

**SPRING 2008
OCEE PARK ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
GAME TIME LIMITS & APPLICATION**

Baseball

Tee-Ball	65 minutes (1 hour, 5 minutes)
Farm, A	75 minutes (1 hour, 15 minutes)
AA, AAA	90 minutes (1 hour, 30 minutes)
Majors American	105 minutes (1 hour, 45 minutes)
Majors National	105 minutes (1 hour, 45 minutes)
Juniors, Seniors	105 minutes (1 hour, 45 minutes)

Softball

Farm	75 minutes (1 hour, 15 minutes)
AA, Majors In-Park	80 minutes (1 hour, 30 minutes)
Majors NGFA *	80 minutes (1 hour, 20 minutes) *Plays by NGFA time limits
Senior 13-16 *	90 minutes (1 hour, 30 minutes) *InterLeague time limits may differ

Application & Interpretation of Time Limits

1. Games are still subject to a **5-inning limit** (Farm & A baseball, Farm softball), **6-inning limit** (AA to Juniors baseball and AA to Seniors softball), and **7-inning limit** (Seniors baseball) irrespective of the time limit and any time remaining (see note on extra inning games below). A game which reaches the maximum number of innings as defined above in which one team is ahead is called a **regulation game**.
2. If time remains in the time limit following the end of the HOME team at bat, a new inning may be started (all leagues) provided the game is not a regulation game at that time. Note that a new inning is defined as having started once the final out of the HOME team at-bat has occurred.
3. If at the end of regulation play, a game is tied and time remains in the time limit, **extra innings** may be played. However, once the time limit is reached regardless of which team is batting and regardless of the score, the game is **terminated** and is recorded as a tie for purposes of the standings. The game is

also terminated immediately if it becomes a regulation game (inning is completed and the VISITOR is ahead or HOME team is ahead at any time in extra inning play).

4. **Some leagues implement run limits** (Farm to AAA baseball, all softball leagues) and this may impact the application of the time limit to the game. In a league where run limits exist, if a game is in progress at the expiration of the time limit and the outcome of the game based on the score at the completion of the previous inning could not be affected because of run limits in effect, the game is terminated immediately. For example, in an AAA baseball game with a 5-run limit per team per inning, the Rangers are leading the Tigers by 6 runs (score is 10-4) at the completion of the 5th inning. A 6th inning is started prior to the expiration of the time limit but the time limit is reached before the 6th inning can be completed. Since the Tigers are limited to 5 runs in their half of their inning, the outcome of the game can not be changed by completing the inning. Consequently, the game is terminated at the time limit. If however the outcome of the game can potentially be altered by completing the inning, the inning is played to its conclusion.
5. **Some leagues do not implement run limits** (Majors American to Seniors baseball) but in an effort to keep these games on schedule, a "run ahead" rule is used with respect to time limits. If the time limit is reached during an inning and one team was ahead by 10+ runs at the start of that inning, the game is terminated at the time limit and the score reverts to the last completed inning for purposes of the game result (whether it be a tie or one team wins). Any inning that is started in a league that does not use run limits in which the difference in score at the start of the inning is 9 runs or less will be played to completion. This rule is designed to allow teams to play to the time limit without terminating the game early due to the mercy rule but takes into account that if the mercy rule had been implemented, the game would have been terminated early.
6. Leagues that implement run limits do not have OPEN innings at any time (during the week or weekends).
7. **Baseball leagues do not use the standard mercy rule** (team ahead by 10 runs after the conclusion of 3 ½ innings when HOME team is ahead or 4 innings when the VISITOR is ahead to terminate a game but instead play according to the time limit and inning rules above. **Softball leagues implement NGFA and ASA "run ahead" rules** and games may be called prior to the completion of the time limit based on the application of these "run ahead" rules.
8. Note that baseball leagues that interleague with other parks may be subject to run limit and time limit interpretations that differ from the above when playing at another park. Please prepare in advance by reviewing any run and/or time limit rules in effect for the park at which you will play. All softball leagues that currently interleague with other programs play by consistent rules without regard to the park so no issues should arise with respect to run and time limits in those softball leagues.

If you have questions about the applicable time and run limits in your league, please contact your League Commissioner. If all coaches and umpires have a thorough knowledge of the time and run limits in their respective leagues, game management will be much simpler.