



**Spring 2018 T-ball Rules
March 4, 2018**

Mission Statement

Virginia Beach Recreation Baseball League (VBRBL) supports youth development, enhancing emotional, physical, social and cognitive development, while providing a fun experience with positive role models that serve as coaches, assistant coaches, team parents and league staff.

Our goal is to provide each child with a safe and fun learning environment in which to develop skills in the sport they are participating in while promoting youth fitness and enjoyment. It is the desire of VBRBL to provide an opportunity for all children to participate in youth sports if it is their wish to do so.

Our sports programs are recreational / instructional in nature. Sports, by definition, are competitive; however, our programs stress safety and fun, as well as the basic skill building and good sportsmanship of each participant. A "Win at all costs" attitude will not be embraced by anyone associated with VBRBL.

Each program's objective, policies, and procedures are a direct result of community input from youth, parents, coaches, and league administrators. Volunteers are the heartbeat of our association and are the single most important asset to our overall success.

***Enforcing VBRBL
Policy***

In accordance with applicable VBRBL bylaws, rules and/or policies, misconduct or unsportsmanlike behavior from any participant or guest shall not be tolerated. All instances of misconduct require the Enforcement Official to suspend the offending party, prohibiting further participation in that VBRBL event / activity. This action will always require the violator to leave the event. If necessary, law enforcement officials will be summoned for assistance. The Enforcing Official's decision is undisputable and final until the VBRBL Board of Directors review the infraction. VBRBL Board Members, Game Officials, and Coaches are designated by VBRBL as Enforcement Officials. Inappropriate conduct, i.e. foul language, any conduct that could affect safety of the children, (including yelling at the officials), are all valid reasons to be asked to leave the park and shall be considered misconduct. Warnings are not necessary. These procedures are in place to protect VBRBL and preserve the safety of children.

1.) Objectives of the Game

- a) T-ball is a game between two teams of approximately nine players (+/-) on defense and a continuous batting order on offense consisting of the entire batting order.
- b) The game is played under the direction of a team manager (coach) on a playing surface compliant with these rules.
- c) The objectives for each team are to **HAVE FUN** and develop / learn the game of baseball.
- d) Score is NOT kept there are no losers on the T-ball field, only winners!

2.) The Playing Field & Issued Equipment

- a) The playing field shall be laid out using the following instructions. Those annotated with an asterisk (*) are recommendations only.
- b) The infield shall be approximately 52-foot square (*).
- c) The outfield shall be the area between the foul lines formed by extending the two sides of the square from home plate, thru the infield and into the grass outfield.
- d) Home plate shall be a 5-sided slab of whitened rubber. It shall be a 12" square with two of the corners filled in so that one edge is 17" long, two are 8 ½" long and two are 12" long. It will be set in the ground with the point at the intersection of the foul lines.
- e) Canvas bags shall mark first, second and third base. First and third shall be located entirely within the field. The bags shall be 14" square and not more than 2 ¼" thick.
- f) The ball shall be a league approved design Tee Ball, soft on texture, weighing no less than five ounces and not more than 5 ¼ ounces and measure no less than 9" or more than 9 ¼" inches in circumference.

3.) Player Equipment & Uniforms

- a) Uniforms (Shirts & hats) shall be provided by representative Recreation Associations.
- b) Molded cleats are permissible, but are not required at the T-ball level.
ABSLOUTELY no player shall wear any shoe containing steel spikes or cleats.
- c) Baseball pants are encouraged but not required at this level.
- d) Players may not wear watches, rings, pins, ear-rings, jewelry or other metallic items – Medical Alert bracelets / necklaces are permitted, provided they are taped down / secured to prevent loss / injury.
- e) No catchers' equipment shall be provided. For the purpose of this level, an adult will return ball back to the pitcher.
- f) Bats shall be "Official T-ball" and league approved.
- g) At the Coaches / Parents discretion batting helmets shall be worn by the members of the offensive team. This is highly suggested, especially when the batter is being pitched to.

4.) The Game

- a) Length – The game will consist of three (3) innings or a 75 minute time limit (whichever is reached first)
- b) Batters get 3 pitches to hit from coach / designated pitcher. If they do not hit, the ball shall be placed on the tee and play shall continue.

- c) Every base runner advances to the next base when the ball is hit. Nobody is called "Out".
- d) The last batter in the inning always hits a *HOME RUN!!!* Coaches shall rotate the lineup so every player gets to go first and last in at least for a minimum of one (1) inning during the season.
- e) All players hit and play defense in every inning.
- f) There is no leading off or stealing bases at this level.
- g) There are no scores kept.

5.) Miscellaneous

- a) Definition -Authorized Adult: An adult volunteer, recognized by their representing recreation association as either Head Coach, Assistant Coach and/or Team Parent, and completed all necessary background checks and required training as mandated by the VB Parks & Rec; Sports Management/City Wide Athletics, and is identifiable by city issued identification card which is to be worn at all times. Only Authorized Adults shall be permitted in the dugout and on the field of play during games
- b) All players on the batting team **MUST** remain seated in the bench unless they are up at bat or are a base runner. --- This is for player safety.
- c) A batter throwing the bat after getting a hit is against the rules and is not safe. Now is the time to start teaching the kids safe batting, base running skills and good sportsmanship.
- d) Never throw a ball at someone who is not looking at you.
- e) The Coach (or assistant) pitches to their own players.
- f) If a play is made that would normally result in an out, praise the player(s) who made the play. The base runner remains safe on base.
- g) All parents are encouraged to assist the coach during practice and praise the team(s) for their play and sportsmanship at the games.
- h) Hats shall be worn at all times and worn correctly. Shirts should be tucked in (when possible). This is a team sport, so players must look like a team.

6.) Inclement Weather

- 1.) Once the game has started the decision to continue play or stop, due to field / weather conditions will be determined by the Coordinator / Board Member on duty of the representative associations facility in use that day in the event that the game is temporarily halted, the teams will not leave the immediate area until the representative Official has made a final decision.
- 2.) The decision to cancel /postpone games due to weather / field conditions shall be made approximately one (1) hour before game time. Check with the individual league representative for cancellation notifications.
- 3.) The League Representative will only call / text coaches once information is made available.
- 4.) Make-up game missed due to inclement weather will not be made up unless there is the potential for an 8-game season. If games are rescheduled, coaches will be immediately notified.
- 5.) Games will be postponed when the Heat Index reaches 105 deg. at the field in question, per Virginia High School League Guidelines (VHSL Heat Guidelines).