all divisions. The second game will start at the one (1) hour forty (40) mark providing a twenty (20) minute rest period between games. The score will revert to the previous inning if the home team is not ahead.
  - f. Games can end in a tie. In a tie game, if after seven innings are completed and if there is time remaining, the game may continue under the International Tie Breaker rules. Both teams must agree to continue to play or game ends in a tie.

- g. NO "official" standings will be kept during the regular season of play.
  - h. There will be a Pumpkin Tournament held October 14-16 and a Turkey Tournament held November 11-13.
2. REC
- a. A single game will be played for recreational teams on all weekends between September 11th and November 6th. These games may be day or night games and may be played on Saturday or Sunday, depending upon field availability.
  - b. Each team is required to provide one (1) new or nearly new ball for each game.
  - c. Umpire fees are to be \$60 per team payable IN CASH at the beginning of the game at the plate meeting
  - d. Drop dead at one (1) hour thirty (30) minutes in 8U through 12U divisions. 6U division games shall be drop dead at one (1) hour.
  - e. There will be a Rec End of the Season tournament to be held on November 4-6.
3. Saturday games may begin at 8:00 am and end no later than 7:00 pm. Sunday games may begin at 9:00 am and end no later than 7:00 pm.

#### **SECTION 4 EQUIPMENT**

1. Balls: Only USA authorized WORTH softballs will be used as follows. Exceptions may be made due to availability.
  - a. 8U 10" Worth RIF 1
  - b. 10U 11" New RIF10
  - c. 12U 12" Worth Dream Seam
  - d. 14U 12" Worth Dream Seam
2. Only USA approved softball equipment such as catcher's gear, bats and helmets may be used.
3. A safety base (double base) must be used at first base. If a field is not equipped with a safety base, the umpire has the option to continue the game utilizing an imaginary safety base and batter runners will be instructed to run through as though a safety base is present.
4. Base and pitching distances should be to USA standards.
  - a. 8U will use 30' pitching distance
  - b. 10U will use 35' pitching distance
  - c. 12U will use 40' pitching distance
  - d. 14U will use 43' pitching distance
5. All levels will use the base distances of 60'.

#### **SECTION 5 UMPIRES, FEES**

1. The host league (league whose fields are being used) will be responsible to provide umpires for games. All umpires must be USA registered and background checked.
2. Tournament umpires should be OC Fall Ball approved and must be USA registered and background checked.

3. Umpire fees shall be \$60.00 per Select game (\$120 for the entire doubleheader) played and \$60 per Rec game played. Please make sure ALL umpires are aware –regardless of location!
4. Each team shall be responsible for payment of half of the Umpire fees IN CASH prior to the start of the games (see Section 3.1(d), 3.2(c))
5. If a game is not canceled with prior notification (See Section 6 Article 1) the team/league at fault will be responsible for paying the umpire(s).
6. OC Fall Ball requires all teams play all scheduled friendly games and both tournaments.
7. Each game shall have one (1) plate umpire. Base umpire is optional and shall be agreed to by both teams prior to game time if those teams want to pay an additional fee for that 2nd umpire. Leagues are not required to pay for 2 umpires.

### **SECTION 6 CANCELED GAMES**

1. Should a team for any reason have to cancel their games on a given weekend, they must notify the opponent no later than 6:00pm on the Thursday prior to the weekend's game.
  - a. If a team fails to show for a game without canceling in accordance with this rule, that team's league is responsible for paying the umpire fee for the game(s) missed.
2. The host team must cancel the umpires at that time.
3. When a game is canceled, both teams must notify their respective league fall ball coordinator who will then notify the OC Fall Ball Commissioner.
4. NO make-up games will be scheduled by OC Fall Ball, however make up games may be scheduled by the coaches on their own.
5. If games are canceled due to fields being **officially** closed by the city or field governing entity for the field to be used (for rain or other unforeseen circumstances) greater than 30 minutes prior to game time, no umpire fees will be due. If fields are closed less than 30 minutes prior to game time, teams must still pay the umpire for the game.

### **SECTION 7 PLAYER AND GAME RULES**

1. Game rules are provided in individual division game rules documents for the respective division and level of play (SELECT or REC).

### **SECTION 8 DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

1. Any team that has an issue or dispute with another team or league shall bring their concern to their league's Board and Fall Ball coordinator. Leagues shall work directly with each other to resolve issues or disputes within OC Fall Ball.
2. If leagues are unable to come to a mutually amicable resolution of a dispute after a good faith effort, they may refer the matter to the OC Fall Ball board.
3. OC Fall Ball Board shall have the right to disqualify a team or a league from continued participation in OC Fall Ball upon agreement by 75% or greater of the participating leagues' OC Fall Ball representatives (one vote per league).