



NORTH OLMSTED HOT STOVE LEAGUE

MAIL TO ADDRESS:

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North Olmsted Hot Stove Baseball Organization **2009 Local Rules for H, G, and F Leagues**

The North Olmsted Hot Stove Baseball Organization has a set of established playing rules and is governed by the Ohio Hot Stove Baseball League Inc. An official copy of the 2008 handbook will be available and distributed to the managers once they are distributed from the home office. A second source for our rules, The Official Baseball League Playing Rules handbook shall govern any situation not covered under the Ohio Hot Stove Baseball rules. This is the American League Rules distributed by Major League Baseball. Besides these two published rule books, there are some local and very special circumstances that fall outside these two publications and for that reason, we have outlined in a separate document broken down by each league, a set of rules that are to be enforced as well. These individual league specific rule sheets along with a copy of these general rules can be found on our web site www.nohsl.com.

It is the responsibility of the Managers, Assistant Managers, and Coaches to familiarize themselves with all the playing rules and abide by them throughout the entire season and post season. By making these local rules available, NOHSL is attempting to communicate a detail summary to make involvement of the Managers, Assistant Managers, Coaches, Players, and Parents a fun and rewarding experience. Please read all of the rulebooks, league specific rules, and these following general rules carefully, before starting the season or practicing. At any time, feel free to contact a board member for any additional clarification or interpretation that might be required. Any suggestion to amend or add to these rules will be considered only if put in writing, signed by the individual submitting them, and mailed to our current address. You may use the P.O. Box and address these concerns or requests to the League Commissioner.

Pre-Game Warm Ups:

The home team is located on the 1st base side of the field. The visiting team is located on the 3rd base side of the field. The visiting team is allowed 15 minutes of warm ups/infield practice on the game field starting ½ hour prior to the start of the official game time. The home team is allowed 15 minutes of warm ups/infield practice on the game field starting ¼ hour prior to the start of the official game time. Should a team show up prior to 30 minutes before the official game time, they are permitted to use the outfield and infield areas as long as they stay off the baselines and out of the batters boxes. (Weather permitting). Any team that violates these conditions will be asked to leave the field and forfeit their scheduled warm up time. **Absolutely no batting practice is allowed to be taking place in the infield within ½ hour of the official game time.**

Base Installation:

It is the home team's responsibility to ensure that the equipment bin is opened up and that the bases are properly installed in the correct distances no later than 30 minutes prior to game time. No coach should be interfering with infield practice trying to put down the bases or a temporary pitching rubber while infield practice is going on. For most of the diamonds, NOHSL has provided Hollywood style bases, which are located in the equipment bin at each field. Each manager is given a key to the equipment bin at the beginning of the season and that key will allow you to access the bases, a rake, shovel, broom and the umpire's equipment. In the event that a Hollywood base is not available, it is the responsibility of the home team manager to pound the stake into the ground and affix the padded base in the proper position and distance.

Baseballs:

All baseballs for games and practices are to be approved by the league prior to the season. NOHSL will supply (1) dozen new baseballs to each team at the beginning of the season to be used for practice. NOHSL will also supply (18) game balls that will be required at the start of every game. **Baseballs for our State tournament and In-House tournament will be provided to you in addition to the (18) game balls.** The official baseball shall not weight less than 5 or more than 5 ¼ ounces, and measure not less than 9 or more than 9 ¼ inches in circumference. Even if someone donates baseballs to you, the manager must always have them approved prior to usage.

Player Participation Requirements:

All players in H, G, and F leagues are required to play a minimum of two innings per game as described by the Ohio Hot Stove Baseball League rule book. As noted earlier, there are local rules for Rookie, Farm, H1, H2, G, and F leagues that supersede this rule and require all participants in the in-house program to play (3) innings. This rule is non-negotiable and applies to all teams. The participation rule of the Ohio Hot Stove Baseball

League Rule book, guaranteeing (2) innings played applies to the North Olmsted Travel Team as well as the in-house program. If a team wins by the (10) run rule, the players that have been put in the game during the top of the third inning should start the next game to guarantee that this rule is being adhered to.

Divisional Playoffs:

At the end of the regular season, any teams that are in a tie for first place, second place, third place or fourth place will have a single game playoff (s) for the first (4) place distinctions. The first place team will be the number 1 seed and will play the 4th place team; the second place team will then play the 3rd place team. All other positions after 4th place will be determined with a coin flip should there be a tie. The teams are then seeded and the single elimination tournament begins. The winners of the post-season tournament will receive a player trophy that indicates tournament champions. The runner up will also receive a smaller trophy that says tournament runner up.

For the Rookie and Farm league, we will have each team play a single game at which time we will call up each player to pitchers mound and award them a participation medallion. Photographs and videos can be taken at that time. This game is usually played on the first Saturday after the Regular Season is over.

Umpires:

NOHSL employs umpires that are 14 years of age up to an Adult aged umpire. The type of umpire that each division is provided depends on experience, accreditation, and age. Our umpire registration form is located on the web site at www.nohsl.com.

Only a manager shall approach an umpire to question a call or ask for an interpretation of a call. Assistant Managers, Coaches, Scorekeepers, Parents and above all, players shall not be permitted to speak to an umpire before, during, and after a game. Umpires may give (1) warning to anyone not following this procedure. A second infraction of this policy will result in the expulsion of the Assistant Manager, Coach, Scorekeeper, Parent and player from the playing field. Any Assistant Manager, Coach, Scorekeeper, Parent or Player that has been expelled, must leave the playing field and the area around the ball diamond that is within 50' of the fencing and bench areas. This includes all the usual and customary viewing distances of that game and field. Failure to remove you from that area will result in the immediate termination of that game and result in that team forfeiting the game. It is assumed that the manager will be held responsible for all the Assistant Managers, Coaches, Scorekeepers, Parents, Players, and Spectators of their team.

In the event of an incident, the affected umpire will provide a complaint form to the Chief Umpire who in turn will contact the Board Members that will comprise of the Disciplinary Committee. Our disciplinary committee consists of the President, Vice President, Chief Umpire, and League Chairman. Upon the recommendation of the

Disciplinary Committee, the League Chairman will be notified and the person or persons involved will be contacted via phone and informed directly that they are suspended for the next scheduled game or games depending on the severity of the offense. Should there be a second offense in the same season or post season, the Disciplinary Board will inform the League Chairman to remove the Manager, Assistant Manager, Coach, Scorekeeper, Parent of Player that is involved for the remainder of the season and post season, forfeiting all the fees and payments, and having that individual(s) to appear before the Disciplinary Board or entire body of the Board of Directors prior to the next season and state their case for reinstatement.

Managers:

NOHSL has an open registration every year for a team manager. The manager registration packet is located on our web site at www.nohsl.com. The manager registration packet will be mandatory for all Levels of Hot Stove Baseball including the North Olmsted Travel teams.

House bill 350, the Tort Reform Bill that became law in 1997, state that coaches will become immune from a lawsuit provided they successfully complete training courses that are approved by the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association. NOHSL does offer classes and certifications for all managers throughout the year.

All managers are required, as part of their signed contract, to attend all meetings, instructional training, and informational exchanges that are set up by the board of directors. If a manager is not available, they must assign an Assistant Manager, Coach, or Parent to attend the meeting and report back. Failure to have anyone present from your team will result in forfeit of (3) games by your team once the season has started.

Sportsmanship:

It is the responsibility of all Managers, Assistant Managers, Coaches, Scorekeepers, Parents and Players to demonstrate good sportsmanship prior to, during, and after every NOHSL sponsored event. We have provided a single Code of Conduct sheet that is taken directly from the Ohio Hot Stove Baseball League handbook as well as our local representation to help enforce this policy. We have strongly encouraged over the years to follow the traditional shaking of hands after a ball game has been completed. Each team will line up on the appropriate base line and will meet at home plate to shake hands. It has also been a long practice for each Manager, Assistant Manager and Coach to thank the umpires that worked your game. No parents, spectators, or siblings are allowed on the field until after both teams have cleared home plate.

Absolutely no use of foul language, smoking, or drinking will be tolerated within the confines of the ball diamond.

Forfeit:

Both local rules and Ohio Hot Stove Baseball League rules require (9) players to commence a game. In the event a team fails to have (9) players ready to begin the game at the scheduled starting time, a grace period of **(15)** minutes will be allowed. At the end of the (15) minutes, the umpire will call the game a forfeit. All forfeit decisions are final and irreversible regardless of whether a player shows up seconds after the allotted time. The umpires' watch is the final say on the (15) minute time frame. If a forfeit is ruled, both teams can agree to scrimmage for (5) innings and the umpires must remain at the field should both teams agree.

Complaint Procedure:

Any incident or complaint reporting is to be done using the NOHSL form 97-1 which can be found on the web site at www.nohsl.com. Umpires need to complete this form should an incident occur before, during or after a NOHSL scheduled event. Any parent, spectator, Manager, Assistant Manager, Coach or Scorekeeper can also fill out a form and lodge a complaint against another individual as long as it pertains to the game or event. This form should be filled out, a copy should be made for you prior to mailing, and then the form should be signed and mailed to our P.O. Box. **(for this form no e-mails will be accepted)** the board of directors will be informed and will meet to discuss the proper course of action.

Appeals:

Any play that is appealed to the umpire requires the pitcher to commence the appeal with the ball at the mound. The pitcher is required to step off the mound, announce to the home plate umpire that the previous play is being appealed. The ball is to be thrown to the player covering the affected base and the pitcher is to announce the reason for the appeal. During the appeal process, the ball is considered live and runners may advance at their own risk. Should such an appeal occur at second base and a base runner on third base decides to attempt to score, a play will need to be made at home plate otherwise; the runner may safely score during the appeal process.

Protesting:

Protests that relate to the OHSBL rules and regulations or the Official Baseball Playing rules and regulations must be made to the Home Plate umpire at the time of the incident. A protest will be denied if they are made after the next pitch is thrown. Once a play has been protested, both managers will be told that the game will resume in its entirety under protest. Within (2) hours of the protested game completing, (time will be recorded by the home plate umpire and his watch is the final word on the time.) the manager that is protesting must present the protest in writing along with a \$55.00 protest fee to the Chief Umpire. All protests are to be in writing, the umpire or chief umpire will hear no verbal

account during this process. The protest should be specific and only relate to a rule violation. Judgment calls will not be heard for any reason. The protest should consist of 2 or 3 paragraphs at most, being very specific and to the point. The detailed account needs to include the incident, the citation of the rule as it applies to the incident, and the page number and section that the rules exists in either of the two handbooks or local rule sheets. If the protest is deemed valid and the call is overturned, the protest fee will be returned in full. In addition, the game will continue from the point of the infraction with the correct call being set forth unless otherwise noted from the Chief Umpire. Should there be multiple protests, each protest needs to be separate and in writing along with a separate check written for each infraction. Should the protest be lost, all fees are forfeited immediately. The check should be written out to North Olmsted Hot Stove Baseball Organization.