

Covington YMCA T-Ball / Coach Pitch Rules

Purpose

The purpose of the YMCA Youth Sports Baseball program is to develop fundamental baseball skills, sportsmanship, and to encourage participation in sports and fitness activities. The rules have been especially adapted to insure fairness for all participants. The YMCA staff asks that all coaches, spectators, and parents please add to our program by showing sportsman-like conduct.

Uniforms

Uniforms will consist of the team shirts, pants and caps issued by the YMCA. All players are required to wear their uniforms. Cleats are optional (shorts are allowed in extreme heat, & tennis shoes are fine). Metal cleats are not allowed. Each player will need to supply their own glove. Balls, bats and helmets will be provided by the YMCA at practices and games. Players may use their own bats & helmets.

Practice

All teams may begin practice on the week designated by the YMCA. Any pre-season scrimmages are optional and at the discretion of the coaches involved. Practice space will be provided for one hour per night, one night per week.

Game Format

An inning is the period during which both teams have been up to bat and have been retired after three outs or when the entire roster has batted. On the last batter, the defensive team must reach home plate with the ball to end base runner advancement. A game will consist of 6 innings or one hour of play. A new inning will not be started after 50 minutes of playing time. (We do not keep league standings, so keep in mind that the emphasis is not on winning or losing).

Additional Rules

A maximum of 12 players will play on the field at the same time and every team member must play at least half of the game on defense. All coaches (except the pitcher) are required to stay off of the playing field during the game.

Pitcher

The coach (or designated adult pitcher) is allowed 5 pitches per batter. All pitches must be thrown overhand. No strikes will be called. The defensive team will have a player to field balls who stands beside the adult pitching coach within the designated circle. That player must be wearing a helmet. Pitchers (coach and player) must stand in the designated circle. For safety reasons, we ask that coaches catch line drives, if there is a chance of injury to defensive players. No coach or other adult on field except adult pitcher.

Outfielders

They may play anywhere in the outfield. (Must stay behind the infielders several feet behind the baseline)

Batters

5-7 yr olds: The batter must make a fair hit on one of the 5 pitches. No strikes or balls will be called. A batter who throws his/her bat is out. (A throw is considered any bat that lands outside of the batter's box. This is at the discretion of the umpire.)

3 & 4 yr olds: The batter can choose to hit off a tee or have his/her coach pitch the ball. The batter must make a fair hit on one of 5 balls. They may combine using the tee and coach-pitch during each turn at bat.

The batting order will consist of every player who attends the game. The entire roster will be followed regardless if player was playing defense or not. Player arriving to the game late will be added to the bottom of the roster.

All batters must wear approved helmets (provided).

No bunting is allowed.

Base Runners

Runners cannot leave the base until the ball is hit. Runners are not permitted to steal. Runners may advance on overthrows that remain on the playing field. Once the ball comes under control of a player (or the pitching coach) in the pitcher's circle, all play must stop. On an overthrown ball that leaves the playing field, the runner is awarded the base he or she is approaching. If a batted fair ball hits a base runner that is off the base, then the runner is out. No infield fly rules. All base runners must wear approved helmets. A runner is out if no attempt to slide when fielder is waiting to tag runner. No headfirst slides are permitted. Runner will be called out the moment any part of his/her body touches the ground when attempting a headfirst slide.

Umpires

Games will be played according to the YMCA Coach Pitch Rules. Playing rules will follow standard baseball rules. The decision of the umpire is final.

Game cancellations: Call 770-312-2477 weather hotline number one hour prior to scheduled practice and/or game.