

**MOUNTAIN HOME PARKS & RECREATION
T-BALL RULES**

1. **AGE:** League age is (4-6) years
2. **UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT:**
 - A. A player must furnish their own glove.
 - B. Balls, bats, T-Stands and batting helmets will be furnished by Parks & Recreation.
 - C. A uniform consisting of a tee-shirt and will be furnished by Parks & Recreation.
 - D. Hard spiked shoes are not allowed, soft rubber cleats are allowed. NO METAL SPIKES.
 - E. Protective helmets will be worn by the batter (*on deck if helmet available*), and all base-runners, as well as the catcher of the team in the field.
3. **NUMBER OF PLAYERS:** All players present for the game (No Minimum)
4. **BATTING ORDER:** Each coach will put their kids in the batting order they desire. Each kid will bat only once per inning. Batting orders do NOT need to be provided to the opposing team.
5. **DEFENSIVE PLAY:** Each player present for the game must be given a position on the field. Coaches are expected to line kids up in their proper positions and strongly encourage the kids to field the ball and properly try to get runners out on each play.
6. **PITCHING:** The ball will not be pitched but will be hit off a tee which shall be set in front of home plate. It shall be the coach's responsibility to remove the batting tee from the plate area should play involve a runner scoring. The player who occupies the defensive position of the *pitcher* must stay within the 6' circle until the ball is batted from the tee. The coach shall declare a dead ball when a player has possession of a thrown ball **and** is within the 6' pitcher's circle.
7. **BASE RUNNING:** Runners must stay in contact with the base until the ball is hit. When players have advanced as far as possible without being put out and pitcher or any other player has possession of the ball in the pitcher's circle, the coach shall call time and place the ball on the tee. When all defensive players are in proper position the coach shall call "play" and the next batter takes his turn at bat.
8. **SIDE RETIRED:** When all players on a team present for the game have had a turn at bat.
9. **FOUL BALL:** Same as conventional baseball except a ball that travels less than 15 feet from home plate is called a foul. An arc 15 feet from home plate shall be drawn from the first base line to the third base line.

10. **HITTING:** Batters shall not be allowed to bunt and may not take a half swing or swinging bunt. If, in the coach's judgment, the batter has not taken a full swing, the batter may be called back. All kids will stay up to bat until they have legally hit the ball. **NO BATTERS WILL STRIKE OUT IN T-BALL.**

COACHING: One defensive coach is allowed on the field to instruct. Offensive coaches are allowed to be at 1st & 3rd base and an offensive coach may assist their batters at home plate as to stance and holding the bat.

11. **REGULATION GAME:** A regulation game shall be *two innings* or *one hour, whichever occurs first*. If an inning is started prior to the time limit, it will be completed. **Exceptions:** darkness or bad weather.

12. **SCORING:** No score will be kept.

13. **PLAYERS POSITIONING:** Players are expected to be lined up in their regular baseball positions at all times. No players are allowed to be in front of the pitcher's circle until after the ball is hit. Coaches are strongly encouraged to teach the players to make a play on the ball and try to get the runner(s) out on each play.

14. **A THROWN BAT** (ten feet or more) is an automatic out.

15. **WHEN THE BALL BECOMES DEAD**

If in the judgment of the coaches, the base runner has advanced more than halfway to the next base, he/she will continue to that base; if he/she is less than half way he/she will go back to the last base.

16. **HOME TEAM:** The first team listed on the schedule is the "home team" and will play in the field first.

17. A player can only play either pitcher or first base one inning per game.

18. We strongly encourage the coaches to instruct kids based on the game of baseball. Fielders should be playing one of the legal positions and the players should be trying to get runners out on the bases. For 4-6 year olds, if a runner is out on the bases, the runner may stay on the bases to continue being a base runner.

All teams will have an equal number of at bats per inning, for example if one team has 10 players and the opposing team has 8 players, the team with 8 players will have two additional at bats.