

*NOR-GWYN*  
*T-Ball Division*

**Rules and Guidelines**

**Version 3.0**  
**March 2014**

# **NOR-GWYN Baseball & Softball T-Ball Rules and Guidelines**

## **I. LEAGUE OBJECTIVES**

NOR-GWYN Baseball & Softball offers the boys & girls in our local communities an athletic forum to help develop both their physical and social skills through the games of baseball and softball. Our supervised program is designed to provide instruction in recreational and competitive environments, while promoting the ideals of good sportsmanship, fair play, honesty, loyalty and a respect for authority. We want to offer an enjoyable and positive experience for all of the boys & girls enrolled in the program. All directors, officers, coaches and members shall bear in mind that, although important, the attainment of exceptional athletic skill and the winning of games are secondary to the goal of helping to mold the future men and women of our community.

Although NOR-GWYN Baseball & Softball does provide a competitive environment for boys & girls with better than average skills, though our Select and Travel programs, the majority of the boys & girls enrolled will play in the recreational divisions, which are intended to provide the players with an environment where they can learn the games of baseball & softball and have fun at the same time. These are instructional divisions with an emphasis on providing the player with the proper development and guidance needed to learn and acquire the necessary skills to grow in the sport and progress through each division.

## **II. DIVISION OBJECTIVES**

T-Ball will be an introduction to the world of baseball & softball for many of the boys & girls and we want to create an environment where the player will learn, have a good time and want to continue to play baseball and softball in the program in subsequent years. The player will be introduced to limited basics of the sport, working with teammates and coaches to learn and master some of the fundamental baseball & softball skills. This is an instructional, non-competitive division; thus, the parents, coaches and players should place their emphasis on the sport and having a good time. For many of the boys & girls, not only is this their first exposure to organized ball, but also it is the first experience with organized sport of any variety, and we want the first impression to be a positive one.

## **III. RULES**

### **A. General**

- 1) The T Ball division is for boys & girls who are age 4 to 6. The player must have reached the age of 5 by May 1st of the year in which the season is being played.
- 2) Season start and end dates will be published by the League.
- 3) There will be enough teams in the division to support enrollment, each consisting of at least 10 players, but no more than 12 players unless special circumstances are required.
- 4) Each team will be scheduled for an equal number of games during the season. Inclement weather may affect actual games played.
- 5) Games will normally be scheduled twice per week on weeknights and Saturday mornings.

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- 6) All games will be a maximum of four (4) innings or 90 minutes (allowing each team to bat for the same number of innings) whichever comes first.
- 7) Score should not be kept; this is an instructional league.
- 8) If a team is short of players, the other team should supply enough to play the game.
- 9) Practices should be held at least once per week during the preseason, and during the season as necessary (game schedule gaps, etc).
- 10) Prior to the start of a game, during warm-ups, the home team and visiting teams will split use of the infield (20 minutes each as desired) prior to game start.
- 11) During games, both team benches must maintain a safe distance from the playing field. The home team sits on the first base side, and the visiting team sits on the third base side.
- 12) In the event of inclement weather, the Home Team Manager makes the decision to play the game (keeping player safety in mind). The Home Team Manager is responsible to notify the Away Team Manager of the decision. Every effort should be made to make up cancelled games. Contact the Commissioner for field availability for make ups. In the event of weather that may necessitate the closing of the complex, the home team manager should call 267 217 2567 for guidance after 4PM on the day of the game.

## B. Field and Equipment

- 1) Games will primarily be played at T-Ball Stadium, Field 4 or Field 7 at the Nor-Gwyn complex.
- 2) The Home team playing the first game of the day is responsible for setting up the bases before the game, if necessary. The Home Team playing the last game of the day is responsible for removing the bases after the game (bases are kept in the equipment boxes at the field).
- 3) Distance between bases will be 45 ft. Distance from home plate to the pitcher's mound will be 35 ft.
- 4) Teams will provide their own balls, bats, helmets and batting tee.
- 5) A 9-inch soft Baseball will be used at all times (practice and games).

## C. Players

- 1) Should be in proper uniform (to include hat), with shirts tucked into pants.
- 2) Must wear a baseball/softball glove when playing in the field during the game.
- 3) Should not wear jewelry.
- 4) Must act in a sportsman-like manner.
- 5) Should wear sneakers or athletic shoes with plastic or rubber cleats. Metal cleats or spikes of any kind are not permitted.

## D. Game Play

- 1) Offense
  - a) The maximum number of batters in any half inning is the entire roster up to 12. If a team has fewer than ten players, continue through the batting rotation until at

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least 10 players have batted. The last batter of the inning should be announced prior to batting. 3 made outs **does not** end the half inning.

- b) A batter who is called out is not allowed to stay on the base.
- c) The half inning will end when the agreed-upon number of players has batted. It is recommended that all players bat once each inning. (Since this is an instructional league, it is more important for the players to spend time fielding and batting than it is to learn the rule that 3 outs ends the half inning; but please follow rule "b" above).
- d) All players should bat in order even though they may not be playing in the field that inning.
- e) Games at the beginning of the season will be batting tee only. Coach pitch will be introduced after the third game of the season. Subsequent games will be batting tee for the first two innings and coach pitch first then the batting tee if the batter does not hit the ball after three quality pitches for the final two innings. If the batter fouls the third pitch, he is allowed one additional pitch before the tee is used. Coach Pitcher should crouch or kneel to keep the batter's swing level and allow all fielders to see the batter. At the manager's discretion, if both agree prior to the start of the game, games may be coach pitch for the entire game.

**NOTE:** It is inevitable that different players evolve at different rates. The purpose of coach pitch is to introduce T-ball players to a moving ball that they will see as they move upward in the program. All players should attempt to hit the pitched ball as a skill building exercise once coach pitch is introduced. However, certain players may not be successful, especially 5 year olds. **BE POSITIVE and PRAISE THE ATTEMPT.**

- f) All batters and base runners are required to wear a helmet at all times.
- g) Stealing and bunting are not permitted.
- h) Throwing the bat or equipment will not be permitted. A warning will be given the first time, and if the action continues the batter will be called out. The coach should explain the danger of the player's actions.
- i) Players, waiting their turn to bat in the rotation, should be seated on the proper sideline a safe distance from the playing field.
- j) Base runners must remain on the base until the batter makes contact with the ball. If the base runner leaves before contact has been made, a warning will be given. If the action continues, the runner will be called out.
- k) As a runner approaches home plate from third base, a coach should remove the batting tee from home plate to prevent injury to the player.
- l) Players cannot advance on over-throws.
- m) Play ends when there is an attempt to make an out.
- n) A batter can advance beyond one base on a solid hit that reaches the outfield (**coaches should exercise judgment to allow for good hits to be rewarded, but not to penalize the fielders' inaccurate throwing**).
- o) Force plays at home will not be permitted by the pitcher or any other fielder. In the absence of a catcher, all fielders should be instructed to throw the ball to first, second or third base, as the situation dictates, in order to get the out.

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- 2) Defense:
  - a) Fielders should be positioned in normal playing positions; infielders should be kept out of the base paths.
  - b) There should be five (5) players in the infield (Pitcher, First Base, Second Base, Shortstop and Third Base), and remainder of team (4-7) are outfielders that should stay spread apart in the outfield.
  - c) A coach from the batting team will serve as the catcher.
  - d) A maximum of 12 players are permitted on the field at any time.
  - e) Coaches are allowed on the field for instruction.
  - f) Each player must play at least one inning in the outfield and one in the infield (if they were present at game start).
  - g) A ball is declared dead when a fielder throws or attempts to throw the ball into the pitcher. The runner must stop at the closest base.
  - h) Coaches should strive to move players to different positions during the game, and plan to put each player at every position throughout the season unless there is a safety concern (this is an instructional league and we want the player to become acquainted with the different positions on the field).

### E. Safety

- 1) At the first sign of lightning, a game or practice should be immediately called.
- 2) During the game, players who are neither in the field, in the batter's box nor on deck, should be seated (in the "dugout" area) a safe distance from the field and watching the play of the game.
- 3) When a team is batting, only the player in the batter's box and the player on deck should have a bat. All other bats should be kept away from the bench area.
- 4) A coach (or other adult) should be assigned to the "on-deck area" to insure that the on-deck batter waits for the proper time to approach the batter's box, and that practice swings are conducted in a safe manner.
- 5) Any player who is injured during a game should be attended to immediately and removed from play until proper medical attention has been administered, and the player's supervising adult has given the approval for the player to resume play. If the injury results in bleeding, the player should be immediately removed and not permitted to return to the game. Ice packs are available in the snackbar.
- 6) In the event of an emergency, coaches should follow emergency procedures as outlined by the League.

### F. Parents and Other Non-Coaching Adults

Parents, or supervising adults, who are not coaching, and who are not requested by the coach to provide assistance, are neither permitted on the field during play, nor are they permitted to assist a player who is either batting or in the field, except to provide verbal encouragement. Abusive language, taunting or any other form of harassment will not be tolerated and should be brought to the attention of a league official.

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## **IV. RULE CHANGES**

These NOR-GWYN T Ball Rules and Guidelines contained herein may be changed during the season by the Commissioner to allow for changes in League Policy, introduction of piloted training programs, or any other factor that seeks to improve the quality of safety, instruction and recreation for the player.