

SOUTH SUBURBAN COMMUNITY LEAGUE T-BALL LEAGUE RULES

GOVERNMENT

The T-Ball program is organized by the and shall be under the direct supervision and control of the Recreation Directors for the involved communities. The enforcement of all rules and regulations shall be the duty of the Recreation Directors. The decision of the Directors shall be final in all cases. All managers, coaches, players, umpires, scorers and other personnel involved in this program are expected to subscribe to the spirit of all rules and regulations contained herein.

OBJECTIVES

- To develop physical and mental baseball skills.
- To develop a basic knowledge of baseball rules.
- To develop an appreciation for our National pastime.
- To encourage and foster teamwork.
- To preach and practice sportsmanship.

All personnel involved in the program are reminded that to “win” is a natural and desirable trait, but to win at the expense of others at any cost is not a desirable trait to teach our youngsters. It is easy for a winner to be a good sport, but it takes a real sportsman to be a gracious loser.

GENERAL

ALL LEAGUE PARTICIPANTS ARE PROHIBITED FROM USING ANY TOBACCO PRODUCT WHILE ON THE FIELD OR ON THE BENCH. NO ALCOHOL IS PERMITTED AT THE FIELD BEFORE, DURING, OR AFTER GAMES – THIS INCLUDES SPECTATORS. VIOLATION OF THIS POLICY CAN RESULT IN EJECTION FROM THE GAME AND SUSPENSION FROM THE LEAGUE.

1. In case of rain, players must show up unless notified by their coach.
2. Competition shall be suspended once lightning has been recognized or thunder has been heard. It is required to wait at least 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning is witnessed or thunder is heard prior to resuming play. Any subsequent lightning or thunder after the beginning of the 30-minute count shall reset the clock, and another count shall begin.
3. No standings are to be kept.
4. Standard baseball rules govern base play and outs. Playing rules will be according to the current year’s NFHS/OHSAA rules, with the exception of the specific league rules detailed in this document as modified for use in this league.
5. An inning is completed when all players get to bat, regardless of the number of players on each team.
6. Regardless of the number of children present for a game, all children play.
7. No new inning will be permitted to start after sixty (60) minutes have elapsed from the scheduled game time.
8. No umpires will be at the games. Two (2) people – one from each team – will control the games.
9. Any games that are cancelled due to weather must have a new date, time, and field agreed upon within 10 days of the cancelled game (the game does not need to be *played* within 10 days – the rescheduling process just needs to be completed). Teams must complete the rescheduling process for its earliest cancelled game before completing rescheduling of a subsequent game. For example, a game cancelled on June 2 must be rescheduled before a team can finalize plans to reschedule a game that was cancelled on June 8. Any game not rescheduled after 10 days will be assigned a date, time, and field by the home team’s director or scheduler. If a team cannot make the date/time assigned by the home team’s director or scheduler, the game may not be played.

GENERAL (continued)

10. Unsportsmanlike behaviors will not be tolerated. The league will view name calling, badgering, etc. of any umpire or opposing manager, coach or player as unsportsmanlike and illegal. Such conduct is also considered an undue distraction which may contribute to serious accident and/or injury. The heckling of opposing teams, players, coaches, managers and umpires is prohibited. The manager and coaches must control this type of undesirable behavior. Children are great imitators and as such, the adults working with children can and must do what is necessary to control their own emotional outbursts. The manager and coaches will be responsible for their team's compliance with this rule.

UNIFORMS/EQUIPMENT

11. The home team will provide two (2) new balls at the start of each game.
12. Any shoes with metal spikes/cleats are prohibited.
13. Adult base coaches are NOT required to wear helmets; any minors serving as base coaches MUST wear a helmet.

FIELD/DIMENSIONS

14. The distance between the pitching rubber and home plate will be thirty-five (35) feet.
15. The distance between bases will be fifty-five (55) feet.
16. There will be an arc eight (8) feet in front of the tee.
17. There will be a 10-foot (diameter) circle around the pitcher's mound.
18. There will be a line on the first and third base lines, three (3) feet in front of the bases.
19. There will be a line five (5) feet behind 1st, 2nd and 3rd bases.

BATTERS/BASE RUNNERS

20. Everyone bats in every inning.
21. The team at bat takes a position on the bench. The batting order is as the players sit. Coaches can elect to stagger the batting order in each inning (i.e. First Inning 1-14; Second Inning 5-14, 1-4; Third Inning 9-14, 1-8).
22. Any player arriving late to a game will be positioned in the middle of the batting order.
23. Each batter shall be given an opportunity to hit the ball cleanly off the tee. NO pitches may be thrown; all batters hit the ball off of the tee. This rule may be waived during the 3rd inning if both coaches have agreed to such prior to the start of the game.
24. If the batter throws the bat, the head coach should issue a warning to the individual player. A second offense will result in the player being called out.
25. A foul ball occurs when the ball is hit out of the playing field.
26. No bunting is allowed.
27. Once a batter hits the ball and occupies a base, the ball must be returned to the pitcher, then to the catcher who in turn places the ball on the tee. At that point, the play is stopped.
28. Runners may not leave the base until the ball is hit.
29. If base runner slides, a legal slide **MUST** be feet-first with no malicious contact. If any malicious contact occurs, the runner shall be called out.

FIELDERS

30. Players will be positioned at Pitcher, 1B, 2B, 3B, SS and Short Field in the infield with all other players positioned in the outfield.
31. The pitcher cannot leave the 10-foot circle until the ball is hit. The circle is the only throw-in dead ball area.
32. Infielders cannot move past the three-foot line until the ball is hit.
33. All outfielders must be positioned behind the five-foot line behind 1st, 2nd and 3rd bases. Infielders are not permitted to drop behind this line until the ball is hit.
34. No player, personnel of any team, or spectators should be positioned behind the backstop while a game is in progress.