

PLO Travel Team Program Rules

Revised August 2019



Number of Teams:

There is no set limit to the number of travel teams per age group. The age groups are as follows:

8/Under
9/Under
10/Under
11/Under
12/Under
13/Under
14/Under
HS Team

The Sports Board will determine whether it is prudent to add additional travel teams per age group, based on interest, participation, and/or registration.

All travel teams in each age division will take the name Pembroke Lakes Bulldogs:

1st Team: Pembroke Lakes Bulldogs (Red)
2nd Team: Pembroke Lakes Bulldog (White)
3rd Team: Pembroke Lakes Bulldogs (Blue)

All team names are determined by the sports board.

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Player Selection & Eligibility:

Travel Coaches will have complete discretion in choosing players for their team. This selection process will be done through try-outs and invitations. However, while a tryout is not a requirement, the Travel head coach may choose to conduct one or more at his/her own discretion prior to the beginning of the next travel season. The coach should select players that possess skills, attitude and sportsmanship qualities as these players will be representatives of the park.

All players must be registered with Pembroke Lakes Optimist prior to the start of each season. Travel teams must be comprised of a minimum of 50% of Pembroke Pines residents.

Pilfering:

Pilfering or recruitment from within our own travel teams is not allowed. This is a courtesy and shows respect to your fellow coaches. If a player wishes to leave his current team to play for another PLO travel team he will either need to leave the park and play travel elsewhere or play REC at PLO for a season.

Exceptions to the rule are as follows:

1. Current coach plans to release the player from his team at the end of the season and agrees to allow the player to play for another PLO travel team. This coach must sign a release form for this player.
2. Player plans to leave his current team after the season ends and the current coach agrees to allow the player to play for another PLO travel team. The coach must sign a release form for this player.
3. A new player into the Pembroke Lakes program is not considered a PLO player until he/she signs a commitment form to a team. Once the player signs the form he/she cannot go to another PLO team without the above release form being signed by the current coach.

Any of the above situations must be approved by the Travel Commissioner.

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Playing Up:

A player will be allowed to play up based on one of the following criteria:
The player misses the April 30 age cut-off by 12 months or less for the respective team. Once a younger player is selected to a team they would stay with that team as long as they are part of Pembroke Lakes Optimist.

Guidelines for playing up depending on birth year as follows:

8U can play 9U as long as they meet the above age criteria. 9U can play 10U as long as they meet the above age criteria. 10U can play 11U as long as they meet the above age criteria. 11U can play 12U as long as they meet the above age criteria. 12U can play 13U as long as they meet the above age criteria. 13U can play 14U as long as they meet the above age criteria.

Travel Teams may choose to play up, 1 age group, under the following criteria:

8U teams **cannot** play up.
9U teams can play up to 10U.
10U teams **cannot** play up.
11U teams can play up to 12U.
12U teams **cannot** play up.
13U teams can play up to 14U.
14U teams can play up to 15U.

Before any coach/team decides to play up, authorization must be granted by the travel commissioner.

Travel players may participate on two baseball teams at the same time if it does not conflict with his PLO team or the governing travel league rules. A player is also allowed to play in tournaments with other teams if it does not conflict with his PLO team or the governing travel league rules.

After the season begins, in the event that a travel team losses a player for any reason, the Travel Commissioner and Youth Activities Director may grant permission for a travel team to add players.

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Removal of a player from the team roster:

Once the season begins, a player can NOT be removed from a team unless prior authorization is received from both the Travel Commissioner and Youth Activities Director (YAD).

Replacement Players (Farm System):

If a Travel Team needs to find a replacement player in order to avoid a forfeit, the following process needs to be followed:

1. The travel commissioner must be notified prior to the start of the game.
2. The player should be a registered travel player at PLO.
3. Under no circumstances should a travel team utilize a non-registered player to play in any regular season game.

Registration Deadline Dates:

When the Recreational League (REC) draft is complete, current registered REC players are no longer eligible to be recruited for Travel.

Current Travel rosters must be presented to PLO two (2) weeks prior to the scheduled Recreational Season draft. Any changes in the roster must be reported to and approved by the Travel Commissioner prior to being made.

Travel League Commissioner:

To ensure absolute consistency and messaging, a Travel League Commissioner will be appointed by the Youth Activities Director. Like the Recreational League Commissioners, the Commissioner will manage the Travel league like a division.

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Travel Coach Selection & Eligibility:

Travel Head Coaches will be selected based on various criteria including, previous coaching in the recreational and/or travel program, and volunteer hours in the park and baseball knowledge. As a Travel Head Coach you are representing Pembroke Lakes Optimist at all team events and games. You are expected to conduct yourself appropriately. Travel Head Coaches will be nominated by the Travel Commissioner and subject to approval by the sports board.

Individuals interested in coaching a travel team in their respective age group must inform both the YAD and Travel Commissioner. At the end of each travel season the sports board will meet to select and/or approve all travel coaches for the next season. The same consideration that are taken into account for the selection of recreational coaches, all-star coaches, etc. must be evaluated in the selection of PLO travel coaches. In fact, because these travel teams will be representing PLO in Tournaments and Travel League play, it is imperative that the selected coaches be knowledgeable, fair in the player selection process, organized and true "ambassadors" for the PLO program.

Travel Head Coaches will select their assistant coaches. All Travel Head & Assistant coaches must be approved by the Sports Board, must pass a Background check in accordance with the City of Pembroke Pines. All Travel Head Coaches must be optimist club members. All Travel Assistant Coaches must be submitted to the Travel Commissioner two (2) weeks prior to the start of the season. No Head Coach or Assistant Coach is authorized to be on the field or in the dugout, under any circumstances, unless they have been approved by the Travel Commissioner/Sports Board and passed a Background Check. Any violation will result in the suspension of the Travel Head Coach for one (1) game. Subsequent violations will result in additional game suspension and/or up to removal of the Head Travel Coach from PLO.

A maximum of four (4) coaches (Head & Assistants) will be allowed for all age groups. The only exception will be for 8U Travel Teams, who will be allowed to add a fifth (5th) coach, Team mom or scorekeeper, to assist inside the dugout. NO part time or replacement coaches are allowed and will NOT be approved. Any violation will result in the suspension of the Travel Head Coach for one (1) game. Subsequent violations will result in additional game suspension and/or up to removal of the Head Travel Coach from PLO.

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Registration Fees, Team Expenses and Team Accounts:

Travel players will need to complete the PLO Travel season registration process. They will pay a minimum of the same fees as the Recreational players and will be subject to all fees imposed by the City of Pembroke Pines or any other entity where required. The registration fees (excluding any fees paid out by PLO) will be placed in an account with PLO in the team's name. These funds will be used at the discretion of the Head Coach for team expenses only and subject to approval by the Travel Commissioner and/or the PLO Treasurer.

Team expenses will consist of uniforms, umpire fees, tournament registration fees, travel league registration fees, insurance, baseballs, equipment and/or travel expenses for out of town tournaments. If the Travel Team seeks reimbursement for equipment and/or travel expenses, the Travel Team's Head Coach must supply proof of purchase and proof of payment to the treasurer for payment or reimbursement for any out of pocket expenses. This list is not meant to capture all expenses.

All expenses over \$1,500 are subject to the Pembroke Lakes Optimist President's approval. All Team expenses, upon approval by the Travel Commissioner and/or PLO Treasurer, will be paid for by PLO. These fees will be deducted from the Team's account and noted on the team's ledger. Examples of some of these expenses include: uniforms, team insurance, league fees, umpire fees, etc. PLO requires a \$500 sponsor fee per season. This fee will be deducted from the Team's account and noted on the Team's ledger, at a time decided by the Treasurer, but during the current season.

All funds (money) for all PLO Travel Teams are required to be deposited directly into the PLO bank account. The funds will be noted on each Team's accounting ledger by the PLO Treasurer. Travel Coaches are NOT allowed to receive checks addressed to them or deposit/transfer any money into any other account. All funds collected should be provided to the Travel Commissioner or PLO Treasurer within three (3) days of being collected.

Each Team's Head Coach is responsible for maintaining funds in their Team's account. Team accounting ledgers will be provided by the PLO Treasurer on a monthly basis or upon request. No team will have any expense paid for without funds in their account. If a Team account does not have sufficient funds to pay for outstanding or upcoming fees, i.e. umpires, the Team's field space will be suspended and umpires for games will be cancelled. PLO will NOT pay for any outstanding fees, until funds are deposited and cleared by the bank.

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Fundraising:

All Travel Teams are authorized to conduct fundraisers for teams' expenses and/or non-local tournaments. All fundraisers must be approved by the PLO YAD and the Travel Commissioner prior to be conducted. Any fundraiser that involves the collection of cash, i.e. chocolate sales, Publix cash donations, etc., will require that two (2) coaches and two (2) Team parents be present during the money count. The Travel Commissioner will provide a PLO money form to be completed with the money total collected and all four (4) signatures verifying the total is accurate. The money and the PLO money form will be provided the same day, if possible, to the Travel Commissioner or the PLO Treasurer. In the event that both the Travel Commissioner or the PLO Treasurer are unavailable, the money and PLO money form shall be provided the next day or day after, but not to exceed three (3) days from the date of the conclusion of the fundraiser. All funds collected must be deposited directly into the PLO bank account.

Travel League Participation:

Although the best scenario would be a situation where every PLO Travel team played in the same Travel League (i.e. AABC, USSSA, Florida Premier etc.), it may not be possible. The goal of the PLO Travel program will be to play in the most competitive and local travel league in the respective divisions.

Home Games:

Home games will be played at PLO (Flamingo Park) and Walnut Creek Park on Monday nights, Tuesday nights, Thursday nights and Saturday after the last scheduled Recreational game. All other days must be approved by the Travel Commissioner prior to scheduling. Travel Teams sharing the same field will have equal opportunity in scheduling games on a particular field: (ex; 9's and 10's playing on field 4 and 8 will alternate fields each week.)

All travel teams will be required to play a minimum of 50% of their league games at Pembroke Lakes Optimist Club, Flamingo Park (1900 NW 122nd Terrace, Pembroke Pines, FL 33026 or Walnut Creek Park (7701 Taft Street, Pembroke Pines, FL 33024) each season.

Travel League Participation:

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Sponsors:

Sponsors are recommended for each travel team. Each travel team is responsible for acquiring and managing their sponsors. This includes the ordering of signs or banners to display in the park. All signage and sponsorship banners cannot be displayed without the approval of the Youth Activities Director or PLO President. All Sponsor checks shall be made payable to PLO (Pembroke Lakes Optimist).

Concession Duty:

All Travel teams will be subject to Concession duty and to participate in any mandated optimist event (ex; PLO Hosted Tournament, Work Parties, Family Day).

Roster Size:

Team rosters must be made up of a minimum of 11 players.

Travel playing rules:

Will be governed in the league they are participating in (i.e.: Premier, AABC etc.) In addition to the above travel rules, each travel team must also abide by sections I, II, III, and XII of the Pembroke Lakes General rules with the exception of game rules as mentioned above as well as the travel specific rules also mentioned above (See pages 7-9 for the Pembroke Lakes General rules).

Failure to abide by any of these rules including those from the above mentioned sections of the general rules will result in suspension of coaching staff and or the termination of a team. The sports board also reserves the right to administer a penalty based on the severity of any rule violation.

Rules will be reviewed annually at the end of the Spring Season. No rule changes will be allowed without a majority vote of the PLO sports board.

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TRAVEL UNIFORM POLICY:

All PLO travel baseball teams MUST adhere to the uniform policy exactly as described in the uniform policy. The travel uniform vendor will be selected by the PLO Sports Board and will serve as the sole vendor required to supply all uniforms. This is done to ensure payment, uniformity and compliance with the uniform requirements of all teams. All uniform purchases must be approved by either the Youth Activities Director, Travel Commissioner, Vice President and/or President prior to placing an order, NO EXCEPTIONS. Any uniform invoices not approved by either the Youth Activities Director, Travel Commissioner, Vice President and/or President will NOT be paid for by PLO.

Uniform options and vendor will be reviewed at the end of each Spring Season by the PLO Sports Board. Changes to uniforms and/or vendor are subject to vote by the sports board.

The Travel Team's Head Coach found in violation of the Travel Uniform Policy will be subject to a one (1) game suspension for the first offense. Subsequent violations of the uniform policy, by the same team/coach, will result in additional suspension of Travel Head Coach from games and/or up to removal of the head coach from the PLO Program. All violations of the Travel Uniform Policy will be brought before the Youth Activities Director, Travel Commissioner, Vice President and President for a final ruling.

Home Uniform: Only the PLO approved jerseys and pants may be worn for home games. Practice shirts are NOT allowed to be worn for home games. The official home pants are WHITE with red piping and/or the WHITE, NAVY or RED sublimated pants. Gray pants and/or Light Blue pants or uniforms are NOT permitted to be worn for home games.

Away Uniform: Only the PLO approved jerseys and pants may be worn for away games. Practice shirts are NOT allowed to be worn for away games. The official away pants are GRAY with red piping and/or the NAVY, RED or LIGHT BLUE sublimated pants. White pants and/or uniforms are NOT permitted to be worn for away games.

TOURNAMENT UNIFORMS: Any combination of jerseys, practice shirts and pants may be worn for tournament play. Only the jerseys, practice shirts, pants, hats, belts, socks and stirrups specifically described in this uniform policy and/or displayed on the uniform page may be worn for tournament play.

HATS: All hats for Bulldogs teams may be worn for home games, away games and/or tournament games. Coaches will have sole discretion as to which hat their team wears.

BELT & SOCKS: Red or Navy Blue belt and Red or Navy Blue socks are the official color used for all uniforms and MUST be worn for all home and away games. Red or Navy Blue stirrups with navy, red and/or white stripes are optional.

PRACTICE JERSEYS: MUST be White, Gray, Red and/or Navy and be the same shirts designed and approved by the PLO Sports Board. Coaches will have sole discretion as to which color shirts their team's use for practice and/or Tournament game

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PEMBROKE LAKES GENERAL RULES

I. Sports Board

- A. The baseball and softball program will be directed by a Sports Board made up of a Youth Activities Director, a Softball Coordinator, and the Commissioner of each of the baseball and softball divisions (leagues) and the Umpire Director(s). The Club President may appoint additional members.
- B. The Youth Activities Director (Director) will be appointed and serve at the discretion of the President of the Optimist Club or Pembroke Lakes (OPL). The President Elect will appoint the Youth Activities Director by July 1 of each year. The duties of the Director include, but are not limited to, the following: he will preside over the Sports Board and assume responsibility for the overall operation of the baseball and softball programs.
As head of the Sports Board, he will convene meetings as needed; select Commissioners, Softball Coordinator, and Umpire Director(s); supervise the activities of his appointees; supervise drafts, opening day, and trophy day; post sign-up sheets; coordinate the all-star competition and all tournaments. He will report Sports Board activities to the club.
1. The Softball Coordinator is appointed and serves at the discretion of the Director to assist in coordinating the activities of the softball leagues. Duties will be assigned by the Director and shall include, but not be limited to: recommendations on tournaments and travel leagues, monitoring rule changes, coordinating softball fund-raising activities, and assisting the Club Treasurer in monitoring traveling team accounts.
- C. A Commissioner will direct each league/division. The Youth Activities Director, in consultation with the OPL officers, will appoint the Commissioner of each of the baseball and softball divisions. Commissioners report to and serve at the discretion of the Youth Activities Director. The Youth Activities Director may appoint assistant commissioners as necessary.
- The duties of the Commissioners include, but are not limited to, the following: recommend managers for the league, conduct league drafts, allocate players from waiting lists, resolve disputes among managers and coaches, resolve disputes between managers and parents, nominate all-star managers and coaches, conduct all-star selections, set up make-up games, and generally conduct the business of the league in an orderly fashion.
1. No member may be Commissioner in a league where they are managing or coaching except Colt/Palomino Division.
 2. No member may be Commissioner in a league where their child plays, unless approved by the Club President and Youth Activities Director.
- D. The Umpire Director(s) will direct the umpire program. The Youth Activities Director will decide the number of Umpire Directors. Umpire Director(s) report to and serve at the discretion of the Youth Activities Director. Umpire Director(s) will assign umpires for each game, evaluate performance of the umpires, and hold clinics for the training of umpires.

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- E. The Sports Board is the interpreter and the arbitrator of these rules and adjudicator of protests, complaints and any situations that the Youth Activities Director, Softball Coordinator, Commissioner and/or Umpire Director cannot resolve.
- F. A quorum of 60% of the Sports Board members is necessary to reach a decision.
- G. Decisions of the sports Board are made by a majority vote.
- H. The Youth Activities Director votes only when he/she casts the deciding vote in case of a tie.
- I. Sports Board members must be PLO club members.
- J. Guests may speak on behalf of individuals who come before the sports Board at the discretion of the Youth Activities Director.
- K. Sports Board members shall be expected to attend a minimum of 50% of Sports Board meetings per calendar quarter. Failure to do so will result in removal from the Board.
- L. Any expenditure over \$1,500 must be approved by the Executive Board.

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I. Registration

- A. Registration in the program is open to all residents of Pembroke Pines. Those players that reside outside of Pembroke Pines will be subject to a surcharge. Fee to be determined by the City of Pembroke Pines.
- B. Registration will be held on dates set by the Club Registrar and approved by the Club President/Youth Activities Director.
- C. A Registrar will be appointed by the Club President. The Registrar will answer to the Youth Activities Director and Club President.
- D. Refunds will be given prior to the tryout.
- E. Any resident of the City of Pembroke Pines has priority in registration over nonresidents, provided they register by the last published registration date.
- F. Players will not be placed on a team until the registration fee has been paid in full and all other required paperwork is in order.

II. Selection of Managers and Coaches

- A. All managers will be recommended by the respective League Commissioners and approved by the Sports Board. **All** managers, coaches and assistant coaches must submit to and pass a background check mandated by the City of Pembroke Pines, have their photograph taken and wear their identification badge while on the field.
- B. Selection of managers shall give preference to club members over non-members. In addition, the following criteria shall be taken into account in the selection of managers:
 - 1. Volunteer work
 - 2. Club leadership
 - 3. Meeting attendance
 - 4. Coaching ability and experience
 - 5. Organization and interaction skills
 - 6. Parent and player response experience.
- C. Managers must meet team concession stand work requirements (see V.I 0). Managers, prospective managers or their representatives may be expected to do the following:
 - 1. Volunteer work service
 - 2. Umpire baseball or softball games
 - 3. Announce Friday night games
- D. New managers will draft new teams or have the choice of taking over an existing team if their child is already on the existing team.
- E. Existing managers must go through the same selection process each season.
- F. Managers may coach more than one team within the program (not in the same division) upon approval of the Sports Board.
- G. Appeals on manager appointments will go before the Sports Board.
- H. These rules and the Sports Board will adjudicate discipline of managers and coaches.
- I. All managers or their assistant coaches are required to attend mandatory meetings and coaching clinics. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action by the Youth Activities Director/Sports Board.

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XII. Conduct of Managers, Coaches, Players, Club Members and Parents

1. Managers, coaches, and club members ejected from a game shall be:
 - a. Suspended for the next game following the first ejection.
 - b. Suspended for the remainder of the season on the second ejection in each division only.
2. Managers and coaches voluntarily forfeiting a game shall be suspended for three games and may face further disciplinary review by the Sports Board.
3. Players ejected from a game shall:
 - a. Serve a one game suspension in the next played game following the ejection.
 - b. A player ejected a second time shall serve a two game suspension in the next two played games following the ejection.
 - c. Following a third ejection, the player shall be suspended for the remainder of the season.
4. It is the responsibility of the manager and coaches of each team to control the behavior of the team's parents, and unsportsmanlike conduct by the parents can lead to the ejection of the manager and coaches.
5. Players cannot remove their helmet until entering the dugout.
6. Managers, coaches and umpires are prohibited from using tobacco products on or around the field during practices, warm-ups and games.
7. Managers, coaches, players and parents will be required to sign a code of conduct prior to the start of every season.