

PYL T-Ball Rules

T-Ball is a program that is open to all boys & girls 5-6 years of age*. The program is instructional in nature and is intended to provide an enriching environment for learning the fundamental skills of youth baseball and softball. The T-Ball division is organized to TEACH the game of baseball and have the children enjoy the experience. No emphasis on the score or winning will be involved.

*Players cannot have become 7 years of age prior to May 1st of the current year.

*Should be 5 years of age prior to May 1st of the current year.

Games:

- Games will consist of one 4-inning game or one-hour session of baseball, whichever comes first. Based on the ages of the players and their attention span, games will not exceed one hour in duration.
- Scores and records will NOT be kept.
- Each half inning will consist of one team batting through the entire order. Outs are recorded, but play should continue to make it through the lineup. Both teams will bat the same number of times. If a small number of players are present, the coaches can mutually agree to play an extra inning.
- If batters/runners are thrown/tagged out, they are to be removed from the base. This is so that the players start to learn the proper rules of the game.
- Each batter or base runner shall advance one base for every ball batted into play. Extra base hits are not allowed. No bases will be awarded for an overthrow.
- No stealing or leads are allowed. Base runners can advance only when the ball is batted into play.
- Infield fly rule does not pertain to this league.
- Bunting is not allowed. A ball which barely gets hit off the tee will be considered a foul ball and the batter will be afforded another opportunity to hit. This is to encourage that defense is played on all batted balls.
- There are no strike-outs. An at-bat will conclude once the ball is batted into play.
- The infield defense will consist of a pitcher, 3rd baseman, shortstop, 2nd baseman, and 1st baseman. They will play at normal baseball depths. No shifts will be permitted. The 1st baseman should have minimum catching skills so that he/she will not get injured when thrown to. A catcher is not needed.
- All remaining defensive players must play the outfield and should be evenly distributed at a minimum depth of 10 feet behind the infielders.
- At the discretion of the coaches, progression towards the end of the year to coach pitch is encouraged (not required) depending on the team and the player.

If the player does not hit the coach pitched ball, the Tee can be placed. Coaches may decide on this prior to the start of the game.

Player Safety:

- All batters, base runners, and pitchers will be required to wear a batting helmet at all times when on the field.
- Official t-balls are to be used for play in practice and games. Hard balls are not permitted.
- Long pants must be worn by players. Metal spikes and shorts are NOT permitted.
- A parent or coach is to supervise the bench area to ensure that players swinging bats (or warming up) do not strike another player when in the bench area.
- Defensive coaches are permitted to be on the field during play. One coach should kneel next to the pitcher and be prepared to knock down a hard hit ball toward the pitcher. Additional coaches should be positioned on each side of the infield to keep defensive players engaged in the action so they don't get hurt by a batted ball.

Coaches:

- Home team is responsible for making sure the field is playable and safe to play with bases in the proper positions. Foul lines are helpful but not required. A double bag is allowed at first base.
- Three coaches are to be placed in the field when on defense:
 - ◆ A coach should kneel next to the pitcher and be prepared to knock down a hard hit ball.
 - ◆ A coach shall coach the left side of the infield and keep the players engaged so that they do not get hit by a batted or thrown ball. This coach will also aid the base runners in navigating toward third base.
 - ◆ A coach shall coach the right side of the infield and keep the players engaged so that they do not get hit by a batted or thrown ball. This coach will also aid the base runner in navigating toward second base.
- Four coaches are needed to facilitate the game when their team is batting:
 - ◆ A coach will stand next to the batter, place the ball on the tee, and assist the batter with proper fundamentals of hitting. This coach will also be the umpire at home plate.

- ◆ A coach will stand in foul territory next to first base. This coach will serve as first base umpire and coach base runners on where to go once the ball is hit.
- ◆ A coach will stand in foul territory next to third base. This coach will serve as 2nd and 3rd base umpire as well as coach base runners at third base and home plate.
- ◆ A bench coach will keep a proper batting order, ensure batters are properly fitted with helmets, and ensure that nobody gets hit with a bat when warming up. This coach is very important to keeping the flow of the game moving at this level.

Schedule:

- The schedule will consist of an 8 game season.
- Games will be played Saturday mornings in most cases.
- 1-2 games on the schedule will be during the week. These games start at 6pm.

Sportsmanship:

- All parents and coaches shall conduct themselves with a high degree of sportsmanship at all times. Players will learn this through proper guidance. Players shall meet at the center of the field and shake hands at the conclusion of every game.
- Parents/Coaches who fail to conduct themselves with a high degree of sportsmanship are subject to removal from the Parkland Youth League.