

## **2024 T-Ball Rules (5&6 year olds)**

**PHILOSOPHY:** Remember Athletes 1<sup>st</sup>. Every decision you make as a coach should be in the best interest of your players and not the desire to win. We hope that helping young people to develop physically, psychologically and socially will always be more important to you than beating the other team. This does not mean winning isn't important, you should instill in your players the desire to win, to strive to do their best, to pursue excellence. However, the outcome of the game – winning or losing – is not the most important objective. If the players do their best, they will have succeeded, regardless of the outcome of the game. Help us say yes to better sports for kids!!!

1. All players will play on defense in this league; no one will sit out due to too many players. Extra players will play in the outfield – behind the base path. (Positions: Pitcher, Catcher, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, shortstop and outfield). **Pitcher must have at least one foot in the circle.**
2. Players must play each position throughout the season, exception - catcher. Players may play the same position for 2 consecutive innings in a game.
3. Only rubber cleats or tennis (gym) shoes will be allowed. Shirt/uniform must be worn and visible.
4. Games will be 55 minutes long, not playing out the inning. Time will start when the 1<sup>st</sup> batter is called.
5. **Catchers must wear batting helmet with face mask and chin strap.**
6. No score will be kept on scoreboard – no standings will be kept.
7. A half inning will consist of a team batting through their lineup.
8. **PITCHING:** Coaches will pitch to their own players. Each batter will be given 3 pitches...if the ball is not put into play, the tee will be used to put the ball in play.
  - a) Coaches will not be allowed to field the ball or interfere in any way. If the coach interferes – batter is out – runners are frozen (umpire's discretion)
  - b) **The defensive team must supply a person behind the catcher to help shag balls. No negative remarks!**
9. **BATTING:** All players will bat each inning. Coaches should change the batting order each inning, so the same batter does not bat last all the time.
  - a) The ball must travel beyond the 10-foot line to be playable.
  - b) All batters must wear a **batting helmet** when batting and when running the bases. **All helmets must have a face mask and chin strap.**
  - c) Batters may not **throw their bat**; first offense – team warning, second offense – batter will be called out (runners frozen).
  - d) No on deck batter will be allowed – all players must be in the dugout. Batter may not approach the plate until umpire instructs them to do so.
10. The infield fly rule will not be in effect.
11. Base paths will be 50 feet.
12. Batters/runners will be allowed only one (1) base on an infield hit – two (2) bases on hits that go beyond the bases - umpire's call. Runners may not advance on any overthrow!
13. **Batters/runners that are out at a base will need to go to the dugout.**
14. There is no stealing or leading off. Base runners may not leave the base until the ball is hit.
15. Safety Base – First Base: On a batted ball the batter should use the yellow part of the base. Fielders should use the white part of the base. Once the batter/runner has passed the base they should then use the white part of the base.
16. **COACHES:** DEFENSE: Two coaches/adults are allowed on the playing field to help the players.  
Position is umpire's discretion. One Adult must be behind the catcher to help shag balls.  
OFFENSE: Coaches/adults may be in the coach's boxes on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> baseline.  
One coach/adult must help the batter.
17. At the end of the game players with line up and give high 5's please show good sportsmanship!