OPL Greater Cleveland Spring Championship Tournament

Friday night begins the OPL Greater Cleveland Spring Championship Tournament. The schedules are posted on the website. I will be present at Victory Park on Saturday and Sunday as that will be “tournament headquarters.”

As for weather situations, we will do our best to keep you informed. We will get you weather information as soon as we know. The Victory Park weatherline is 216-732-2966, so if you are playing there, please call that number to find out the status of your game. Both Victory Park and Pipeyard charge a gate fee to parents and spectators. Please make your parents aware of this—this is not the league charging a fee, it is two parks that charge and keep the money.

In addition, there are no coolers allowed at either Victory Park or Pipeyard. Both facilities have concession stands.

**Here are some guidelines for the tournament:**

--Each umpire is paid by each team-- $65 for 14u. $60 for 11u- 13u.

--Each team must give two new baseballs every game to the umpire at the home plate meeting. Have extra good ones ready to be thrown in.

--When game is done and your team is not the next game, please clean up the dugout and evacuate field immediately. Allow the next two teams to come into the bench area and get ready for their game. **Please clean your dugout area before speaking to your team after the game!**

**Tournament rules:**

1) You will play the same rules used for OPL as the regular season with the following exceptions:

2) A coin flip determines the home team. (home and away on the website is incorrect). For (playoffs) championship, the higher seed is the home team as determined by the tiebreaking rules.

**3) Please arrive to the field at least 1 hour before your game time. If the game before your game ends early, as soon as the pitchers are warmed up, teams and umpires are ready, we want your game to begin. We want to keep the games moving because of the chance of rain in the forecast.**

4) Time limit (if no rain)-no inning can start 2:15 from start time of game. If a game ends in a tie, then a tie is recorded in the standings. If there is rain, this time limit may be adjusted to get more games in. In the elimination (quarter/semifinal) games, there will also be a 2:15 time limit but if a game is tied, it will continue beyond until we have a winning team. For the championship game, we will play with a 2:30 time limit, but if the game is tied, we will play until we have a winning team.

5) Tournament standings are kept by tournament points: +1pt for a win 0 pt for a tie -1 pt for a loss

6) Tiebreakers: a) head to head (only if all tied teams played each other) b) average runs allowed c) average run differential (10 run max) d) average runs scored e) coin flip. If a team forfeits a game, they automatically lose all tiebreakers.

**7) Modified Pitching rules**—The construct of teams today makes it nearly impossible to play a 2-3 day tournament and be able to go by pitch count. We will use modified pitching rules that are similar to One Nation and the old Nations baseball pitching rules. A pitcher is allowed 7 innings in a day and 10 in the tournament. In addition, if a pitcher throws more than 3 innings in a day, that pitcher cannot pitch the next day. One pitch constitutes an inning. So for instance if a pitcher pitches to one batter in the third inning, pitches the 4th and 5th inning, and throws one pitch in the 6th inning, that would count towards 4 innings.

Innings pitched must be reported to the tournament.

8) Bat Rules: 11u-12u must be labeled USSSA bat. 13u—USSSA bat -8 max diff. 14u-- USSSA -5 bats max diff for National and Central pools. Only BBCOR -3 for American pool.

9) Tournament run spread rule—15 after 3 inn, 12 after 4 inn, 10 after 5 inn, **8 after 6 inn**

10) We are following league rules on speed up—run for pitcher or catcher at any time. If roster batting, it is the last out recorded. If not roster batting, it must be someone not in the lineup.

**--please do realize that all other rules not listed here go by league rules which are at www.ohioprospectsleague.org**

**TOURNAMENT EXPENSES/REFUND POLICY**

--Umpires & Baseballs—each team will pay one umpire--$60 for 11u-13u, and $65 for 14u and bring two new league baseballs for each game.

--Each team has already paid the OPL for the field costs, medals for winners and runners up, and 5 Tool and One Nation fee to make the tournament a Nations Qualifier (included in price of tourn.)

--Refunds: if the whole tournament is rained out, you will receive a full refund. If games are played, here is the computation for the refund:

-- Since $50 ($25 sent to 5 Tool and $25 sent to One Nation) to make this a state qualifier for both organizations, if one only game is played, then teams will get 50% refund.

-- If two or three games are played, there are no refunds!

\*\*\***Each team needs to report their score and innings pitched! Text it to 440-725-9293.\*\*\*\***

**\*\*\*The tournament reserves the right to change the schedule based on weather issues. This may include changing locations, game times, tournament format, and shortening time limits. Please inform your parents\*\*\***