

# Oaks Dads' Club

## Select Baseball Guidelines

2024

As adopted and approved for use by the ODC Corporate Board of Directors, and  
issued by the ODC Baseball Board of Directors



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## 1.0 Overview

The Oaks Dads' Club (ODC) Select Baseball Program is designed to provide a higher level of training and competition to those players that have a desire to develop their skills beyond that offered at the recreational sports level. This program is an integral part of the ODC program, and requires a significant parental and player commitment.

The purpose of the Select Baseball Program is to provide a platform to effectively operate select sports teams within the ODC community and to help all participants develop the fundamental skills and aptitude to play competitive sports beyond recreational levels.

The ODC Mission Statement applies to the ODC Select Baseball Program: "The mission of Oaks Dads Club shall be to stimulate, promote and foster activities designed to provide a richer and more wholesome life for the young people of the area."

The ODC Select Sports Program offers:

- Higher level coaching
- Access to ODC insurance and facilities
- Competition with other Select Baseball Program teams
- Advanced development for playing at higher levels, like middle school and high school

The ODC Corporate Board ("the Board") will decide, according to a vote under its rules, whether it will oversee governance over the Select program or delegate such governance to the ODC Baseball Board ("Baseball Board"). Unless the Board decides otherwise, the Corporate Board will retain its right to coordinate ODC facility use and use of the ODC logo. Governance of the Select Baseball Program includes responsibility for overseeing the following areas:

- Program guideline enforcement
- Final approval of teams, managers and coaches
- Dispute resolution

## 2.0 Teams

ODC may offer select sports programs in each age group, given there is sufficient interest from both parents and players and sufficient coaching and player talent exists within each age group.

An ODC Select team shall only be organized if there are a sufficient number of players, confirmed by the Baseball Board, with a talent level able to field a competitive team and a head coach as identified and committed to the team.

The formation of an ODC Select team requires application to the Baseball Board for approval. Multiple teams within a specific age classification may be allowed. The initial Select team will receive priority in the player selection process, although player parents hold the final decision on team assignment if there is interest from more than one team. Any player recruiting actions by team managers or coaches deemed to be dishonest or malicious, as determined by the Board will be subject to forfeiture of the team Charter.

Only ODC Bats teams that are approved by the Baseball Board; play under the Bats name; wear the Bats colors of navy blue, red and white; and feature the ODC logo on their uniforms shall be eligible for free use of ODC fields without paying rental fees, insurance or other benefits. Team uniform selection and fee collections are the responsibility of the respective team managers.

All Bats teams will have priority for field usage over outside field rentals, including non-Bats teams composed of ODC players, but during Spring and Fall ODC seasons, field usage will be subject to availability based on season schedules.

### **3.0 Team Manager and head coach**

Each ODC Select Sport team requires a Baseball Board approved team manager/head coach to coordinate and handle all matters related to the team. These responsibilities include:

- Coordination with the Baseball Board
- Communication with player parents
- Scheduling team practice
- Scheduling and payment of team games and tournaments
- Manage team funds and accounting for team expenditures
- Setting player fees
- Purchase of team uniforms and supplies
- Negotiation of fees and payment for any professional coaching, if applicable
- Team social media postings

When selecting the team head coaches the following criteria are evaluated:

- Interest in coaching
- Ability to positively represent ODC
- Coaching experience
- Ability to communicate effectively with the players and parents
- Any previous written complaints
- Any other pertinent information regarding the individuals' qualifications to serve in this capacity
- Passing of an ODC administered background check

The head coach will be responsible for the following:

- Player evaluation and selection
- Team practice and workout schedules
- Head coach at all tournament games

All team managers and coaches are reminded that they represent the ODC Select Program. They are responsible for the well-being of each team member.

The Baseball Board reserves the right to remove any team manager or coach from the team for cause. All managers, head and assistant coaches are required to be members in good standing of ODC and pass an annual background check administered by ODC.

## **4.0 Players**

100% of 8U and younger teams and greater than 50% of 9U and older teams must be active or former ODC regular season players. At no point should a non-ODC player take a spot that could be held by a suitably talented and similarly skilled available ODC player, as determined by the Head Coach. A player can only participate on one ODC Select team.

Players in the 8U age group or younger are required to participate in the ODC recreational baseball league as follows: one season as 7U (either fall or spring) and one season as 8U (either fall or spring). Players in older age groups are not required to participate in the ODC recreational baseball league.

All Bats registered players will be required to pay an ODC registration fee in the Spring and Fall each year equal to the cost of the recreational baseball league registration, less raffle ticket buyout, to cover costs for field rentals, lights, etc. (the "Bats Season Registration Fee"). If a Bats player is required or elects to participate in the ODC recreational baseball season for a given season in addition to playing on a Bats team, their Bats Season Registration Fee is waived for that season.

All newly formed teams shall hold an open tryout session. Established Bats teams are not required to hold an open tryout session for subsequent seasons. However, in the event there are open roster spots on the established team, an open tryout session shall be held to replace or add any new players to the team roster. All current ODC players must be invited to participate in tryouts.

All Select program team tryout dates and related information must be posted on the ODC website and shall be communicated to the division parents of players for that group. The Head Coach for the Select team is responsible for disseminating information concerning such tryout dates and times to the Baseball Board.

Player evaluation tryouts will be set up and conducted by the team coach. All players will be assessed on basic baseball skills: fielding, throwing, hitting, and running. Players will also be evaluated on their aptitude for the various skilled positions such as outfield, infield, pitching and catching. Player selections may be based upon the results of this evaluation process along with how the talents and attitude of each player best contribute to the overall chemistry

of the team. Coaches' evaluations from previous seasons or league tryouts can also be used in the selection process. Team selection results will be communicated to all participating players.

Interested players should be reminded of the commitment required to participate in the ODC program. Tournament schedules are within the discretion of team manager and coaches for each team.

Unlike the recreational league, select baseball does not guarantee playing time for every player on the team. Playing time is the coach's discretion based on the commitment of time and energy from the players as well as specific game situations. Both individual and overall team development are the goals of this program. Thus, players typically earn playing time provided they are dedicated and maintain a positive attitude. Select ball is a team sport, so every position is very critical. Players will be put in positions that are best suited for them to best help the team, as determined by the coaches. It is the responsibility of the team coach to communicate this to the players and parents.

Parents can talk to coaches about their own child's situation at any time with regards to what they can improve on, how the player is doing and what the player can do to improve. Coaches should not discuss individual playing time or situations about another player on the team with parents of other players.

## **5. Participation requirements**

The ODC Select program is self-funded. Individual team fees can vary significantly depending upon the number of games and tournaments each team decides to play. Teams are allowed to solicit Baseball Board approved sponsorships and/or have fundraising events to offset out-of-pocket expenses, such as uniforms, tournament fees or other costs.

In addition to the required fees stated above, each charter team shall be required to provide at least 20 hours of adult volunteer time to ODC. Each Bats team shall be required to complete one service project per year involving the players on the team.

The team manager is responsible for managing the cash flow and expenses for the season. A summary report should be prepared and available for distribution throughout the season, upon request, so parents and the Baseball Board can view how team funds are being spent.

Funds received for participation in the Select program are typically non-refundable if a player subsequently elects to leave a team. Disputes concerning withdrawal from the Select program and refunds for fees paid shall be submitted to the Baseball Board, in writing, for resolution.

## **6. Grievances**

Management of all questions, concerns and problems will always be handled first on a team level. The Baseball Board encourages the player to approach the head coach or manager to ensure interaction and to attempt a resolution. If resolution cannot be agreed upon, then the parent and coach should attempt to resolve the issue. If the issue is still not resolved, the next step would be escalation to the Baseball Board. The final step would be to file a written grievance with the Corporate Board. The Baseball Board will try and resolve the issue with all parties' interests in mind.

It is not the intent of the grievance process to manage or address day-to-day handling of teams. Game decisions such as playing time and position play are not considered grievance issues and will not be heard by the Baseball Board. These types of issues are within the coach's discretion and must be handled between the coach, player and or parent.

## **7. Notices**

All notices and writings submitted to the Board shall be sent to the following address:

Oaks Dads Club  
ATTENTION: Board of Directors  
3410 E. TC Jester Blvd.  
Houston, TX 77018

All notices and writings sent to the Board in connection with the Select program, or any dispute concerning the Select program as provided in these Guidelines, shall be made or sent to the addresses set forth above.