

Lawton Youth Baseball League



The Lawton Youth Baseball League is a USSSA sanctioned league. Playing rules can be found in the Official USSSA 2021 Baseball Bylaws and Rules. Visit www.teamsideline.com/lawton and click download for more information





TO OUR COACHES

We want to take the opportunity to thank all of you fine coaches for the many hours you work with our youth. Without the time and energy you spend, the City's Sports programs could not possibly function so successfully.

We value the fact that you are helping to build good character traits in the children you coach. Thank you for being patient and considerate with the players, while at the same time maintaining control of your team.

The mark of a successful season is not the league records or trophies, but the lasting monument of good character traits instilled in the hearts and minds of the youth on your team.

This manual should be a tool to help you in the quest to build good character. We hope you will find the information helpful.

Thank you,
Parks and Recreation Administration

PURPOSE

This program is designed to give boys and girls in Lawton an opportunity to play ball under good adult supervision. The primary goal of this program is to build the foundation of good character in the players. The attainment of exceptional athletic skill and the winning of games are secondary.

Everyone accepting responsibility in this program must see that the rules and regulations are carried out. They must strive to teach good sportsmanship, good health habits, good citizenship and good exercise habits. They must practice the type of behavior that sets a good example for players. Abuse or embarrassment of any player or team is not tolerated. All coaches should strive to practice and play all players on their team.

DIVISIONS

Independent League (10U, 12U & 14U) - Teams will be formed of any player who meets the age eligibility requirement for the league they are playing in. Team standing will be posted online; teams will be seeded into a post season championship tournament based on their regular season record. Middle school players may play for any team in the independent league upon meeting age eligibility.

School League (10U) - Teams will be formed of players attending the same school. Any player wishing to play for a school he/she does not attend must submit a hardship placement request. Team standing will be posted online; teams will be seeded into a post season championship tournament based on their regular season record.



AGE DIVISIONS

3.1 Player Age Eligibility –

3.1.A Chart 3.01.A-1) For age divisions 4U – 14U, any player who before **May 1st** of the current season reaches the listed age restriction in the **BIRTHDAY RESTRICTION** column shall not eligible to participate at the listed age in the **AGE DIVISION** column and shall be required to play in the next older division.

3.1.B Chart 3.01.B-1) For scholastic divisions 15U – 18U participation is based on age and scholastic grade. Any player that does not meet the listed age restriction in the **BIRTHDAY RESTRICTION** column, must meet the listed grade restriction in the **SCHOLASTIC GRADE** column **AND** the listed age restriction in **MEETS GRADE NOT BIRTHDAY** column. Any player that does not meet **BOTH**, shall be required to play in the next older division.

3.2 A player that is found to be illegal due to an age violation during or after a league or tournament game, shall result in the offending team losing the game(s) (if applicable), team and player being ejected from the tournament (if applicable), team being placed last in the standings and forfeiting all awards, points, sponsors travel money, and berths that would have been or have been awarded. The illegal player shall be removed from the offending team’s Official Online Roster and additional penalties to player and others may be applied pursuant to USSSA Rule 13.00.

AGE DIVISION	BIRTHDAY RESTRICTION	AGE DIVISION	BIRTHDAY RESTRICTION
4U	Fifth	10U	Eleventh
5U	Sixth	11U	Twelfth
6U	Seventh	12U	Thirteenth
7U	Eighth	13U	Fourteenth
8U	Ninth	14U	Fifteenth
9U	Tenth		

Chart 3.01.A-1

SCHOLASTIC GRADE	BIRTHDAY RESTRICTION	MEETS GRADE NOT BIRTHDAY
15U – Freshman	Sixteenth	Seventeenth
16U – Sophomore	Seventeenth	Eighteenth
17U – Junior	Eighteenth	Nineteenth
18U – Senior	Nineteenth	Twentieth

Chart 3.01.B-1

COMBINATION OF SCHOOLS

SCHOOL DIVISION: On their own school teams will not be allowed to combine. The Recreation Services Administrator must first approve any combination of teams/schools. A letter, signed by representatives of both schools, detailing why combination is desirable should be submitted to the Recreation Services Administrator. When two schools combine, the team resulting will consist of players from the combined schools. [Note: No more than two teams may combine]. (No releases allowed.) Requests must be submitted by March 30, 2022.



GAME TIME AND TIME LIMIT NO INNING WILL START AFTER TIME LIMIT EXPIRES

SCHOOL LEAGUE

Regulation game shall be six (6) innings or 1 ½ hour time limit

1. **No Third Strike Rule: 10U School League only** –If batter swings at third strike or a called third strike the batter is call out. It does not matter if the catcher catches the ball or not. Batter/Runner may not advance.
2. **10U School League:** - Innings will be five (5) run limit or three outs. No team shall score more than five runs in one inning. If there are less than three outs when five runs are scored, the teams will change sides. The five (5) run limit does not apply in the 6th inning.
3. Stealing 10U School league: **Players may not lead-off, but are allowed to steal once the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.**

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE

Regulation game shall be six (6) innings or 1 ½ hour time limit.

1. **12U Third Strike Drop Rule:** If the batter swings on a third strike or a called third strike the batter may advance if the catcher does not catch the ball; the catcher must tag or throw the runner out.
2. **10U & 12U Independent League:** - Innings will be five (5) run limit or three outs. No team shall score more than five runs in one inning. If there are less than three outs when five runs are scored, the teams will change sides. The five (5) run limit does not apply in the 6th inning.
3. **Stealing 10U/12U/14U Independent League:** Players may lead-off and may attempt to steal.

ASSALUT ON AN OFFICIAL

Oklahoma Statutes

Title 21. Crimes and Punishments

§21-650.1. Athletic contests - Assault and battery upon referee, umpire, etc.

Universal Citation: 21 OK Stat § 21-650.1 (2016)

Every person who, without justifiable or excusable cause and with intent to do bodily harm, commits any assault, battery, assault and battery upon the person of a referee, umpire, timekeeper, coach, official, or any person having authority in connection with any amateur or professional athletic contest is guilty of a misdemeanor and is punishable by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding one (1) year or by a fine not exceeding One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), or by both such fine and imprisonment.

FIRST GAME OF NIGHT (DAY): Teams must be ready to play at scheduled game time early arrival is recommended.

Second game of night (day): Games will start immediately after first game. Teams should arrive 30 minutes before scheduled time.

UNNECESSARY CONTACT AND UNSPORTSMANLIKE BEHAVIOR:

- Maliciously or deliberately run into a fielder who has the ball.
- Use unnecessary roughness that might inflict injury to any player.
- As a fielder, fake a tag without the ball.
- Fail to slide or attempt to get around a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make the tag.
- Call "time", use any command or commit any act trying to cause the opposing pitcher to balk.
- Use profanity.
- Make remarks that belittle opposing players, umpire or spectators.

The intent of the first four rules is to eliminate "deliberate contact." Umpires will advise managers that any intentional contact will be considered a violation of these rules. Violation of any of these rules may result in the offender being ejected from the game; if the offender was a base runner or batter, ejection constitutes an out. Failure to comply will result in the game being forfeited by the offending team. However, if the offense is judged minor in nature, the umpire may warn the offender and disqualify him if he repeats the offense.

FENCE CLIMBING RULE: If a player uses the fence to gain advantage to catch a ball, the player will be ejected from the game, and a home run or foul ball will be declared depending on the fly ball situation. This rule prevents injury to players and damage to City property.

No players, coaches or fans shall climb fences or backstops, hit balls repeatedly into the fences or backstops (pepper), or do anything that could damage ball field property. These offences will result in

PETS, TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL: No dogs or pets allowed in any City Ball Field Complex. No form of tobacco use is permitted on City Ball fields while coaching a youth team. Absolutely no kind of alcoholic beverage (including beer) is allowed at any youth sporting event or practice.

TIE GAMES: If game is tied at the end of regular play, then one additional inning will be played. If the game is still tied, the game will be recorded as a tie game. NOTE: Additional innings WILL NOT be played if the time limit has expired. Game will be recorded as a tie game.

LEAGUE PLAY-OFFS: Teams will be seeded in the championship tournament bracket based on league record.

CITY CHAMPIONSHIP: The following procedures will be followed at the conclusion of the Youth Baseball Season. **Playoff games and championship games will be 1 ½ hour time limit.**

CITY CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

1. All teams will advance to the playoffs at the end of regular season play.
2. Teams will be seeded into a post tournament bracket based on their regular season record.
3. **TIE BREAKER ANALYSIS** If there is a tie at the end of regular season play, the following tie breaker configurations will be used to break the tie or ties.

- a. Winning Percentage
- b. Head-To-Head
- c. Head-To-Head Differential
- d. Total Points For
- e. Total Points Against
- f. Total Points Differential
- g. Lowest Number of Forfeits
- h. Coin Toss

COORDINATOR

Every team in the program should designate a volunteer coordinator who serves as organizer and contact person for that school. Their responsibility is to obtain competent coaches. The athletic coordinator's name will be given to the Sports Office at the beginning of the school year.

LEAGUESCHEDULES

Schedules will be made out by the Parks & Recreation Sports and Aquatics Office.

Game Reschedule Request: Games may be rescheduled because of school functions. A Game Reschedule Request Form, a letter of request signed by the principal or the Booster Club chairperson along with the \$50 reschedule fee must be submitted to the Recreation Services Administrator and approved two weeks in advance of the scheduled game. Final decisions regarding approval, game time, game date, and game location will be made by the Parks & Recreation Department.

RAINOUTS

Visit www.teamsideline.com/lawton to get information on rainouts. Information on rainouts will be posted by 3:00 p.m. if Parks & Recreation staff has determined that games should be cancelled. The Recreation Administrator, Facility Supervisor or game officials may terminate any game due to inclement weather. **RAIN OUT GAMES WILL NOT BE RESCHEDULED.**

GAME SITUATION PROTEST PROCEDURE

A Game situation protest can only be heard during the game in reference to playing rules. **Judgment calls cannot be protested.** In order to protest a game rule interpretation, the coach must first call time out and ask for a coach/officials conference. At this time, the coach may *respectfully* ask the official for clarification on a rule interpretation. The officials shall confer with each other. If the protest is upheld, the game will be replayed from that point. Make a note of the score and time left to play at the time of protest, and then resume play. The decision made by the officials is final and not open for appeal.

PLAYER REGISTRATION

All players **must** be registered on their team's roster and have a player card on file. Any player participating without a player's card is an ILLEGAL PLAYER. All games in which an illegal player participates will be forfeit! Player registration must be completed before the first league game. NEW PLAYERS may be added to the roster by **May 27th**. **After May 27th** no player maybe add to the roster, BUT must be registered online before the player participates in any scheduled activity.

It is the booster club, team organizer and/or **coach's** responsibility to check birth dates of players and ensure players are registered (meaning on team roster online, player card on file, not playing on another team and payment to Parks & Recreation has been made.)

PROTESTING AN ILLEGAL PLAYER

The **head coach** of a team may protest the eligibility of any player on an opposing team anytime during the season. A completed protest form along with a \$50 protest fee must be filed with the Sports Office. If the protest is deemed valid, the protest fee will be returned. All games in which an illegal player participated will be counted as forfeit by loss to the offending team. The Sports Recreation Staff may protest any player's eligibility at any time during the season.

Birth certificates may be required for players who are larger on have exceptionally abilities. If a player's eligibility is under protest, a valid birth certificate is required. Birth certificates made from affidavits are not acceptable unless approved by the Recreation Commission.

After a protest has been filed with the Sports Office, the Recreation Services Administrator will review the case, interview anyone necessary and make a decision. All parties involved will be notified of the decision in writing. If either team is not satisfied with the decision of the Parks & Recreation Administration Staff ruling, either team may file a request for protest review by the Commission Rules Committee.

ILLEGAL PLAYER PENALTY

Any team found using an illegal player forfeits all games in which the illegal player participated. The coach of the time with the illegal player may be put on probation and is subject to suspension from coaching and the illegal player may be suspended from play. Player eligibility may be protested by an opposing head coach or the Recreation Administrator. **It is the coaches' responsibility to verify birthday and enrollment status of each player (see player registration for more information). This rule applies to all City of Lawton sports programs.**

PARTICIPATING RULE

It is recommended that all team members attending the game play in the game provided the players have attended practice sessions on a regular basis. Enforcement of this rule is the responsibility of the coach and booster club. The Parks & Recreation Department recommends that each player participate in half the game. All team members present at the game must be listed on the line-up card. A minimum of two innings played on defense by each player is recommended.

MISCONDUCT REPORT

- Penalty for misconduct by players, coaches and/or fans:
- Fighting – One game to lifetime, based on severity of the act
- Profanity – Two games
- Obscene gesture – Two games
- Disrespectfully addressing an official – One game
- Objecting to an official's decision – One game
- Improper contact with an official – One game to lifetime, based on the severity of the act.

Misconduct reports will be filed with the Recreation Service Administrator. Game officials, facility supervisors, Recreation Service Administrator and/or his representative may eject a player, coach or fan from the game or game site, as he or she deems necessary. All other player ejection penalties will be imposed at the discretion of the Recreation Services Administrator. The Recreation Services Administrator is responsible for deciding the level of penalty imposed in cases of misconduct. All players, coaches or fans ejected from a game for misconduct must visit with the Recreation Services Administrator in person before being reinstated for participation. Players must be accompanied by his or her parent or guardian. In considering cases of reports of misconduct by players or coaches, the party or parties shall have the right of a hearing before the Parks & Recreation Commission Rules Committee.

RULE AND PENALTY FOR GAME EJECTION

The Recreation Services Administrator, Facility Supervisors, Assistants and Officials have the right to remove any coach, player or fan from the sideline of any sport.

When a coach, assistant coach or player is dismissed or ejected from a game, that person will report to the Recreation Services Administrator before being permitted to participate further in the program. Any player or coach dismissed or ejected may be penalized by sitting out the next game(s). Coaches and Assistant Coaches may be put on probation by the Parks & Recreation Commission until the end of the season, at which time a decision will be made as to whether the coach may continue in the next season.

Coaches and players ejected from a game must be reinstated by the Recreation Services Administrator. If dismissed from the last game of the season, the rule is in effect for play-offs, next sport or for the next season, depending on what game situation exists.

REINSTATEMENT TO PLAY OR COACH

Anyone dismissed from a game must be reinstated by the Recreation Administrator and approved by the Parks and Recreation Director. If dismissed from the last game of the season, the rule is in effect for tournament play, play-offs or for the next season, depending on what game situation exists.

APPEAL PROCEDURE

Coaches may appeal suspension decision to the Parks & Recreation Commission.

After a protest or report of misconduct has been filed with the Sports Office, the Recreation Services Administrator will review the case, interview anyone necessary and make a decision. All parties involved will be notified in writing as to the results.

If either party disagrees with the decision, that person can make an official written appeal to Parks & Recreation Commission to request a verbal hearing.

At the time of the appeal hearing, each party involved may have two representatives present. The Parks and Recreation Sports Division may also have two representatives to provide information pertinent to the judgment. Each party will have fifteen minutes to address the youth sports committee as to their concerns.

The Parks & Recreation Director will place the appeal on the next quarterly Parks & Recreation Commission Agenda or the next special called meeting by the Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission. These meetings are open to the public and may be attended by all parties. The designated representative of both parties involved in the appeal process will be given opportunity to speak if the Chairman so determines. The Sports Division representative involved in the appeal will be required to attend for requested comment on issues by the Chairman.

The Parks & Recreation Commission, whose members are appointed by the City Council, will agenda the appeal item and make a ruling by vote on the appeal. The commission's decision will be final and will not be subject to further appeal or change.

COACHING GUIDELINES

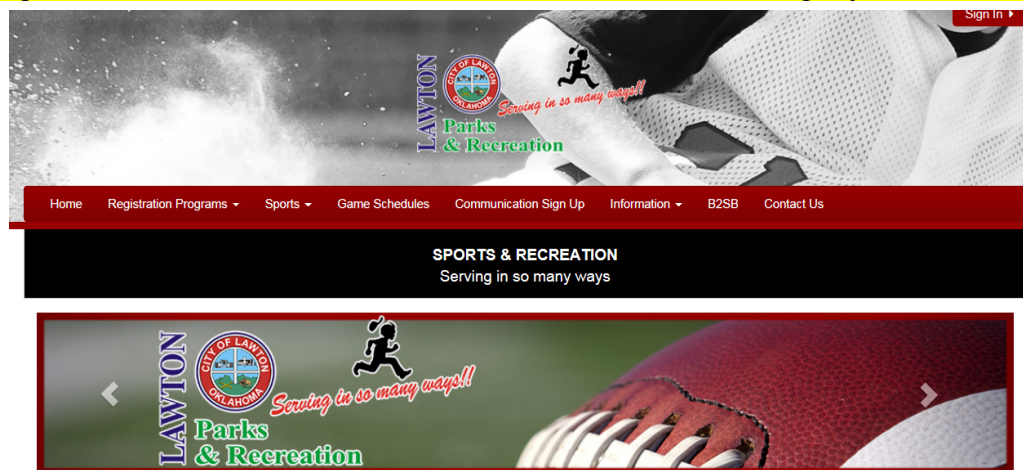
All Coaches and Assistant Coaches are required to adhere to the rules listed below: Coaches should understand that the penalty for violation of any of the rules is automatic suspension from coaching until reinstated.

- > **Coaches will be limited to four per dugout and one scorekeeper.**
- Coaches are expected to read the Manual distributed by the City of Lawton Parks & Recreation Department pertaining to the sport they are coaching.
- Coaches are never to make abusive, insulting remarks to or about officials of the game, officials of the programs, other coaches, or players.
- Coaches are to hold regular scheduled practices and be there on time.
- Coaches are not to use profanity, consume alcoholic beverages or use any tobacco product when coaching or meeting with players. **NO SMOKING ALLOWED AROUND THE BALLFIELD PLAYING AREA!! IF YOU MUST SMOKE, YOU WILL HAVE TO GO TO THE PARKING LOT!!**
- Coaches will set a good example of sportsmanship for the players. Coaches will keep in mind that the primary goal in this program is building good character, not winning. Losing teams, with their coaches, will congratulate the opponents.
- Coaches will make maximum effort to keep spectators from razzing officials.
- Coaches will play all players who practice regularly and with maximum effort, as the situation permits.
- Coaches will never take the team off the playing field until the game is finished.

- Coaches should recognize the situations that will result in eject:
 - Using profanity, insulting or vulgar language or gestures
 - Attempting to influence a decision by an official
 - Disrespectfully addressing an official
 - Indicating objections to an Official's decision
 - Using a mechanical device to coach or to attract attention
 - Holding an unauthorized conference
 - Use of mechanical visual-aid equipment including computers, television and videotape for monitoring, replay of coaching purposes during the game including intermissions
 - Failure of a team to be ready to play
 - Failure of the head coach to have players wear required equipment
 - Be on the field or court except as a substitute or replaced player
 - Be outside the designated area (i.e., team/coaches box, bench or dugout)

Coaches should understand that the penalty for violation of any of the above is automatic suspension from coaching until reinstated. When a coach or assistant coach is ejected from a game, he or she will report to the Sports Recreation Administrator before being permitted to participate further in the program. Coaches and assistant coaches that are dismissed from a game may be penalized by sitting out the next game or by being put on probation until the end of the season, at which time a decision will be made by the Parks & Recreation Commission as to whether the coach may continue another season. If dismissed from the last game of the season, the rule is in effect for tournament play, play-offs, or for the next season, depending on what game situation exists. A dismissed/eject coach must be reinstated by the Recreation Administrator.

COACHES: All Coaches must complete the National Alliance for Youth Sports (NAYS) training and a background check. Visit www.teamsideline.com/lawton to begin your NAYS training.



COACHES: Each team is allowed four coaches in the dugout, only coaches, players and one scorekeeper in the dugout. No additional children are allowed in the dugout for baseball and softball City of Lawton Games.

SWITCHING TEAMS

After a scheduled league game is played, no player may move up, move down or change teams during that season. Players may only play in **ONE** league, in one division.

EXCEPTION: If a player is playing in the school league and he changes schools midseason, that player may change teams to the new school if he chooses. The Parks & Recreation Department MUST be informed of any such changes. The receiving coach must be prepared to present verification of the student's enrollment in the new school.

ELIGIBILITY

School League – Players must play with the school he or she is attending. Any player wishing to play for a school for which they do not attend, must complete a **placement request form** to be reviewed and approved by the Parks & Recreation Commission

Girls may play on a boy's team if the school she attends does not have a girl's team or if the girl's team has more than eight players and space is available on the boy's team. This will only be done with the approval of the boy's coach and the girl's parents. Once a girl is assigned to a boy's team, she cannot change teams for that season. Players may not be older than or attending a higher grade than the maximum assigned for the league.

PLACEMENT

Any player wishing to play for a school, for which they do not attend, must submit a **placement request** to be reviewed and approved by the Parks & Recreation Commission. The requestor will be officially notified of the committee's decision by phone and by email. Placement request forms must be turned in by **April 4, 2016**.

PLAYER MOVE-UP RULE

Player may move up one age group or division. Player may play for one team in the same age group or division.

PARENTS AND FANS

The Parks & Recreation Department highly recommends that coaches have a meeting with the parents before the season starts to get player contract cards signed and to explain the conduct expected of them. Officials and coaches are responsible for the conduct of the fans. **NO SMOKING IS PERMITTED WHILE IN ATTENDANCE AT ANY FACILITY WHILE YOUTH SPORTS ARE BEING PLAYED.**

Spectators will be kept under control by officials, assisted by the Coach and Athletic Coordinator. The razzing of officials, opponents and coaches is prohibited. Insulting remarks made by spectators, coaches or players to any official in the program will be reported to the Sports Recreation Administrator.

The Official or the Field Supervisor has the right to call a game if the coach cannot control his fans. That game will be counted as loss by forfeit to the offending team. The coach should address this issue during the Parent/Coaches meeting at the beginning of the season.

AUTHORITY

The Sports Staff, facility coordinator, assistants and officials have the right to remove any coach, player or fan from the sideline, gym, or field of any sport.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PROCEDURES

(National Federation Rule)

While risk of one athlete infecting another with HIV/AIDS during competition is close to non-existent, there is a remote risk that other blood borne infectious diseases can be transmitted. For example, Hepatitis B can be present in blood as well as in other body fluids. Procedures for reducing the potential for transmission of these infectious agents should include, but not be limited to, the following:

- The bleeding must be stopped, the open wound covered and if there is an excessive amount of blood on the uniform, it must be changed before the athlete may participate.
- Routine use of gloves or other precautions to prevent skin and mucous membrane exposure when contact with blood or other body fluids is anticipated.
- Immediately wash hands and other skin surfaces if contaminated (in contact) with blood or other body fluids. Wash hands immediately after removing gloves.
- Clean all contaminated surfaces and equipment with an appropriate disinfectant before competition resumes.
- Practice proper disposal procedures to prevent injuries caused by needles, scalpels and other sharp instruments or devices.
- Although saliva has not been implicated in HIV transmission, to minimize the need for emergency mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, mouthpieces, resuscitation bags or other ventilation devices should be available for use.
- Athletic trainers/coaches with bleeding or oozing skin conditions should refrain from all direct athletic care until the condition resolves.
- Contaminated towels should be properly disposed of/disinfected.
- Follow acceptable guidelines in the immediate control of bleeding and when handling bloody dressings, mouth guards and other articles containing body fluids.

Additional information is available from your state high school association and from the National Federation.

PLAYERS DISCHARGE FORM

RELEASING SCHOOL BOOSTER CLUB OR TEAM ORGANIZER WHO REPRESENT'S A SCHOOL THAT IS NOT ACCEPTING ANY MORE PLAYERS FOR FOOTBALL, VOLLEYBALL, BASKETBALL, BASEBALL, AND SOFTBALL

Player's Name _____ Grade: _____
Play's Address _____ Age: _____
School Player Attends: _____ DOB: _____
Team Playing For: _____ Division: _____
Parents Email: _____ Phone: _____
Sport: _____

School Booster President
Or Sports Coordinator: _____
Print Name

School Booster President
Or Sports Coordinator: _____ Date: _____
Signature

Parent/ Legal Guardian: _____
Print Name

Parent/ Legal Guardian: _____ Date: _____
Signature

Releasing
Team Head Coach: _____
Print Name

Releasing
Team Head Coach: _____ Date: _____
Signature

Park & Recreation
Sports Staff: _____
Print Name

Parks & Recreation
Sports Staff: _____ Date: _____
Signature