

## 2017 WNCYSA 5U T-BALL (3, 4 & 5 YR OLDS) BASEBALL RULES

### 1. Division Guidelines

- a. This is a T-Ball division only and emphasis will be made on teaching the kids the fundamentals of baseball along with having fun. Ages will be 6 and under and there will be no coach pitching in this division.
- b. Coaches are encouraged not to keep score, a score book can be kept to maintain your batting line up.
- c. This division will be for Boys and Girls.
- d. All 4 year old players are encouraged to play in this division and under league direction only can they play in the coach pitch division.
- e. Please keep in mind there will be no post season or tournament teams in this division.
- f. The season will consist of 10-12 games depending on the number of teams in the division.
- g. Coaches will be responsible for making sure that this league is being used to teach the fundamentals of baseball.
- h. Teams will consist of 7-9 players.
- i. By reducing the number of kids per team a coach will have more opportunities to teach the game of baseball.
- j. There will be no forfeits in the T-Ball League. Players may be borrowed from the opposing team if necessary.
  - i. For example, if one team shows up with 4 players and the opposing team has 7, the team with 7 shall allow the other team to borrow 1 player so that it is now a 5 on 6 game.
- k. Game length will be 60 minutes or five (5) innings, whichever occurs first.

### 2. Defensive Guidelines

- a. The entire team shall take the field unless a coach has enough help to utilize an off the field training session during the game.
- b. All infield positions shall be positioned as normal. No more than one player in the pitcher circle. Remaining players can be spread out behind the infielders. Please do not jam these players into the standard infield depth so that the baselines are getting congested with players.
- c. No catcher will be utilized during the games.
- d. If a coach chooses and has enough help; they can utilize their defensive innings for extra fundamental work. If you have enough players to accommodate the standard infield positions; you can bring any extra player to the side for extra fundamental drills. The outfield corners can be utilized for this extra opportunity to teach hitting and fielding fundamentals.
- e. Players shall rotate positions every inning and have an opportunity to play all positions throughout the season.
  - i. If a coach deems that a player should not play a position due to safety reasons; they will communicate their concerns to the parents and will position the player accordingly to accommodate their abilities.
- f. Managers and/or Coaches should be on the playing field coaching and teaching all players at all times. Please try and keep the number of coaches on the field to 3.

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- g. To stop the play you must get the ball to the Coach located at the pitcher circle. Umpires will use their judgment and stop play as necessary.
  - h. Coaches it is very important that we are teaching kids how to play the game of baseball/softball. We would like to express the importance of teaching your player to throw the ball to the bases and allowing the fielders to learn how to catch the ball and achieve a “Team Out”.
    - i. A base runner will be deemed safe if a player is rolling the ball to the bases to achieve an out. This includes purposely throwing the ball in the dirt so that it rolls to the base. This will be the discretion of the umpires. A pitcher should be attempting to throw the ball in the air to the first baseman so that he can attempt to check the ball in the air.
    - ii. A base runner will be deemed safe if the pitcher attempts to run down the base runner to achieve an out at first base. This includes the pitcher running the ball to first to tag the bag.
  - i. These rules are in place so that we can ensure we are teaching the fundamentals of the game.
3. Offensive Guidelines
- a. Umpires will call outs in the inning. This is done to begin teaching the kids that outs are part of the game. The runner should be removed from the base path upon a called out. Keep in mind if you feel that the child may have a hard time with this they may stay on to run the bases until the inning is complete.
    - i. Batters may be recorded out after a 6th unsuccessful attempt at hitting the ball into fair territory. Coaches should use judgement and allow the kids to run if a ball were to strike the tee and roll fair towards the end of their at bat or if it doesn't completely roll past the 10 foot line.
    - ii. The innings will be played until the whole offensive line up has hit once or three outs. The offensive lineup will be decided based on which team has the highest number of players. This is done to allow each team to have the same amount of time offensively and defensively.
      - 1. Example: Team 1 has 6 players and Team 2 has 7 players. Both teams offensive line-up will be counted as 7.
  - b. If a hit ball travels less than (10) feet from the tee it is a foul ball. There will be a 10 foot line on the field.
  - c. The ball shall be live after it is hit into fair territory, and shall remain live until it is returned to the pitcher/coach. Once the ball is judged dead, the play is stopped, runners still advancing to a base may continue to the next base if they have advanced at least halfway to that base. If the runner is not halfway to the next base, then he/she must return to the previous base.
  - d. One base will be awarded to runner(s) on a ball that has traveled into a dead ball area or overthrown ball to first. Umpires will clarify, at the start of the game, what area(s) will constitute a dead ball.
  - e. There will be no base stealing or base lead-offs allowed.

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#### 4. Coach Responsibilities

- a. Coaches it is very important that we are teaching kids how to play baseball and not worrying about winning games in this division.
- b. Kids should be taught to throw the ball, not roll the ball.
- c. Players should not be taught to run down players from the pitcher's position just to achieve an out.
- d. Coaches from each team shall foster a positive and fun environment for the players and parents. Please work together to make this a fun and safe time for the kids.
- e. Manage all coaches, parents and players and ensure that they are following their code of conduct.
  - i. Parent and coach conduct needs to foster the encouragement of all players, this includes the opposing team. Umpires will be instructed to warn teams for parents and coaches who are conducting their behavior in a negative manner towards players, coaches, and/or other parents. Please let the parents know that poor conduct will not be tolerated and will result in removal from the field.
  - ii. Umpires are instructed to stop the games if any parent and/or coach is acting in an unapproved manner.

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