

**West Allegheny Baseball League  
2014 T-Ball Rules**

**1. Purpose**

T-Ball is for teaching young children the fundamentals of baseball in a fun and instructive manner.

**\*\*\*Important safety items:**

- Batters and base runners must wear helmets at all times.
- Child pitchers must wear heart guards in the field. Less skilled players may consider wearing face guards, mouth pieces and/or heart guards.
- Only the batter and on-deck batter should have access to bats. Bats should not be kept in the dugout. The on-deck batter should be the only player outside the dugout (but should still be within the fenced-in warmup area).

**2. Age**

T-Ball is for 4, 5 and 6 year old boys and girls. Cut-off date is January 1 (for girls) and April 30 (for boys). Exceptions may be made for first time players, based on ability.

**3. Rosters**

The ideal team size is 8 or 9. Teams should be split evenly according to age, gender and skill.

**4. Regulation Games**

A regulation game will be 3 innings. If a game is postponed because of bad weather, the managers will attempt to re-schedule. All games will be played regardless of the number of players on each team.

**5. Field Layout**

Bases are 60 feet apart. An arc with 10' radius from home plate will be drawn between baselines. Any batted ball not crossing this line will be counted as a foul ball.

Each base will have a 6' diameter circle drawn around it.

**6. Outs**

Outs will be recorded. Three outs, or five runs scored, ends the inning.

On force plays at any base, the runner must enter the 6' circle before the fielder throws the ball through the circle, or the runner is out. A defensive player must be in the circle for the out to count.

Runners can be tagged out. Runners outside the base paths to avoid being tagged will be called out.

If a fielder catches a fly ball, the batter is out. All runners must return to their base. No tagging up.

Outs at home can only be made by touching home plate on a force out or tagging the runner.

Ball is dead and play stops when any of the following occur:

- A. An out is made. Runners may advance to the next base if they are forced, or if they are more than half way when the out is recorded.
- B. There is an overthrow of any base by an infielder.
- C. On a ball not leaving the infield, when all runners stop actively trying to advance.
- D. On a ball hit to the outfield grass, the ball is returned to an infielder who possesses the ball with at least one foot on the infield dirt. Once possession is established, any runners not halfway to the next base will be returned to previous base after the conclusion of the play. Infielders may however make plays on one such runner. After the play, runners who did not reach halfway will be granted safe return to the previous base.
- E. After the infielders have made a play (by catching a fly ball or throwing to a base) on balls hit within the infield.

## 7. Bats

Bats can cause serious, lifelong injuries to young children. It is imperative that parents and coaches pre-teach the dangers of, and the proper use of, batting equipment. A player who throws the bat after hitting the ball will be warned for the first occurrence and called out after the second occurrence.

## 8. Offensive and Defensive Play

All players will play every inning both offensively and defensively. The batting order established by the manager will remain the same throughout the game. There will be no catcher. The batting coach will assist the batter and serve as catcher. One player acts as the pitcher. Efforts should be made to protect the less skilled players when in the field. Children should also be encouraged to learn different positions in the field.

## 9. Coaching

A manager or coach must stand near the batter to position the batter, offer instruction, and serve as catcher. One coach will be at 1st base and one at 3rd base. Two defensive coaches should help the fielders, position them and keep them alert.

## 10. Umpiring

There will not be an umpire in T-ball. The managers of each team will be responsible for fair play. A tie will go to the runner.

## 11. Base Running

Runners must stay in contact with the base until the ball is hit.

## 12. Overthrows

Defensive players should be encouraged to make throws to first base on all ground balls. Runners may not advance on errant throws by infielders.

## 13. Pitching

The manager or coach will pitch underhand or overhand to his/her team depending on the ability of each player. Managers should communicate with the other team to protect all players (i.e., warning the other team of a good, hard-hitting player, so defense can move back). The coach pitcher does not have to stand on the pitcher's mound. He/she may adjust himself to the quality of the batter. Each batter will be given six pitches. If the batter does not hit a fair ball beyond the arc after seven pitches, use the tee. There are no strikeouts. The batting coach is responsible for moving the tee off home plate after the ball is in play.

## 14. Miscellaneous

- A. Use the RIF 1 balls or equivalent.
- B. Rainouts must be made up. Call scheduler to reserve a field.
- C. Games will typically be played on Saturdays.
- D. If game date/time changes, please inform the scheduler.

## 15. Managers' Responsibilities

- A. Home team will be responsible to line the field and place bases. (Managers will get a key or combo # to equipment shed and concession stand.)
- B. Home team is responsible for running the concession stand.
- C. Home team is responsible for cleaning up the field, placing bases back into shed and cleaning the concession stand.

These rules are as complete and accurate as possible. However; settle them within the spirit of these rules. If a dispute arises and a mutual agreement cannot be made, take the play over rather than argue. The whole intention of this league is to teach fundamental baseball, teamwork, and above all, good sportsmanship. The youngsters learn a great deal by watching our behavior. With these goals in mind, this will be an enjoyable and rewarding season.