

# OSA League Rules for mixed (co-ed) play: 2019 Season

## *For information: Proposed key revisions to the 2018 Rules:*

*WBSC takes over from ISF*

*Mercy rule –use both mercy rules for all games (WBSC runs ahead rule, AND 10 runs/innings)*

*Same colour shirt (and too close to play): umpire may have to rule if s/he thinks an advantage was gained in confusion.*

*All other rules changes are minor*

## INTRODUCTION

All World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC, formerly ISF) rules will be followed for the entire duration of the season, with the Exceptions, modifications or clarifications detailed below.

## THE LEAGUE

### League structure and schedule, promotion and relegation

#### Structure, scheduling and umpiring

The league structure depends on the number of teams taking part in the current season. The Executive Committee will determine the league structure, game schedule and umpiring responsibilities prior to the start of the season and will circulate relevant information to team captains in a timely fashion.

If the league consists of two or more divisions, then the team finishing the season bottom of division 1 will be relegated, and the team finishing top of division 2 will be promoted.

#### New and reconstituted teams

New teams joining the league will start in the lower division. However, where there are extenuating circumstances, teams may apply to the Executive Committee for an exemption to this rule.

A team does not qualify as a “new team” by simply changing their name. In the event that existing teams disband to form new teams, and claim the place of the disbanded team, the Executive Committee will determine how to accommodate such instances. The Executive Committee will be guided by the team affiliations of players the previous year, and may conclude that a new team can assume the league place of a disbanded team if the majority of its players were rostered to the disbanded team the previous year.

### League game points and final standings

#### Points for Games

For league tables or league pools, 3 points will be awarded for a win, 1 for a loss, and 0 for a forfeit.

A **forfeited** game is where a team is unable to field a legal team (as defined in the OSA League rules). This is scored as a forfeit (0 points), with a scoreline of 15-0. It is possible that both teams forfeit, in which case both score 0 points, and the scoreline is 0-0.

#### End of season league standings

The final league standings will be decided on the following criteria:

- The team with the most points. If tied, then
- The team with the greater head to head points scored (i.e. wins). If still tied, then
- The team with the fewest forfeits. If still tied, then
- The team with the greater head to head run difference. If still tied, then
- The team with the fewest head to head runs conceded. If still tied, then
- The team with the greatest head to head hits made. If still tied, then
- Toss a coin.

## Officially sanctioned scratch team(s)

With the permission of the Executive Committee, the league may support a scratch team in the lower division. This means that no roster will be required, although regular players may need to register for insurance purposes.

Any spare player from any team or club may play for the scratch team as many times as he or she wishes. Scheduled games involving the scratch team will automatically be scored as a 7-0 (3 point) win to the opposition, providing a game has taken place. A win will not be awarded to teams that forfeit games against the scratch team for reasons of not having the required number of players. Note that the scratch team is a development opportunity and it is incumbent on league teams to play some kind of game even if there are very few scratch team players available.

Personal statistics are not to be collected for individuals playing for or against the 'scratch team'.

The heading numbers below refer to the number of corresponding WBSA rule and are therefore not necessarily continuous.

# 1 THE GAME

## 1.1 Start time

The Executive Committee will publish start times for games during the season to maximise the daylight available for evening games.

Unless by prior agreement between captains and umpire, league games will begin at, or before the advertised start time with a minimum of 8 legal players on each team. A grace period of 10 minutes may be applied, if agreed by the umpire, after which the game is forfeited, and it is recommended that a friendly be played instead.

A delayed start, due to poor weather, may be agreed by the umpire.

### 1.1.4 Offensive/defensive choice

The home team (as defined by the fixtures list) has the option to bat 1st or 2nd.

## 1.2 Games stopped before completion

### 1.2.1 Deciding to stop play

A captain may ask the umpire to consider a request to stop play (or resume play) at any time.

The decision to stop play before completion of a game may be taken because it is considered that conditions have become too dangerous to continue play. This decision will be made by any of the following three criteria: a decision by a neutral umpire, by mutual consent of the two captains, or a decision by a two or more Executive Committee members. Recommencing a game on the same evening will also be decided by the same groups.

If it is apparent that there will be no further play that evening, then either the game is called as a regulation (completed) game or the game is "frozen" (as outlined below).

**Clarification:** According to WBSA rule 1 section 2, a game can be considered to be regulation (completed) if the team second at bat is leading in the bottom of the fifth inning or if five innings have been completed. Where a game has to be abandoned within the sixth or seventh innings, the score will be rolled back to the last complete inning, unless the team second at bat is ahead in runs.

Example: Team A bats first and is ahead in runs after 5 complete innings. If the game is called in the top of the 6th, then Team A wins. However, if Team B takes the lead in the bottom of the 6th inning and the game is called, Team B wins.

### **Incomplete and frozen games**

If a game is stopped due to poor light, dangerous conditions, lightning or accident on the field which prevents the game from continuing on that pitch, then the game will be “frozen” unless it can be considered a regulation (completed) game (see clarification above). It will be restarted at an agreed date, from exactly where it stopped (see procedure below).

### **Lightning**

At the first sign of lightning, the umpire shall stop the game and all players must take shelter inside a building if available. The Executive Committee will then liaise with umpires about restarting games but typically if, after 15 minutes, there is no further lightning, then the game can resume. If lightning is still present after a 30 minute period, then the game will be stopped and rules outlined above will be used for an incomplete game.

### **Reconvening incomplete games**

On recommencing a frozen/incomplete game, teams may field different players for the reconvened innings, but players participating in both the original and reconvened innings must appear in the same place in the batting order.

On the postponement of a game through poor light or dangerous conditions, a trailing team (behind on runs) may elect to default, and therefore not require the game to be reconvened.

The Executive Committee will determine a deadline by which the incomplete game must be completed.

Captains must liaise to find a mutually agreeable time to complete the game. If necessary, the Exec Committee will liaise with the captains over finding a mutually agreeable date/time. Where necessary the Exec Committee has the power to specify a date for the game.

If it proves impossible, due to time constraints across the season, to complete an incomplete game, both captains may agree to allow the score to stand and for the result to count as a 'regulation game'.

If one team is able to continue an incomplete game on a date that has been officially timetabled for play, and the other team cannot, the game is forfeited by the latter team. The losing team is able to appeal this decision to the Executive Committee, if it claims that there were exceptional circumstances. If both teams fail to resume the game by their own collective inactivity, the Executive Committee may rule that the score at the time of freezing the game may stand, or that the game is void, or should be scored as a 5-5 tie, depending on evidence of genuine attempts to arrange a date/time for the continuation of the game.

## **1.2.4 Tiebreaker**

WBSC rules regarding tied game will be enforced - additional innings are played until one side has scored more runs than the other at the end of a complete inning, or until the team second at bat has scored more runs in their half of the inning before the third out is made. In the 8<sup>th</sup> and subsequent half inning, the batter scheduled to bat 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> (usually who batted last in the previous inning) begins the inning on 2<sup>nd</sup> base.

A tied game that is stopped for light, rain, lightning etc. will be restarted until a winning team is determined. In the unlikely event of a tied game (a game which is started, stopped on tied runs, and not completed), 2 points will be awarded to both teams.

## **1.2.3 Runs ahead (mercy) rules**

Two runs ahead rules will be in place for all OSL games.

The standard WBSC runs ahead rule applies. The game is stopped, and a winner declared if a team is ahead by 20 runs after 4 completed innings, 15 runs after 5 completed innings.

*In addition*, during the first 6 innings, the offensive team will conclude their innings when the play which scores the 10th run of the innings is concluded.

**Example:** Having scored 9 runs in a single innings, the batting side scores two runs on their next at bat. After the play concludes, the innings is finished (irrespective of the number of outs), the batting team having scored 11 runs.

### 5.1.26 Infield-Fly Rule

The infield fly rule is to be used in league play.

### 1.2.11 Protests and disagreements during games

The exact nature of the protest must be made clear to the umpire and opposing captain at the time, and where possible a neutral Executive Committee member).

If the issue cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of all parties, the game is then played under protest. The nature of the protest must then be communicated to a member of the Executive Committee verbally on the same evening, and in writing within 5 days if requested by the Executive Committee.

#### 1.2.14 Result of protest

Result of Protest and any arising decisions/penalties will be determined by the Full OSA Committee (minus representatives of the teams involved), although the OSA Committee may choose to form a Protest Subcommittee to investigate and prepare information for the 'Full' OSA committee meeting. The 'Full' OSA Committee will take into consideration existing WBSC guidelines, and OSA procedures for resolving protests.

## 2. PLAYING FIELD AND EQUIPMENT

### 2.2 The Playing field

#### 2.2.3 Local field rules

**Clarification:** Where line markings are present, they are to be enforced. If lines are not marked, the umpire must make decisions based on his/her judgment.

Umpires will discuss any local field rules with captains prior to games commencing. The Executive Committee may choose to issue local field rules at the start of the season.

#### Providing Bases

The home team are required to provide and lay out bases, pitching strip and home plate prior to the game. Teams not owning such equipment must make arrangements to borrow field equipment for the game.

### 2.5 Uniforms

Matching shirts are to be encouraged, but are not required. Offensive payers may not take advantage of similar coloured shirts to the defensive team to cause confusion during play. Umpires will make decisions and rulings on any such occurrences. No other uniform rules are to be enforced other than those relating to safety, which are at the discretion of the umpire.

### 2.4 Players' equipment

#### 2.3.1 Bats

**Clarification:** Bats must all comply with the latest BSF/BASU guidelines. The approved bat list (or banned bat list) must be checked and enforced.

#### 2.4.2 Shoes

No metal or metal tipped studs/cleats/spikes are allowed. In addition, the umpire, at their discretion, may ban footwear on safety grounds.

### **2.4.3 Protective equipment**

Catchers must wear proprietary face masks for all game play and warm ups when a batter is at the plate. The catcher may remove the mask during the course of play after the ball has been batted.

The use of batting helmets is encouraged but compulsory for players under 18. Mouth guards are also required for all U18 players, playing in the infield. (Please see BSF U18 guidelines in the captains' pack.) Usage is encouraged for all other players. Teams must make their equipment available for inspection by the Exec when requested to do so before a game. The Exec will only do this to ensure that protective equipment of a suitable standard is being provided for games.

## **3. PARTICIPANTS**

### **3.2 Line-up and rosters**

#### **3.2.1 Line up cards**

Teams are required to provide line-up cards to the opposition if requested to do so. Teams are also required to present their score book during a game when requested by the opposition, umpire or OSA official.

#### **Team Rosters**

For weeks 1 and 2 teams must submit a copy of their line-ups to the opposition and the Exec committee, indicating any borrowed or new players. Rostering on the BSF website is not required.

Before games in Week 3 commence, teams must have rostered all players (with the exception of Rookies) on the BSF website. "Rookies" are defined as people who have played fewer games in the previous season than the number required for BSF rostering in the OSL in the previous season. A grace period of two League games before rostering is allowed.

For the purpose of League games, players may be rostered to only one OSA League team at any time. This does not exclude players from joining other teams for tournaments not organised by the OSA.

A player may change teams (and hence rosters) once per season, but not during the first or last three weeks of the season.

#### **3.2.2 Number of Players (game night)**

Teams are permitted to play with fewer than 10 players, to a minimum of 8. They may choose where these "holes" appear in their field and batting line-up (although they cannot exceed: 2 men in the outfield, 2 men in the in-field. They must have a male and female pitcher/catcher combination and must bat alternately man-woman as far as possible).

Teams may field women as men, but not visa-versa. Teams may field a non-playing catcher of either sex (who does not appear in the batting line-up). The batting team will field a non-playing catcher if requested to do so by a fielding team with less than 10 players able to take to the field.

An automatic out will be enforced for every person missing from the batting line-up of 10 to a maximum of 2. If the league has designated an official 'scratch team', automatic outs are not applicable in games involving this team.

Illegal re-entry of a player will result in the ejection of the player only (and not both player and coach/captain).

The "EP" (extra player) is an option included in League play and is detailed in the WBSC rules.

#### **3.2.5 Injury during the game**

If, due to injury during a game, a player is no longer able to participate, they may be replaced by any member of the team not currently in the batting line-up (irrespective of whether that player has already appeared in a different position in the line-up).

Teams that cannot field a full line-up due to injury during a game, are also eligible to borrow from other teams if players are available.

**Clarification:** OSA respects replacement of players for any injury incurred during the game. This is not merely restricted to bleeding injuries.

## Under 18s: welfare

Prior to the game, captains must have written permission from the parents of under 18s to field them in the in-field. The league's Welfare Officer (with responsibilities for safeguarding) must see the written permission before the first game, involving the U18 player, begins.

**Clarification:** Under 18 boys play as men, and not as women.

## Borrowing players

Teams may only borrow players if they have fewer than 5 men and 5 women available from their own roster for the game, or if they do not have a pitcher available for the game.

**Clarification:** If you arrange to borrow a player and find, unexpectedly, you can field a team of 10 on the night, you may **not** play the borrowed player.

Teams may borrow:

- one man or
- one woman or
- one man and one woman or
- two women.

These players must be rostered to another OSL team.

If a team borrows a pitcher when they can field a legal number of players, then the borrowed pitcher can only pitch/field and should be replaced by a designated hitter in the batting line up.

A borrowed player can only play in the following fielding positions: pitcher, catcher, CR or RF position. However, all teams must comply with the rule that requires fielding an equal number of men and women in the in-field. Therefore, a team may field a borrowed player in an in-field position if it is necessary to comply with this rule (e.g. where a team of 5-1 that borrows two players, one in-field position may be filled with a borrowed player or left empty).

## 3.4 Coaches

Teams are often have player-coaches, which are generally referred to as "captains" and "vice-captains".

- An offensive base coach stationed near third base must not wear a catching glove.
- The offensive base coach stationed near first base must wear a catching glove for the purpose of providing the pitcher with the correct ball. However, they must not "present" their glove during the course of play (which would be judged as interference).

## 3.6 Umpires

Details of umpiring arrangements are outlined in the Umpiring Procedures document circulated separately.

**Clarification:** All players are reminded that the interpretation or enforcing of rules may be questioned by only the captain or vice-captain of either team. Judgement calls by the umpire (e.g. ball/strikes, force outs etc. etc.) may not be questioned.

## **3.7 Scorers**

### **3.7.1 Official scorer**

There is no official scorer, and both teams shall keep scorebooks. Teams should endeavour to check that their scorebooks tally at the end of each half innings. Disagreements should be immediately resolved by the captains.

## **4.3 PITCHING**

Pitchers may elect to move the pitching strip further away from the batter for reasons of safety. They must still pitch a legal pitch from within the diamond from a location that the umpire judges to be reasonable. The pitching strip can be returned to its normal position at any time.

## **PROCEDURES FOR RAIN OFFS**

Procedures for stopping play during the game has been included elsewhere, this section deals with procedures for terminating play prior to the game starting time.

### **Weather monitors**

The OSA shall appoint a weather monitor, and a deputy weather monitor. If a significant amount of rain is forecast, then the weather monitor will liaise with team captains throughout the day.

Based on forecast information, and possibly taking into account the views of the team captains, the weather monitor will decide if play is to be cancelled. All players should assume that play is to proceed unless they hear otherwise. Captains will be notified by 4:30pm on the day of the game if the game is being cancelled or postponed.

“Rain-out” slots will be included in the League schedule, and teams are expected to play games in these. If this proves impossible, due to time constraints across the season, the game may be designated a 5-5 tie by mutual consent of the captains.

If one team is able or willing play to a rain-out game on one of the designated rain-out sessions, then similar rules will apply to those outlined above for the completion of incomplete games.

## **TEAM COMMITMENTS**

### **Team Equipment**

All teams playing should have a kit bag which must contain the following:

- Pitching plate
- Home plate
- First (Safety) base
- 2x bases (2nd/3rd base)
- 2x batting helmets
- Catcher’s Mask
- First Aid kit

All kit bags are subject to be checked by umpires and league committee.

### **Recording Statistics**

Each team in the League must provide correct statistics as indicated in these rules. The penalty for not complying with this is that statistics may not be included in determining end of season awards for teams and individuals.

The following stats are the minimum required to be included in the relevant awards:

- PA (the amount of times a player goes to bat)
- AB (the amount of times a player goes to bat and does not walk)
- Hits and bases reached (the amount of times the batter hit the ball and got to a base without getting out or forcing someone else to be out)
- Walks (bases on balls)
- HR (the amount of times a batter makes it all the way around the bases to home plate in one play)
- FC (fielder's choice – when a batter hits the ball into fair territory, but gets one of their team mates out on a forced play. This is regardless of whether the batter makes it to base without being out themselves)
- Male and female best fielders for each game from each team. Where a team fails to provide this for the opposing team, a captain is eligible to assign the awards to players from their own team.

Errors: For the purpose of batting statistics, errors in the form of overthrows only should be taken into account.

Guesting: Guesting players should be clearly marked on scoresheets. Statistics for guesting players will not count towards end of season awards.

Inter-Divisional Games: All regular season games will contribute to statistics for the end of season awards.

Best Fielders: At the end of the match each team is required to nominate a best male and female fielder from the opposing team.

## Return of trophies

The winning team must return its trophy by the last competitive game of the season (not including rainouts). If a team fails to return the trophy, then any decisions/penalties will be determined by the full OSA Committee.

## Safety

### Head Injuries

The BSF strongly recommends that all players who sustain head injuries, no matter how trivial they might seem, are taken to Accident and Emergency for examination. During a game, a player who receives a direct hit to the head or whiplash from a collision, dive etc. should have a head injury assessment (HIA). A medical professional is advantageous, but where such a person is not present at the game, a coach or team-mate should assess the injured person (for lucidity, balance, vision etc.) before allowing them to continue in the game. **Note that it must not simply be a matter of the player themselves suggesting that they are fit to continue.**

All head injuries and any other serious injuries should be reported using the Incident Report Form to be found in the captains' pack or downloaded from the BSUK web site (see below).

### First aid kits

As specified in Team Equipment, all team kit bags must contain a first aid kit.

### Accident reporting

All accident/near misses should be reported using the incident report form. The form is available in the captains' pack and may be downloaded from:

<http://www.baseballsoftballuk.com/insurance/incidents>



# Frequently Asked Questions

## Oxford League Specific Rules

### Mercy Rule

Two mercy rules will be in place for all OSL games:

- The WBSC runs ahead rule (a win if ahead by 20 runs after 4 innings, 15 runs after 5 innings).
- The "Oxford League" 10 runs per innings rule (for innings 1-6).

### Borrowing Players

If you cannot field a full team from your roster, then you may borrow one man and/or one woman OR two women from another OSL team.<sup>1</sup> A borrowed player can only play as catcher, CR or RF position.<sup>2</sup>

Rules for borrowing a pitcher are different. You do not have to be short of players. However, if you must borrow a pitcher when you have 10 or more players available, then this borrowed player only plays for you when you field. You must use one of your own players in the batting line up.

### Fielding Restrictions

A full team of 10 must have 2 men and 2 women in the outfield, 2 men and 2 women for bases+shortstop, leaving 1 man and 1 woman for pitcher/catcher. Women can play as men. Men cannot play as women.

### Fair/ Foul/ Dead Ball

#### Definition of a fair hit

Outfield hit: A ball passing 1st/3rd base in the air must make its first bounce in fair territory.

Bouncing hit: A ball that bounces in the infield must pass out of the infield in fair territory, or stop in the infield. N.B. This does not necessarily mean that the ball must take its first bounce in fair territory! It may bounce foul and then roll back into the infield where it stops, or passes into the outfield in fair territory.

#### Other Fair/Foul/Dead Ball

1st base (white portion), 3rd base and the home plate are part of fair territory.

Umpires should "call" a foul ball, but not make an audible call for a fair ball (they may point to fair territory).

A batted fly ball may be caught in foul territory, and the play remains live.

A batted ball otherwise touched (i.e. not caught) in foul territory is "foul".

A batted fly ball caught in dead ball territory is usually charged as a foul, and is not a catch.

However, the fielder may stand in foul territory and reach to catch, or leap from foul territory and catch the ball before his/her foot touches the ground: these are valid catches.

A thrown/carried ball passing into foul territory is still live.

A thrown/carried ball passing into dead ball territory is dead. Runners are awarded the base they were advancing to (at the time of the throw), and one more.

### Pitching

The pitcher should only pitch once the batter is ready (this usually means in the batters box, in their stance and looking at the pitcher).

The pitcher must keep one foot on the pitching strip from start to release (otherwise the pitch is illegal and charged as a ball).

Illegal pitches (including balls arcing over 12 feet or under 6 feet) should be called by the umpire as soon as possible i.e. before the ball reaches the batter. The umpire may also call a pitch illegal if it is considered to be too fast (although this is rare). Balls and strikes are called after the ball has passed the batter.

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<sup>1</sup> Note that it is OSA's intention to eventually have parity between the sexes here. However, at present it is more common to find teams short of women, than of men. When this is no longer true, our borrowing rule may become "You may borrow one woman and/or one man."

<sup>2</sup> There is an exception to this if you have a team of 5-1 and borrow 2 players. Keeping to the rules regarding male/female fielding positions means that you may field a borrowed player as an in-fielder.

Any pitch hitting home plate is a ball (unless it has been swung at).

A pitch bouncing before reaching the plate is called a ball even if the batter swings (unless the swing is before the bounce).

## Catcher

The catcher is required to wear a face mask, but may discard this during the course of play. If discarding the face mask after a hit, catchers are reminded that umpires usually make their way into the infield to the catcher's left-hand side!

## Batting

The batter must start with both feet within or on the lines of the batting box.

The batter may not deliberately bunt or chop (hit the ball with no swing or hit the ball straight into the ground) - if they do, they are out.

When hitting the ball, if the batter has a foot touching the ground and completely outside of the box (or touching home plate), they are out. A foot is allowed to be partially outside of the box. It is rare for a batter to have a foot completely outside the box when hitting the ball. It is more common for a batter to place a foot outside the box as part of their follow-through AFTER hitting the ball. This is allowed.

If a batted ball is caught behind by the catcher, it is only an out if the ball has travelled above the batter's head height from the bat (otherwise it is a "foul tip" and counts as a strike).

Women walk to 1<sup>st</sup>. Men walk to 2<sup>nd</sup>.

If there are two outs and a man is walked, the next batter (a woman) has the choice of batting or taking an automatic walk.

Batters throwing the bat behind them in a dangerous manner will be warned or called out by the umpire.

Home plate is in fair territory. If a batted ball hits home plate, the ball is still considered live and the hit is FAIR, unless the ball rolls or bounces into foul territory without first being picked up by a fielder. For example if the ball hits home plate and rolls forward, it is fair. If it hits and remains on home plate it is still fair: the catcher can pick up the ball and play it.

## Infield Fly

We play this rule in full.

Under relevant situations, the umpire calls the batter out before the ball is caught and the play is still live.

The runners may advance, after the ball has been touched by a fielder or hit the ground, like any other catch or near catch situation.

From the WBSC rules. RULE 5 Sec. 1.26.

INFIELD FLY.

*A fair fly ball (not including a line drive) that can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort when first and second, or first, second, and third bases are occupied, before two are out. The pitcher, catcher, and any outfielder who position themselves in the infield on the play shall be considered infielders for the purpose of this rule.*

NOTE: When it seems apparent that a batted ball will be an infield fly, the umpire shall immediately declare, "INFIELD FLY. IF FAIR-THE BATTER IS OUT," for the benefit of the runners. The ball is live and runners may advance at the risk of the ball being caught, or retouch and advance after the ball is touched, the same as on any fly ball. If the hit becomes a foul ball, it is treated the same as any foul. If a declared infield fly is allowed to

fall untouched to the ground, and bounces foul before passing first or third base, it is a foul ball. If a declared infield fly falls untouched to the ground outside the baseline, and bounces fair before passing first or third base, it is an infield fly.”

Some may find the last sentence above confusing. However, please read the "Fair / Foul / Dead Ball" FAQ. A struck ball that lands foul before reaching 1st or 3rd bases, but which then bounces in to the infield before passing those bases is FAIR."

## **Base Running**

Runners may not leave their base until the ball is hit. If they do so it is an automatic out.

Runners may risk advancing after a catch if they touch their original base after the catch is made. If they leave before the catch, then the play is a forced play to the original base.

The base runner is not allowed to deviate more than 1 metre either side of a reasonable running line to avoid a tag. A “reasonable running line” is not necessarily a straight line between bases.

A fielder must not get in the way of a runner, unless they are in the process of trying to make a tag (and therefore already holding the ball). If they do get in the way of a runner, then the play remains live (unless the obstructed runner is out). On conclusion of the play, the umpire makes any corrections to outs/base runners locations that he considers would represent the situation if the obstruction had not occurred.

Catchers are especially reminded that they must not stand over the home plate or obstruct runners trying to make home plate unless they are already holding the ball.

If a batter gets in the way of a fielder (Interference), the batter is out.

If a runner is hit by a batted ball (when a fielder excluding the pitcher has not had the chance to make a play) they are out unless they are either touching a base or in foul territory.

## **Changing Offence/Defence, and On Deck Batters**

It is appreciated that organising a team and substituting players can take time between innings. However, teams at bat are expected to have the correct batter and on-deck batter ready in a timely fashion. Players taking/leaving the field are expected to jog on/off the pitch, and have the correct/legal fielding team ready to play in a similarly timely fashion.

## **Substituting Players/Batting Line-up**

OSL uses the standard WBSC rules on substitution and ‘Extra players’ (EPs).

Substitution may take place at any time, as long as the umpire and opposing captain are informed.

Without EPs, there should be a maximum of 5 men and 5 women in the batting order at any one time, and it is only these people who field for that innings.

OR

There should be a maximum of 6 men and 6 women in the batting order at any one time, and 5-5 are selected from this list to field each innings (this is the EP option).

Note that a team electing to use the EP option must complete the game with this option in place.

Any starting player may be withdrawn and re-enter the game once (in the same place in the batting order). The substitute and the starter are therefore mutually exclusive players, and the substitute cannot enter the game a second time (either for the same or different player). The only exception to this is in the case of an injury which means that the starting player has to leave the game entirely. (Note that this is more lenient than the WBSC rule, which mandates a blood injury in this case. This lenient rule must not be abused.)

Changes to the umpire should be clearly announced to both teams.