

Mead T-Ball Rules - 2016 Season

Safety is rule #1. Coaches should emphasize and ensure safety in all practices and games!

Players, Field, and Equipment

- All players must have reached the 5th but not their 8th birthday by April 30th of the baseball season, or get approval from MYSA staff.
- The distance between bases will be 50 feet.
- No pre-game practice on the infield. Stay outside the baselines or practice in the outfield.
- There are no official umpires. Coaches should come to a friendly agreement on all calls.
- All practice and game balls must be the soft "T-Ball approved" type, as provided by the MYSA.
- No metal cleats will be allowed (doubt you could even find any this size anyway)!

Rainouts and Lightning

- For obvious rainouts, MYSA will notify all coaches early in the day. Game-time decisions concerning rainouts will be made by the Head Coaches. An effort will be made to reschedule rainouts if desired by both teams.
- Coaches **MUST** remove all players from the field when lightning is in the area. The decision to resume play will be made by the Head Coaches.

Basic Game and Safety Rules

- No official score will be kept.
- All regular games will consist of a maximum of 5 innings. No inning can be started later than 1 hour after the start of the game. Regardless of the game situation, the game is over after 1 hour 15 minutes. For early games, the field and dugouts must be cleared in a timely manner for the next game to start on time.
- Each half inning will consist of 3 outs on defense or batting through the order (whichever comes first). The last batter in the batting order will be announced and can continue to run after the hit until they are either tagged out or reach base safely. Either way, the inning is over.
- If 3 outs are recorded, the half inning is over and the batting order resumes the next inning where it left off.
- No player shall sit out more than one inning consecutively except for disciplinary reasons, injuries or ejection. Players who consistently throw or swing bats or helmets in an unsafe manner should be benched at the coaches discretion for safety reasons. **SAFETY IS PRIORITY #1**, and should be emphasized in all games and practices.
- No head-first sliding.

Batting / Base running

- All players on the team will be placed in the batting order.
- A coach or designated parent will place the ball on the Tee.
- There will be no strikeouts.
- A batted ball that does not travel at least 10 ft from home is considered a foul ball. Coaches may draw an arc on the field at the 10 ft distance to assist with this ruling.
- Bunting, leadoffs, and stealing are not allowed. Base runners cannot leave the base until the ball is hit.
- There is no infield fly rule.
- On all overthrows, regardless of the location of the ball (fair or foul), all play will stop and the runners will advance only one additional base.
- Parent or adult may be used to coach bases, and supervise the dugout / batting order.

Defense

- Players on defense must be rotated. All players must play the infield a minimum of one inning per game (at the coaches discretion when safety is a factor). A player cannot play the same position more than two innings per game. The goal by the end of the season is to make sure all players get experience at all positions.
- There should be at least 6 players on defense at all times. Players on defense should play in normal baseball positions (including pitcher and catcher). Extra players can be added to the outfield. If necessary, players from the opposing team may be used. All players must be registered with the MYSA program.
- Substitutions can be made at any time.
- When playing defense, no more than two coaches may be on the field to assist and coach players.

NOTE: THERE CAN BE NO GAME-TIME COACHES AGREEMENT TO CHANGE ANY OF THESE RULES. Please contact MYSA Baseball staff if any problems arise over these rules.

Remember, this is T-Ball, not major-league baseball. For most players, this is their first experience with organized ball. Make it a fun, safe experience, teach fundamentals and keep all communication positive. Good sportsmanship is expected by all players, coaches and parents.

Share these rules with the parents so that everyone understands.

For all rule clarifications or dispute resolutions, contact one of the MYSA baseball representatives: Patrick Boaz, 303-746-0778 or John Heard, 303-775-3233.