
Rules of Play

T-Ball
2020

1. General

- 1.1 The league is non-competitive. Game scores and league standings are not kept.
- 1.2 There are no benchwarmers in the T-Ball league. All team members present play each inning in the field and at bat.
- 1.3 All the players on a team will bat to complete an offensive half-inning.
- 1.4 Outs are not called on this level of play however in effort to encourage defensive skill development and teamwork, it is encouraged that the Manager keep track of the number of outs recorded each inning by his own defense. This tracking need not be overemphasized with the Players, but should be used as an incentive to promote teamwork, and as a tracking tool for development through the season.

2. Game Play

- 2.1 Each game will be a 45 minute time limit. Do your best to get an equal number of at bats for each team
- 2.2 In the case of a game in progress being rained out, two full innings constitute a complete game

3. Field of Play

- 3.1 The home team Manager is responsible for ensuring that the field is prepared for play.
- 3.2 Bases shall be 50 feet apart.
- 3.3 An arc shall be marked with flat cones on the field between the base lines at ten (10) feet from home plate. Balls that do not pass this arc will be considered a foul ball.

4. Umpiring

- 4.1 Coaches from both teams will act as umpires for their each individual team.
- 4.2 The umpire for the batter will be used to determine if the ball has passed beyond the 10 foot arc

5. Offense

5.1 One offensive coach will be required to assist each batter on his/her team in adjusting the tee, assist in the batting process, and remove the bat and tee from the home plate area immediately after the batter bats the ball.

5.2 The offensive team should have a parent or coach at each base to help direct the base runners. Parent or coach must stand behind base to allow defense to make plays.

5.3 To start play, the hitting coach will check that the defense is ready, and then place ball on tee. The batter will swing until he/she hits a fair ball.

5.4 There are no strike outs or walks.

5.5 Base runners advance only one base per hit. Exception is "last batter" where all kids are to run all the way home.

5.6 A batter who intentionally or unintentionally throws a bat will get two warnings before removed from play for the remaining of that inning.

5.7 Players should be encouraged to slide into any base where a defensive play may occur.

5.8 Stealing bases and leading off base are not allowed.

5.9 Each member of each team batting one time constitutes a half-inning.

5.10 The "last batter" of the inning must be announced by the offensive coach to defensive team.

6. Defense

6.1 A maximum of three defensive coaches are permitted on the field to assist while the game is in progress. Coaches/parents must stand behind the defensive players. This will allow players to stay more focused on retrieving the ball.

6.2 Players take regular baseball positions with extra players filling in as needed. There is no catcher.

6.3 All players on a team must play infield and outfield during the game at least one inning. Coaches should use a depth or field chart to keep track of player positions.

6.4 The pitcher in T-Ball, located in the same general area of the diamond as the pitcher in regular baseball, does not pitch.

6.5 After a ball is hit into the field of play, fielder who has maintained control of ball will throw to first base. The play ends once first baseman tags first base.

- 1) Players may throw to other bases to make plays however it is encouraged to keep it very basic for this age.

6.6 Double and triple plays are not allowed.

6.7 All defensive players must stay on field until “last batter” touches home plate.

7. Inclement Weather

7.1 In the case of a game in progress being rained out, any game passing 2 innings constitutes a regulation game

7.2 The Baseball Rec Commissioner, Deputy Rec Baseball Commissioner or Head Coach will decide whether a game is to be played or should be postponed because of inclement weather or poor field conditions prior to the start of the game. Once the game starts, the Head Coaches shall determine whether the game should continue.

7.3 The home team Head Coach is responsible for checking the field in the event of inclement weather. He/she, in conjunction with the Baseball Rec Commissioner or Deputy Rec Baseball Commissioner, will determine whether the games can be played. If early games must be postponed, this does not mean that later games cannot be played, weather permitting.

7.4 In a questionable situation, coaches should call the Baseball Rec Commissioner or Deputy Rec Baseball Commissioner. Players should be instructed to call the head coach or the assistant coach to obtain the status of the game. **At no time will teams practice or play games when county closes fields.**

7.5 All officials, coaches, and players should assume that a game will be played unless they receive official notice that it has been canceled.

7.6 A game is considered a postponed game if the first pitch is not delivered.

7.7 The coaches should try and resolve all makeup games during a scheduled practice day. If unable to come to agreement please contact the Baseball Rec Commissioner and/or Deputy Rec Baseball Commissioner to help resolve. All efforts should be made to replay the game.

7.8 If lightening is spotted by the coaches, play is to be immediately suspended and shall restart after 15 minutes from the last sighting

8. Conduct and Sportsmanship

8.1 The team Manager is responsible for exemplifying and maintaining good sportsmanship at practices and games. Please review the coaches Code of Conduct for specific conduct expectations.

8.2 The team Manager is responsible for the conduct of his coaches, his players, and their parents.

8.3 A player, coach or parent guilty of misconduct in the judgment of the Manager is subject to disciplinary action by Leagues Board of Directors.

9. COVID-19 Guidelines

9.1 During this pandemic, coaches will take all necessary steps to ensure the safety of their players and mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Each league will issue its own specific guidelines that all opposing leagues must follow during scheduled games. As a general matter, all leagues will abide by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations to include, but not limited to, wearing masks when social distancing can't be done, maximizing social distancing, and cleaning high touch surfaces such as shared equipment. Player safety is the top priority, and coaches must work together to ensure appropriate mitigation steps are followed at all times and league rules are strictly followed.