

## **ONSLow COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

### **BY-LAWS GOVERNING YOUTH BASEBALL/SOFTBALL**

#### **ARTICLE I**           NAME AND PURPOSE

- Section 1.1 This organization shall be known as the Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department's Youth Baseball/Softball League. Members of this league shall consist of the following four districts: (1) Dixon, (2) Richlands, (3) Southwest, and (4) White Oak as applicable.
- Section 1.2 The purpose of this organization shall be to provide organized baseball and softball for youth throughout Onslow County. The program shall emphasize participation, sportsmanship, fellowship, and skills development while promoting physical fitness through participation in youth sports.
- Section 1.3. Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department will have full supervisory authority over county-supported programs and reserves the right to take action it feels necessary to ensure quality programs for all participants.

#### **ARTICLE II**           LEAGUE MANAGEMENT AND MEETINGS

- Section 2.1 The governing authority of the Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department's Youth Baseball/Softball league shall be vested in a Board within each district. The Board in each district will consist of Co-Presidents or Co-Vice-Presidents, (If one President then two Vice Presidents and vice versa) Secretary, Treasurer, and a Coach Liaison. The Onslow County Parks and Recreation's Athletic Program Supervisor or an appointed representative shall serve as an official member of the board. All actions of the board are subject to the approval of the Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department. All positions to serve no more than four (4) consecutive years. With elections being held in a staggered format. Board members will be elected President and Secretary, then Vice President and Treasurer. A majority of the members of the board shall constitute a quorum at any meeting and a majority vote shall prevail in all matters.

Election years by position

2023 President and Secretary

2024 Vice President and Treasurer

2025 President and Secretary

2026 Vice President and Treasurer

- Section 2.2 All Leagues must host a parent meeting for all their parents before the first game of the season.
- Section 2.3 All Coaches, including assistant coaches, must attend and pass an approved Onslow County Coaches Class, or an equivalent course offered by one of the four leagues governed by the Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department. All coaches must have passed a background check and be Certified by the Onslow County staff before he or she can be

assigned a team and be cleared to practice. If a coach fails to complete these two requirements, he or she will be suspended for 1 year. In this event, the league president will also be removed from office and replaced by the Vice president for failure to properly vet coaches. Coaches or volunteers are to create an account and then complete a volunteer form and all background forms can be found at <https://onslow.recdesk.com/Community/Home>.

Section 2.4 All districts must conduct an election meeting not later than the last Saturday of regular season games, to elect a new volunteer for the two vacant positions on their board. President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer for the upcoming season. Nominations and voting (must be 18 or over) are open to the general public of the district, and to other parents/guardians whose children are eligible to participate in the district. If running, the nominee will need to submit a bio and picture (2) weeks prior to the election to Onslow County Parks and Recreation via email to the athletic program supervisor. Public notice (Facebook) of the election meeting must be given at least 1 week prior to the meeting. If a district does not hold an election meeting, then the department will schedule a meeting within 30 days of the conclusion of post-season play.

Section 2.5 Each team shall be entitled to one (1) coach as a representative at any league board meeting. The representative will be the Coach Liaison, who is a voting member of the Executive Council. If the Coach Liaison is unable to attend, he or she will designate a representative to attend in their place. The representative will vote in place of the team Coach Liaison. New business is to be presented prior to all meetings so that it may be placed on that meeting's agenda. Failure to comply will result in the request being moved to the following meeting. Every person shall be given five (5) minutes to present and speak to the board.

### **ARTICLE III Board DUTIES**

Section 3.1 The Board Members shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Coach Liaison.

Section 3.2 The President shall:

- (a) Conduct business lawfully, professionally, and in accordance with the subject bylaws of this League.
- (b) See that the League adheres to the rules, regulations, and policies as set forth in the Leagues bylaws and in other referenced documents as County and Park rules.
- (c) Preside at all meetings.
- (d) Bring any decision regarding league structure or league issues to the Board for consideration/vote.
- (e) Cannot be a Community Representative.

Section 3.3 The Vice President shall:

- (a) Assist the President in all duties described above.

- (b) Act as President in the absence of the President.
- (c) Assume the role of President if the President is no longer able to perform his or her duties.

Section 3.4 The Secretary shall:

- (a) Contact all Board of Directors and notify them of meetings.
- (b) Record, maintain and publish the minutes of all meetings.
- (c) Maintain an active list of Board of Directors and committee directors' contact information.
- (d) Assist with filings to league national affiliation.
- (e) Maintain active rosters, birth certificates, and legacy players.

Section 3.5 -The district treasurer should submit monthly bank statements to OCPD.

Section 3.6 District President and Treasurer may not serve as a coach, scorekeeper, or official. In case of emergency, President and/or Treasurer may serve as a coach, scorekeeper, or official. League Vice President and Secretary may serve as an official in case of emergency. If these duties don't conflict with the duties of the office, they hold. In the case where the President is out of town or not available due to illness, the Vice President and the Secretary may act as President. If approved by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Section 3.7 - Failure to carry out any of the assigned tasks charged to the position you are elected to, will result in immediate removal from the league board. Removed board members will be banned from running for any positions for no less than 3 years.

#### **ARTICLE IV TEAM SPONSORS**

Section 4.1 Team sponsors may be secured by the district president with technical assistance from Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department when possible. The sponsor shall have no voice in the operation of the district. Each district must submit a list of all sponsors with the amount given and their contact information to OCPD. This must be submitted two weeks before the first game. All sponsors must follow the Onslow County sponsor guidelines.

Section 4.2 The Youth League can offset its terrific financial burden of furnishing uniforms, practice balls, and other necessary equipment for teams to play by operating concessions or soliciting outside groups and businesses to sponsor teams. Outside sponsorship is a tremendous avenue for meeting the financial burdens with mutual benefits involved, but outside sponsors are limited to supplying the physical needs of a team only.

#### **ARTICLE V FINANCES**

Section 5.1 The finances of the district shall be directed in a way that will not give any one team an advantage over another team or teams.

Section 5.2 District entry fees shall cover the cost of officials, scorekeepers, necessary equipment and supplies, awards, Dixie insurance, and all-star jersey for all youth all-star teams. Up the

## **ARTICLE VI REGISTRATION AND PARTICIPATION**

Section 6.1 Participants may ONLY register and pay online at Onslow.recdesk.com.

6.1a A player may play up 1 year into the next age group with a letter of request from the parent and the approval of the district board, OCPR staff, and/or the advisory committee. A skills assessment must be held to determine the player's ability. This rule is for the exceptional player and is not intended as a rule of convenience. A request to play up because the child has an older sibling playing will be denied. Once a player is approved to play up, he/she will not be allowed to move back down.

6.1b T-Ball Division. This is a mixed division where girls and boys play on the same team.

6.1c All other age divisions are not considered mixed. However, girls may register to play on boys' teams.

6.1d NOTE: If there are not enough participants in a particular age division, The Participants will be refunded.

Section 6.2 Players and coaches should be residents of Onslow County. Residents are defined as those people who physically reside or attend school in Onslow County. A player must live in or attend school within the district boundary.

Section 6.3 Non-residents may register, but only in a district, that is adjacent to their county of residence. If there is a Dixie-sanctioned organization in the county where they live, then they are not eligible to register in the Onslow County program.

Section 6.4 A player may play in only one Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department League sport during simultaneous seasons (i.e., the person cannot participate in Girls' fast-pitch and baseball programs.)

Section 6.5 If a player quits a team for any reason, they will not be permitted to play on another team during that season. If they wish to play the following season, they must participate in the draft.

Section 6.6 A coach may not cut players from his team.

6.6a If a youth's actions or attitude become detrimental to the team and program, the situation should be brought to the attention of the Athletic Coordinator and District Officers through written documentation.

6.6b The Athletic Coordinator will determine the disciplinary action. Any action taken must be submitted to the Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department.

6.6c In severe cases, the recommendation may include a player's suspension or expulsion.

## **ARTICLE VII DRAFT PROCEDURE**

### Section 7.0 DRAFT RULES

- 1) The drafting of players on a team will be done by the district board members and coaches with a O CPR employee being preset.
- 2) Teams will be totally re-drafted every year.
- 3) Only the head coach's child will be locked in. (No assistant coaches will have lock-ins, this will be strictly enforced. No assistant coaches will be picked until after the drafts are done. If brought to the attention of the O CPR Department that the assistant coach's child was locked in, the O CPR Department can order a re-draft of all teams within the age group.)
- 4) Coaches must draw to establish the drafting order. In the first round, coaches will draft according to the order drawn. Then in the second round, the order will be reversed with the last coach drafting first. This procedure will be used until all players are drafted.
- 5) Brothers/sisters should play on the same team. If a brother/sister is picked in the draft, the second brother/sister must be picked in the next round of drafting. Brothers/sisters may play for different teams with the approval of the family and District Board.
- 6) The District Board can call for a re-draft of its teams if they feel the situation warrants a redraft.
- 7) The District Board must turn in their drafting order sheets with their rosters. The drafting order sheets will be used to place additional players on teams and used to check to make sure the proper drafting procedures were followed
- 8) If the O CPR Department feels that the draft did not follow the drafting rules, it will order a re-draft.

Section 7.1 The people responsible for overseeing the draft will consist of the following: District Board President/Officer, one (1) District Board Member, 3 at large representatives of which one (1) must be female, and by all the opposing coaches of teams being drafted in that particular age group. After the teams are drafted the people overseeing the draft must sign the roster and by doing so will approve the roster and draft for the O CPR Department. If the O CPR Department feels that the draft did not equally distribute the talent, then it may order a re-draft to accomplish this goal.

Section 7.2 The draft will be overseen, and rules enforced by each district board.

Section 7.3 All player vacancies will be filled by the draft which will be under the direction of the district board members. The draft will continue until there are no players remaining in the draft pool.

Section 7.4 The draft order shall be determined randomly by coin flip if there are only 2 coaches, or by a blind draw of numbers if there are 3 or more coaches. A blind draw shall consist of the numbers 1 through 10 written on small pieces of paper, folded so the number is not visible, and placed in a hat. Each head coach will then blindly obtain an unknown number from the hat. The order of the draft will start with the head coach with the lowest number and will end with the head coach that drew the highest number.

Section 7.5 Pre-draft Options: The following options, if selected, must be presented and made known to all head coaches prior to the start of the draft. The players selected as Options will be placed on the appropriate team and will be removed from the draft selection process.

7.5a Head Coach Option – selection of a player that is the head coach’s child/grandchild or the head coach must be the player’s legal guardian. This option will be used for the 1st round of the draft only. If the head coach has 2 children playing, the 2nd child will automatically be added to the roster

7.5b Assistant Coach Option – selection of a player whose parent or legal guardian will be an official rostered assistant coach on a specific head coach’s team. A head coach may elect to use one assistant coach option and shall be used for the 2nd round only. This head coach shall communicate with the other coaches and community Baseball Rep prior to the player draft and let his/her intentions of who is being used as an assistant coach option. The purpose of this Option is to allow Head Coach/Assistant Coach partnerships and is not intended – nor shall it be used – to “stack” a team and upset the distribution of talent.

7.5c Return Player Option – selection of a player who was rostered on that Head Coach’s team during the previous season. This option is available only to Head Coaches who managed a team during the previous season. A head coach may elect to use up to three return player options and shall be used in the 2nd and 3rd rounds only. At the end of the return player option, the head coach can have no more than 3 players on his/her roster. This includes all the head coaches’ children/ grandchildren\* and assistant coaches’ children/ grandchildren\*. (\*could be any kin)

7.5d Sibling Policy - Once a player with a sibling is drafted, the undrafted sibling will be immediately placed on that same team, if they desire to play together. If they do not prefer playing on the same team, siblings will be selected as though they were unrelated players. Siblings of players must be announced prior to the draft and a mutual determination made by the head coaches present as to the equitable round for the selection of the second son. Siblings will require forfeiture of a later round selection. For example, the first sibling is chosen in round 2, the head coach will be required to select the second sibling in round 8, should it be determined that the second sibling is of talent equal to players in the 8th round. If a player with a sibling is selected as a return player option, a head coach will be limited to the use of return player options in the 2nd round only – the ability to use a return player option in the 3rd round will be forfeited with the pick of the first sibling.

7.5e Any coach who is new and did not have a team the previous year will be able to have the first choice of eligible players until all coaches have an equal number of players before going to Round

4. If there is more than 1 coach who is new. A draft order based on the guidelines stated in Section 2 until all coaches have equal players before going to Round 4

#### **ARTICLE VIII REGULAR SEASON GAMES**

Section 8.1 The Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department will schedule all games for the Districts (traveling and non-traveling). All games scheduled by the Department practice or regular will be played. A two-game suspension of the Head Coach will be enforced for refusal to play any game on his or her schedule. This coach will not be allowed to coach any all-star team that season.

Section 8.2 A district must have 5 or more teams in an age group to play all their divisional games at their home field. If a league does not meet the minimum number of teams to play in house, they will be combined with the other same age groups from the other districts. All teams in that age group will have to travel to different districts during the season.

Section 8.3 The number of regular season games per team can be NO MORE than 16 games, unless written approval is given by the Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department.

Section 8.4 Scheduling conflicts (legitimate school functions) must be submitted prior to scheduling deadline date as determined by the Department. Requests must be submitted through the District President.

Section 8.5 Requests for rescheduling of regular season games for reasons other than inclement weather must be submitted in writing and received by the Department. Requests must be submitted through the District President.

Section 8.6 Practice Schedules & Practices.

8.6a Pre-Season: No more than 3 days per week. NO practices will be scheduled on Sundays.

8.6b During Season: No more than 2 days per week. NO practices will be scheduled on Sundays.

8.6c NO practices or games will last longer than 90 minutes.

8.6d NO practices or Games can be held unless an OCPR(Onslow County Approved coach is present ) .

8.6e At least (1) adult 18 years of age or over (preferably a parent) must be present for practices to be held. All coaches must wear badges

Section 8.7 Starting Times for Regular Season Games

8.7a From Monday-Friday, no game may begin before 6:00 PM or after 9:00 pm.

8.7b On Saturdays, no game may begin before 8:00 AM or after 9:00:00 PM.

8.7c On Sundays, no game may begin before 10:00 AM or after 9:00 PM.

8.7d Where games are scheduled, and a high heat index advisory is in effect, please take special precautions. Steps should include, encouraging frequent breaks with plenty of fluids on hand, having ice and cold towels available, and constant close monitoring of the participants.

**ARTICLE IX TOURNAMENTS**

Section 9.1 There will be a countywide tournament at the end of regular season play. One All-Star team in each division, except T-Ball, from each district, will be eligible to participate. Each team will consist of 13 players.

Section 9.2 Tournament hosting responsibilities will rotate annually:

2023	Dixon	Richlands
2024	Southwest	White Oak
2025	Richlands	Dixon
2026	White Oak	Southwest

9.2a The host district(s) may charge a \$45.00 per team fee to the other districts. This fee should be submitted to the host district(s) at the annual pre-tournament meeting.

Section 9.3 The playing sites used during the tournament will be determined by the Onslow County Parks and Recreation Department.

Section 9.4 We follow all modified regular season rules during regular season play and county tournaments, including the participation rule and time limit, with the following exceptions:

9.4a EXCEPTION: No time limit in Championship game(s).

9.4b EXCEPTION: Suspended games will be resumed at the point of interruption. All games must be completed unless the 10-run rule or time limit is in effect.

9.4c EXCEPTION: Protests will be handled at the playing site. Games will resume once a decision is reached by the district president, vice president, and athletic coordinator.

9.4d EXCEPTION: Mandatory playing rules for the county all-star tournament is in effect and the coach has the right to substitute as he or she deems necessary for all age divisions except 8U baseball and softball.

**ARTICLE X SELECTIONS OF ALLSTARS**

Section 10. All-Star Selections

Section 10.01 The all-star divisions will be as follows:

8u, 10u, 12u, 14u, 16u, and 18u

Section 10.02 One month, before the season end, voting for all-star head coaches will take place. All head coaches will be given a full point vote, all assistant coaches will be given a ½ point vote.



Only 3 voters total per team (includes head coach and 2 assistants) are allowed except for 8u teams in which there are 4 voters allowed (to include 1 head coach and 3 assistant coaches). This voting is to be proctored by the board and witnessed by the OCPR athletic coordinator.

Section 10.03 Twelve (12) players shall be chosen for each All-Star team.

Section 10.04 The head coach will select through try-outs and season stats with the help of the board.

**Article 11. Miscellaneous**

Section 11.01 A team must have less than 11 players before submitting a request for an additional player. A team may add up to 11 players with permission from the league officers.

Section 11.02 Any players added after June 1st are not eligible to be pitchers or catchers during the county tournament.

Section 11. A team may not add an additional player to the roster if the Onslow County Tournaments have started, unless the team is in a situation where it will have to forfeit.

Section 11.04 Registration form and birth certificate must be turned in to the board member prior to taking the field. If the registration form/and or birth certificate is not in possession of a board member before the start of the game, the player will be considered ineligible. If the head coach plays a player that is ineligible, disciplinary action could result based on the rules governing playing illegal players.

Section 11.05 If a player moves into the community, then he may be added to the roster after the deadline

Section 11.06 Protests will be settled by the district board. Protest will follow 9.4c above.

Section 11.07 No bat person is allowed other than a team member.

Section 11.08 Each player must play 3 consecutive outs and 1 bat. Penalty for violations will result in forfeit. Protest of violation must be made before the end of the game.

Section 11.09 The minimum number of players required to start each game shall be 8 for all age groups. If the minimum number of players are not present by the expiration of the grace period, that team will forfeit.

Section 11.10 If a child is injured and blood is showing on the child or his clothing, the clothes must be changed, and all blood removed from the child before he can return to the game. 5 minutes is allowed for this.

Section 11.11 The child can play the remainder of the game in street clothes (T-shirt, jeans, sweatpants) if a uniform is not available.

Section 11.12 No noise makers of any kind will be allowed at the games.

Section 11.13 Each team is responsible for cleaning out their dugout after each game.

Section 11.14 Anything that is not covered must go before the League Board of Directors.

Section 11.15 8u division may earn a maximum of 7 runs per team per inning unless extra runs are a result of an over the fence home run.

Section 11.16 If a coach, or player is ejected from a game, they are automatically suspended for the next game (they are not allowed to attend as a spectator.). If a coach, or player is ejected for the second time in a season, they are suspended for the remainder of the season.

Section 11.17 EXCEPTION: All-Stars will not be selected in the T-Ball Division. T-Ball will conclude with the completion of regular season.

## **ARTICLE XII AWARDS**

Section 12.1 Regular season awards, other than the personalized certificates, shall be determined and financed by the district.

Section 12.2 County Tournament Champions will receive trophies that will be furnished by the Onslow County Parks & Recreation Department. Any district hosted tournaments without the county as a co-host will be responsible for their own trophies. The winners and the runners-up are to receive one team trophy each and an individual trophy for each player on the roster of that team.

## **ARTICLE XIII PROTESTS**

Section 13.1 Athletic Appeal Process:

13.1a Must be made in writing to County Athletic Coordinator within three days of assignment of consequence.

13.1b Parents/guardians, and affected district board members or coaches have the right to be present at appeal.

13.1c Based on review of the appeal, the Athletic Coordinator will adjust, revoke, or sustain the action.

13.1d The athlete is not eligible to participate in competition or activity during the appeal process.

13.1e In cases where the action was taken directly by the Athletic Program Supervisor and where dissatisfaction exists with the results of the appeal hearing, an appeal may be made, within three (3) days in writing to the Parks and Recreation Director. This is the final level of appeals.

13.1f the athlete and/or parent/guardian will be notified of the results of the appeal within 24 hours. This decision is final.