

Youth Services Baseball Program
Kiwanis Club of New Scotland
Voorheesville, New York
T-Ball Rules

Introduction:

Organized by the Kiwanis Club of New Scotland, the Youth Services Baseball Program is open to students living in the Town of New Scotland. The program's primary goals are to foster fair competition, sportsmanship, and good fellowship among participants, while promoting their knowledge and enjoyment of the game of baseball. These objectives are reached through the leadership and example of volunteer managers and coaches from the community, working with a League Commissioners appointed by the Club.

League Organization:

Currently the program includes four levels of play:

T Ball: open to boys and girls ages 5 and 6. This entry level is based entirely on hitting a ball from a rubber tee. No scores are kept for these 3 inning games. Safety balls are used for practice and game play.

Big Sticks: open to boys and girls ages 6 and 7. Runs and outs are not counted. An adult coach will normally pitch the ball, although players have the option of hitting from a tee. No scores are kept for these 3 inning games. Safety balls are used for practice and game play.

Minors: open to boys and girls ages 7 -9. Adult coaches pitch for the first half of the season; competitive pitching by players is introduced during the second half of the season for ½ a game. Outs and runs are counted at the minor league level, and score is kept. Games are expanded to 5 innings. Safety balls are used for practice and game play.

Majors: open to boys and girls ages 10 -12. Competitive pitching is used throughout the season. Outs and runs are counted at the major league level, and score is kept. Games are five innings. Hard baseballs are used for practice and game play.

Coaches:

A manager and one or two coaches typically supervise each team. The manager is generally in charge with coaches providing overall field supervision. Managers distribute information affecting League play and acts as the primary team representative in dealing with the League Commissioner(s).

Playing Season:

Regular season play is for approximately seven weeks, beginning during the last week of April and continuing through early June. T-Ball/Big Sticks teams typically play two games weekly, beginning at 6:00 PM on Mondays and 9:00 AM on Saturdays. Games are played on designated fields at the Voorheesville Elementary School or at alternate locations selected by the Commissioners. The Kiwanis Club sponsors a season ending picnic, for players, staff and families.

League Logistics:

The following guidelines are designed to promote a safe and enjoyable environment for players, staff and spectators:

1. Weekday games are held on Mondays and Wednesdays beginning at 6:00 PM. T-Ball/Big Sticks will play games on Mondays and Minors games will be played on Wednesdays. Players and staff are asked to arrive by 5:45 PM. Saturday games will start at 9:00 AM for T-Ball/Big sticks and 10:30 for Minors, and again players and staff are asked to arrive 15 minutes prior to the schedules start time for the games.
2. Players and staff are asked to remain away from fields and benches until any school related activities are completed and the area is cleared. All participants MUST park in the school's lower lot and cross the bridges to the fields, or park in the designated overflow lot, which is St. Matthew's Church. Parking in front of the school or along any of the roadways is STRICTLY PROHIBITED, and may result in ticketing or towing.
3. Players are to be in proper uniform for all league games. Long pants are required. Players not wearing long pants will be asked to sit out until they are properly attired. Players are required to wear their hat underneath batting helmets.
4. If a manager cannot be present for a particular game, they are asked to designate an acting manager.

5. Players, staff and spectators are asked to remain away from backstops/home plate area once play begins.
6. While games are in progress, only players and staff are allowed on playing fields and benches.
7. Only players "at bat" or "on deck" are to have bats in their hands. Those on deck are to remain in designated areas, away from other players, staff and spectators.
8. Players are not to throw bats at any time. A player who throws a bat should be coached immediately as to how to properly drop the bat once they have hit the ball.
9. Batters and base runners must wear helmets at all times.
10. Managers are asked to direct questions and problems to the appropriate League Commissioner(s). Coaches are asked to channel questions through their manager.

General Rules:

1. Games consist of 3 innings.
2. Out and runs are not counted, and score is not kept.
3. During each half inning, each member of the batting team will hit one time.
4. All players will hit from a batting tee. Batters will be allowed to try, until they are able to put a ball in play.
5. Once a batter has put a ball in play, they will advance one base, while the fielding team attempts to field the ball.
6. Players already on base will also advance one base, each time a batter puts a ball in play. No batter/runner shall advance more than one base each time the ball is put in play, except as outlined in General Rule 6 below.
7. Each 1/2 inning will proceed in this way, until the final batter for the hitting team is up. The final batter in each half inning will bat until they put a ball in play. Once they put a ball in play, the batter and all runners on base will advance until they have all crossed home plate.
8. Once each of the players on the hitting team has batted, the teams will switch sides, and the fielding team will now bat, and vice versa. Games will continue in this manner until 3 innings have been played, or the game is called by the commissioner for other reasons such as inclement weather.

Cancellation of Play:

The League Commissioners may cancel play on a given date because of inclement weather, adverse field conditions, or other circumstances affecting player safety and/or fair competition. The Commissioner will utilize the New Scotland Kiwanis website, Facebook, and the League Lineup website to notify team managers and players of the cancellation. Managers may notify other coaches and players if desired. Canceled games may be rescheduled at the Commissioner's discretion.

Field Specifications:

Field specifications for T-ball/Big Sticks are encouraged for safety. The following dimensions can be used as a rough guideline. The setup of the bases for a particular game should be accomplished in a mutually agreeable fashion by the two team's Managers.

T-Ball

Between Bases = 50'-0"

Home Plate to Pitching Rubber = 35'-4"

Home Plate to Second Base = 70'-8"

Rule Changes/Disputes:

1. By no means are these rules exhaustive. They are meant as a framework for the way New Scotland Kiwanis baseball is played. If a situation arises that is beyond the scope of these rules, a ruling will be made by the Commissioner(s) or their representative. The Commissioner(s) will use generally accepted rules of baseball as a guideline (where applicable) as well as common sense, in making rulings in any dispute. Any rulings made by the Commissioner(s) or their representative will be considered final.
2. These rules may be modified at any time at the discretion of the Commissioner(s).

Team Parent Information

Team Parent is a vital aspect to all teams. It is meant to be a supportive roll to the coaches. We encourage all Team Parents to fill in to help the team and coaches as needed.

Suggested Duties:

1. Help during games to guide kids while waiting to bat, exiting the game for a freeze pop.
2. Encourage on the sidelines.
3. Serve one day in the snack shack.
4. Hand out picture forms/pictures for picture day.
5. MINORS TEAM – Help keep score.