

# H.V.A.A. Tee-Ball

## **OBJECTIVES**

T-Ball is the first step in a child's introduction to playing organized baseball. Therefore, it is in the interests of the league, parent(s) and child to make sure that it is an enjoyable time. HVAA board members, managers and coaches are committed to a program that teaches baseball fundamentals and teamwork, combined with safety and fun. To accomplish this, HVAA will hold to the following policies and rules.

## **POLICIES**

### **1) AGES:**

- A) All players who begin at league age **four (4) MUST** play at least one year in the T-ball Division before being considered to transition to the Pony (8U) Division.
- B) All players who begin at league age **five (5) or six (6) MUST** play at least one year in the T-ball Division before being considered to transition to the Pony (8U) Division.
- C) Players who begin at league age **seven or eight (7-8)** and have limited skills and ability **MAY** be considered (*after an evaluation*) to begin in the T-ball Division and then transition to the Pony (8U) Division after another evaluation or evaluations. All evaluations are at the discretion of HVAA.

### **2) TEAMS:**

- A) All teams will be comprised of no less than seven (7) and no more than eleven (11) players.
- B) Each team will contain any children of that team's manager and/or coach(es).
- C) Siblings of players will be placed on the same team unless otherwise stated by parents/guardians.
- D) Each team will have a mixture of new and returning players.
- E) HVAA will try (*but not promise*) to fulfill requests to place friends and relatives on the same team.

### **3) MANAGERS AND COACHES:**

- A) Managers and coaches are to be approved by the HVAA board.
- B) Managers may pick their own coach(es). Coaches must have filled out the volunteer form to be considered. Managers are responsible for their own behavior as well as their coach(es). (*It is suggested that managers involve as many parents as possible in practices and games. These parents also must have filled out volunteer forms.*)
- C) Managers/Coaches must abide by all the rules and policies set forth by HVAA. Failure to do so may result in suspension or termination of duties within the league. Termination may also result in a permanent managing/coaching ban within HVAA.
- D) Managers/Coaches will remain a positive influence on the players. They will refrain from any words, comments or actions that could negatively impact a child.
- E) Managers are responsible for regular communication between their players, parents and league officials. A team Mom or Dad will be a very important person to enlist.

### **4) PRACTICES:**

- A) At least 3-4 practices must be scheduled before the beginning of the season.
- B) Each practice will be planned in advance and will not be more than 45 minutes to one-hour in length.
- C) First practices will include rules concerning safety and responsibility. (\*See DUGOUT section)
- D) Each practice will start with a short period of stretching and movement.
- E) Each practice will allow for the teaching of new elements as well as ones already learned. Practices will include proper fielding, throwing and batting techniques. It is up to the manager to determine what is needed at each practice.
- F) Practices should end with a fun activity (running the bases, etc.)

## **RULES**

## **1) GAMES:**

### **BEFORE THE GAME**

- A) Managers and coaches should be at the field no later than 20 minutes before each game. The **Home Team** should help to prepare the field for play.

\*\*\**(NOTE: \*In the event of an inter-league game, HVAA is the Home Team for field prep and clean-up, regardless of the schedule listing.)*

They should also set up their dugouts, get equipment ready and check line-ups.

### **LINE-UPS**

- 1) Defensive line-ups should have different players at each position each inning. This will allow for players getting a fair amount of time at each position during the season.
  - 2) Offensive line-ups should be a continuous batting order. This means once an order is established for the first game it is used in all subsequent games. ( the batter that made last out hits last in the next game). Line up may be changed at the start of the second half of the season.
- B) Players should arrive no later than 20 minutes before game time. They should put away their gear and with a manager or coach, begin warm-up exercises.
- C) Players should be in the dugout 5 minutes before game time..

### **DURING THE GAME**

- A) All T-ball games at HVAA are for three-innings, or one-hour (*whichever comes first*). If both Managers/ Coaches are in agreement, an extra 15 minutes can be added to finish an inning.
- B) All safety rules must be followed at all times.
- A) All batters must wear a helmet
  - B) Only low impact balls may be used
  - C) Only the current hitter may be holding/swinging a bat (no on deck batters)
- C) All little league rules will be followed at all times. (rules will be provided to each manager)

### **OFFENSE:**

- A) A 1/2 inning consists of all the players on the team batting once through the line-up with the last hitter being the "Homerun Hitter".
- B) Each batter advances only to first base on a hit.
- C) Each runner advances only one base on a hit with the exception of the last hitter.
- D) There are no advances on overthrows.
- E) **The first ½ of the season all batters will hit from the tee (no exception). The second ½ of the season batters may take live pitches from a coach or hit from the tee at managers discretion.**

### **The following rules are in effect if a player is to receive live pitches:**

- 1) The player must have demonstrated an ability to hit a pitched ball during practices.
- 2) Only a manager, coach or league-approved parent may pitch.
- 3) Pitches will be thrown from the mound or just in front of it.
- 4) The pitcher will pitch in an overhand manner. Underhand (*softball style*) is not acceptable.
- 5) Each player will receive no more than four (4) pitches to hit. Managers may agree to a lower number of pitches, but no higher than four.
- 6) If after four (4) pitches the batter has not yet hit the ball, that player will hit off of the tee.

### **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

### **DEFENSE:**

- A) Defensive players must be spread out in a traditional array.
- B) Infielders should be placed just in front or just behind the baseline.
- C) Outfielders should be placed approximately three to four (3-4) feet behind the baseline, positioned between the infielders.
- D) One player should be standing on pitcher's mound to the side of the pitcher.
- E) If there are more players than positions, add players to the outfield first, then the infield, then one more player on pitcher's mound. **NO PLAYERS ARE ALLOWED IN FRONT OF PITCHER'S MOUND.**
- F) Fielders will be instructed to throw the ball to the base. No running the ball to the base will be allowed. **Ex: Pitcher fields a ground ball and runs to first or home and tags the base himself.**
- G) **No score is kept. The goal is to have fun.**

### **AFTER THE GAME:**

- A) Each team comes out, shakes hands (high-five, etc) and says, "Good game."
- B) The players go back into the dugout or in front of it and listen to the Manager's instructions.
- C) The Manager is responsible for making sure the dugout is cleaned after each game. He/she can assign players to clean up. Players can be assigned to put gear back into the equipment bags.
- D) The **Away Team** Manager/Coaches are responsible for raking home plate, pitchers mound and the bases after each game and checking the visiting team dugout.

## **2) DUGOUT ETIQUETTE:**

Each dugout is the responsibility of the Manager and he/she is responsible for teaching the players the following:

- A) Players are to remain in the dugout during the game.
- B) Food is not allowed in the dugout during the game.
- C) Players are not allowed to stand on the benches.
- D) All gear must be hung up or stored out of the way.
- E) Nothing is to be thrown in the dugout.
- F) The dugout is to be cleaned up after each game.