

2024 Bellevue Baptist T-Ball Rules

This is a recreational league designed to teach players the fundamentals of baseball. Score and league standings will not be kept. Emphasis is on instruction. It is our intent to provide opportunities to develop each participant through experience, teaching, and encouragement.

Equipment

- Each team will have an equipment bag placed in their dugout prior to each game and practice. Balls and bases will be delivered to the teams at their field each day.
- All batters, base runners and the on-deck batter must wear protective helmets.
- Please be sure that players use equipment in a responsible manner and place the equipment back in the bag if your team is the last one on the field.
- No metal spikes will be allowed.

The Game

Official baseball rules will be used unless otherwise stated herein:

1. Coaches and Players

- Two defensive coaches will be allowed on the field, and they will officiate the game. Care should be taken to start the game on schedule and regulate a steady pace throughout, so that all players receive a maximum amount of playing time. Avoid excessive "instructional breaks" during game play. Utilize other coaches and parents to instruct and correct players off the field while the game continues.
- Four offensive coaches are allowed: one in foul territory at 1st and 3rd base, and one to assist the batter, and one to pitch.
- All players on defense must begin in their assigned infield positions until ball is hit. The catcher should stand against the fence, safely behind the batter. After the six infield positions are occupied, all remaining players should be spread evenly in the outfield. All players present will play in the field when on defense. Players should rotate every inning from infield to outfield giving each player equal opportunity to play different positions.
- All "**first time**" players will be listed first in the batting order and will hit from a tee. All "**returning**" players will be listed after the "**first timers**" and will have the option of beginning the season at the coach pitch level. All players participating in coach pitch will receive **3** pitches. If they are unable to hit any of these pitches into fair territory they will then hit off the tee.
- **Introduction to Coach Pitch:** At the coach's discretion, any player may participate in coach pitch. The coach may pitch 3 underhanded pitches to the batter. If the batter does not hit any of these pitches in fair territory, the player will then hit the ball off the tee.

2. Duration

- The game shall last 5 innings or 60 minutes, whichever comes first.
- A new inning shall not begin 5 minutes before the scheduled start time of the next game.
- Number of runs and number of outs will not be kept.
- First team listed on the schedule is the HOME team.
- Second team listed on the schedule is the AWAY team.

3. Base & Mound Distance

- The "T" will be placed directly on home plate.
- There is no set distance from which the coach must pitch.
- Base distance is 50 feet.

4. Batting

- **All players present shall bat each inning. Each player will bat in the line-up.** Players arriving after game has begun will be added to the end of the batting order. It is the coach's responsibility to keep up with the order and to inform the other team when the last batter is up.
- If one team has more players present than the other, the team with less players may start over on their batting order until the other team completes their batting order. The coach must also remember who batted last and start the next inning with the next player on the list.
- No bunting is allowed.
- There will be no strikeouts; batter must hit a fair ball.
- Any player who unsafely slings his bat should be immediately warned upon the first incident. All subsequent violations will result in the player being called out, with further discussion about the correct manner to safely handle the bat.

5. Base Running/Stealing/Outs

- Runners may not leave the base until the ball is hit. Runners who do so shall be declared out.
- The coach may tell the runner when to run but may not push or physically direct the runner. All runners must follow the proper base paths. Players that fail to comply should be encouraged and applauded for effort but declared "out" and taken aside for an immediate explanation of the correct way to run the bases.
- Any base runner that intentionally collides with a defensive player in an attempt to dislodge the ball will be called out. It is the runner's responsibility to slide or attempt to avoid contact. *This is a judgment call by the coach.* Additionally, defensive players may not block bases including home plate, with or without the ball.
- Since we are trying to teach the fundamentals of baseball, the defense must make a legitimate attempt to record an out after the ball is hit. So that the defense will not be penalized for this attempt, the ball will be declared "dead" once a tag or force-out is attempted, "Time" will be called, and the runners will only advance one base on an overthrow or ball out of play. Play will then continue with the next batter.
- If a player is declared "out" at any juncture of the play, he/she must leave the base and return to the dugout.
- Play is halted when the ball is thrown back to the defensive pitcher within the pitcher's circle, goes out of bounds, or is overthrown to first or third base. On overthrows and out of bounds plays (not to the pitcher), all base runners advance one base, and the play is declared dead.

Conduct and Evangelism

All coaches are expected to behave in a Christ-like manner, serving as positive examples to players, parents, and fans. Coaches should be concerned about their actions as well as those of their players and fans. They should encourage sportsmanship and make every attempt to calm and control inappropriate behavior by fans and parents. As ambassadors for Christ, our desire to win should be subservient to our desire to present an effective Christian testimony.

Coaches should be considerate of the feelings of their team as well as those of the opponent. Be very cautious to avoid the appearance of "running up the score". There are many creative things that can be done to avoid embarrassing your opponents, while still maintaining the integrity of the playing experience. Consult a staff member if you need help in this area.

Coaches should actively pray for their players and their players' families. Bellevue will provide a brief (5-7 minute) devotion for coaches to share at all practices and games on Tuesday nights and Saturday mornings. Those who share the devotions should be certain of their testimony and Christian beliefs.

HOTLINE

In the event of inclement weather in the area, or for an update on pitch conditions and scheduling information, please call the Recreation Ministry hotline at 901-347-5286. It will be updated at 3:00 P.M. on weekdays and 7:00 A.M. on Saturdays.