



T-BALL RULES AND PROCEDURES

This is a recreational / instructional league for boys and girls, ages four and five. The objective of the T-Ball program is to help children enjoy and understand the game of baseball, to learn some skills of the game, and to help the child feel that he or she is an important part of a unified team, while learning fair play, good sportsmanship, and other wholesome and worthwhile character traits.

Field Dimensions

Bases are 50 feet apart. The pitching rubber is marked at 25 feet from the home plate. There is a 20' safety barrier painted outside of the playing field. Players should remain behind the safety barrier while their team is batting.

Umpires and Referees

Each team is required to provide an umpire to officiate the game. Their responsibilities are as follows:

Plate Umpire: Positioned at home plate behind the catcher. Assists with the placement of the tee, instructs and encourages the hitter, and also assists the referee in determining where the runners must stop their advancement.

Field Umpire: Determines from the infield where the runners must stop their advancement toward home plate. Assists the plate umpire to determine fouls down the third baseline and other plays where positioned with better views. The umpires will switch positions at each half

of each inning to enable them to better instruct their teams. The coach of the team at bat will be the plate umpire, and the coach of the team in the field will be the field umpire.

Batting

Every player on each team will bat every inning. The batting rotation should be changed up each inning. One way of accomplishing this is to follow the example rotation below:

1st inning: 1,2,3...10 2nd inning: 4,5,6...1,2,3 3rd inning: 8,9,10...5,6,7

Outs will be acknowledged, but the player shall remain on base to allow him/her to stay involved.

Base Runners

Players may not lead off or steal. Only when the ball is hit may they advance. If, however, a fly ball is caught, he must also tag up before advancing. All runners must stop advancing around the bases when the ball is in the grasp of an infielder who makes no attempt to make a play on any runner. However, if a runner has begun his attempt on the next base and is at least 1/3 of the way at that time, then he may continue at the risk of being put out. All runners must also stop when the ball is thrown out of play, but they are awarded one base for the overthrow.

Fielding

Each player will play every inning defensively. Players should learn to play all of the defensive positions. Coaches need to be sensitive to their players needs and not relegate anyone to only a minor defensive role. As everyone plays every inning, there will be no need for substitutions, but there should be some defensive shuffling each inning.

Miscellaneous

Each game will last three innings and will generally last an hour. Please do not carry over into the time allotted for the next game. If a problem arises that necessitates postponement, the coaches should work out the details of rescheduling the game at their own convenience.