

T-Ball Rules and Regulations

General

- Every manager, Coach, Player and Fan will adhere to Homewood Baseball's general rules and regulations. Coaches are responsible for players at games and practices.
- The objectives of our T-Ball League:
 1. Create a safe & fun instructional baseball environment for players, coaches and fans.
 2. Learning the basic fundamentals of baseball and softball.
 3. Learning sportsmanship and how to be a team player.
 4. Developing the basic skills needed for future baseball & softball Leagues.

Field Set Up and Cleanup

- **Home Team Before Game**
 1. Remove the tarps from the field. (*Place against backstop and along fence.*)
 2. Set bases with orange Safety 1st Base. Orange safety base on outside of base line. (*Bases are in base room on east side of concession stand.*)
 3. Line the base paths if needed. (*only chalk the infield. Do not go in outfield*)
 4. Chalk Batters box. (You can use softball or baseball boxes at this level.)
 5. Provide and set up the tee and give ball for the game. (you can use a practice ball)
 6. Fields must be raked. (*Rakes Located in base room.*) Please rake the entire infield, including home plate area, pitcher's mound and base paths. Keep Dirt out of Grass.
 7. If you're the last game: remove bases and put back in base room.
 8. Place tarps back on the pitcher's mound and home plate area.
- **Visitor Team After Game**
 1. Team is responsible for emptying garbage cans & removing the trash from the dugouts and spectator areas. Dumpster is located on the northeast side of the parking lot.
 2. Do not distribute treat tickets until this is done.

Do not enter the dug out or field until all players and coaches from previous game are gone.
(Extremely important for player safety, insurance, and equipment.)

Duration of Game

- Games will start on time or early. There are multiple games on any field any given day, so if teams start late or run long, they throw off the entire schedule.
- A game is 2 innings or 1 hour, whichever occurs first. 7:00 games will need to be done by 8:00 if there is an 8:00 game after them.
- No new inning will begin after 45 minutes. Please do your best to adhere to guideline.

- Please report any time issues to league president or commissioner immediately.
- T-Ball has the right to the fields just as much as any other league. Do not let other teams, coaches or leagues rush you if you are within the allotted time. Tell commissioner immediately if situations arise.

Batting

- All Batters hit from within the batter's box.
- All batters hit from a batting tee adjusted to height between the batters' belt and chest.
- All batters, runners and players waiting in batter's circle, must wear a batting helmet.
- Batters will get five swings to put the ball in fair territory. Please use your discretion and do whatever possible to get the player a hit. No Outs. Must run to first base.
- Runners shall advance one base per hit.
- **Batter hits a ball in the outfield on a fly, hard line drive or fast hopper the batter and runners may take two bases. (important to reward players for doing more than what they are expected to do.)**
- Please allow final batter each inning to run all the bases. (*Home-Run / Grand-Slam*)
- An inning is considered over after all players have batted once.
- A coach is permitted at home plate to assist players with stance and swing. This coach will also help speed up the game by getting the next batter ready. It is helpful to have bats with this coach so he can move game along.
- Bat selection should be done by the coach to ensure proper size. (usually at home plate) take control.
- 1st base coach, 2nd base coach and 3rd base coaches are permitted.
(*A parent should be in the dugout to line up players and get their helmets on. This also keeps control in the dugout.*)
- Feel free to give out a "game ball" at the end of each game or give each player a game ball at the end of the season, your choice.

Fielding

- All players will play in the field each inning. Position players as much as possible. Try to keep all players from going after every ball. Teach them to cover their area and play a position. (*No Catcher*)
- 3 adult coaches are allowed on the field behind the players to instruct them. Please teach your players the "ready position" and make sure they do it during games.
- Players throw the ball to first base every play and first baseman touches the base before throwing the ball home to the coach. Develop the fundamentals of a real game.
- Players stay on the field until all runner's cross home plate before returning to the dugout.
- Set lineups before you get to the games. Rotate all kids fairly throughout the season. Have a printout of the lineup for each coach before the game so it is organized and efficient.

Coach Pitch

- The last four games of the season will be coach pitch. This is not mandatory, if you don't feel your team is ready, no worries. Be mindful of time, sometimes coach pitch slows the game down; you may need to do one inning of coach pitch and one inning of tee should the first inning take longer than expected.
- Players will get 5 pitches to get the ball in fair territory. Please use a tee after 5 pitches if player is really struggling. Try to keep pace and move game along. Coaches keep multiple balls with you by the pitcher's mound. Use your own discretion if time allows to get kids to hit and build confidence.
- Pitch over hand to all players. Please watch the pitching speed. It is more difficult to hit a slow pitch with an arc than it is to hit a faster pitch coming in on a level plane.
- Practice this throughout the year. Don't let the game be the 1st time a player hits coach pitch.

Coaches make sure all players are with parents / guardians before they leave. You are responsible for them at practices and games until their parents/guardians get them.