



### 2021 3/4 Year Old T-ball Rules

The purpose of Hampshire Township Park District T-ball is to provide a fun, non-competitive environment for developing fundamental baseball skills. Players should receive positive reinforcement and be encouraged to do their best. Standings, scores, and outs are not record.

- 1.) **Code of Conduct:** Coaches are responsible for their team's players, parents, and spectator conduct at all times. Players, parents, or spectators who are unruly will be warned by the coach or by a Park District employee. Repeated offenses may result in player suspension at the discretion of the Athletic Supervisor.
- 2.) **Rosters:** Each team will have a minimum of 5 players and a maximum of 10.
- 3.) **Field Dimensions:** Bases are approximately 45 feet apart
- 4.) **Time Limits:** Games will have a time limit of 50 minutes or 3 innings, whichever comes first. If games time expires before completion of 3 innings, the game shall end after the current batter completes his or her at bat.
- 5.) **Field Assignments:** The home team is listed first on the schedule and will occupy the third base side of the field. The visiting team will bat first.
- 6.) **Coaches:** An offensive coach is allowed at home plate to help the batter and base coaches are allowed at 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> base. Defensive coaches are allowed on the field to instruct the players. An adult coach MUST be in the bench area at all times when players are present.
- 7.) **Players:** Players may not wear jewelry, rings, watches, pins, or other metallic objects.
- 8.) **Equipment:** Foam bats and baseballs must be used during practices and games. No exceptions.
- 9.) **Defensive Rules of Play (Fielding):** All players will play on the field when on defense. A maximum of seven infielders and the rest of the team must occupy the "outfield".
  - a. The catcher position is not used.
  - b. Infielders may not be more than 10 feet in front of the base path before the ball is hit.
  - c. Outfielders should be no less than 5 feet behind the base path before the ball is hit.
  - d. No outs are recorded.
  - e. Fielders should be encouraged and instructed to play the field and try to make the proper play.
- 10.) **Offensive rules of Play(Batting):**
  - a. A continuous batting order will be used. Any player arriving after a game has begun should be inserted in the batting order in the last batting position.
  - b. All offensive players except the at-bat player and base runners must be inside the dugout or the designated dugout. There is no on-deck circle.
  - c. The ball is considered in play when the coach places the ball on the batting tee.
  - d. The ball must travel at least 4 feet from the tee in fair territory or it will be considered foul. If the tee is struck instead of the ball, it will be considered a foul ball.
  - e. If the batter does not put the ball in to play after 3 swings, the batter will advance to first base and all the runners will advance 1 base.
  - f. Each runner will advance 1 base on a fairly hit ball.
  - g. If the defense puts out a batter or runner, he/she will be allowed to remain on base.

- h. A  $\frac{1}{2}$  inning will be considered complete when all batters in the lineup have batted and all runners have touched all the bases. The last batter in the lineup will continue to run the bases until he/she touches home.
- i. Sliding of any kind is strictly not allowed.