

# **T-BALL RULES**

## **PYBSA**

Piqua Youth Baseball & Softball Association  
Revision 2007

### **Eligibility:**

Those who are five before May 1<sup>st</sup> of the current playing year and all boy and girls in Kindergarten.

### **Goal:**

T-Ball is a game to be played not to win or lose, but to teach all players to run, hit and throw. The most important rule is for the players to enjoy themselves. In the course of having fun, it is our hope that the players will develop the beginning baseball/softball skills. The following rules are designed to provide maximum playing time and enjoyment for the players.

### **General:**

- 1) A complete game is 3 innings or when the time limit of 1 hour and 15 minutes is reached.
- 2) A minimum of 8 players is required to begin a game. The standard playing strength is 10 players.

You can play all the players in the field.

- a) Substitutes can be added in order to fill all positions. All substitutes must play in the outfield.
  - b) Substitution eligibility must be a PYBSA player from any T-Ball team. Teams playing each other can move players from a team with extra players to the short team in order to play a game.
  - c) Late players are added to the bottom of the batting order. If a substitute has already been added, the substitute may remain in the game.
- 3) All regular baseball positions will be played. The 10<sup>th</sup> position is a fourth outfielder.
    - a) At the time of the pitch, all infielders must be within four feet of normal baseball positions.
    - b) All outfielders must be in the outfield grass area.
    - c) Two coaches may be positioned in the outfield area, keeping the players alert and ready. the coach shall not make any physical contact with the player, or the ball, and shall not interfere. The batter shall be awarded a home run if there is any interference by the coach.

- d) No position change may be made during a fielding inning, unless there is an injured player, or other reason agreeable to both team coaches.
- e) The pitcher must remain at the mound or rubber area until the ball is struck.
- f) Every player must play at least one inning in the infield and one inning in the outfield during each game.

**Playing rules:**

- 1) T-Ball players who are fielded out will immediately leave the field of play.
- 2) There will be no walks.
- 3) There is no infield fly rule.
- 4) Bunting is not allowed.
- 5) Sliding into bases is not allowed.
- 6) A base runner cannot steal or leave the base until the ball is hit. If they do, the base runner will be called out.
- 7) All batters, runners, and on deck batters must wear helmets.
- 8) The catcher must wear appropriate equipment including catcher's helmet with mask, chest protector and shin guards.
- 9) The first and third base coaches of the batting team will call the plays during the game.
- 10) There are no umpires for T-Ball. No appeals to PYBSA officials or opposing team will be tolerated during game play.
  
- 11) All the players on a team will bat to complete an offensive half-inning.
  - a) The manager of the team must notify the opposing manager before the first pitch of the last batter.
  - b) On the last batter, the inning will end when any player, while holding the ball touches home plate.
  
- 12) Overthrows:
  - a) The base runner(s) may advance one base at his/her risk only after the first overthrow per play if, in the base coaches judgement, the runner is obviously halfway to the next base he/she is advancing toward.
  - b) If an overthrown ball goes into a dead area, the ball is dead and the base coaches will award the proper bases.

**Batting :**

- 1) The batting order ( line up) is a list of players name and uniform numbers. T-ball lineups do not need to be given to the opposing team. Every player will be in the line up whether or not he/she is playing in the field.
- 2) Batting rules:
  - a) The batter will remain in the on deck circle or approximate area until called to the plate.
  - b) Each batter will receive **4** pitches from the team manager followed by 3 swings off the tee, if necessary. **NO** additional pitches are permitted due to fouls, or any other reasons. Players should swing at every pitch.
  - c) The batter is out if he/she did not hit one of the 4 pitches or 3 swings off the tee.
  - d) A coach is permitted at home plate to assist the batter with stance and swing, removing the tee if a play will be made at home, check that the defense is ready, and to speed up the batting process.

**Coaches notes :**

- 1) Teach all players the baseball/softball fundamentals of run, hit and throw.
- 2) Team coaches are responsible for the conduct of their team.
- 3) Encourage the kids to practice at home.
- 4) Encourage the parents to write the kids names on their glove and inside their hat.
- 5) Coaches should track the the positions that each player has played, so they can experience all the positions during the season.
- 6) Shorts are permitted for coaches only, but shirts must be worn.
- 7) Each team is responsible for cleaning it's dugout of all trash at the completion of the game.
- 8) Games will be cancelled when light or other conditions make it dangerous to continue. Games will be cancelled when lighting or thunder is observed. A decision to cancel once a game is started should be made by both coaches.