



T-Ball Parent Handout

BASIC INFORMATION

- ❖ Our program is a recreational, participating-type program and we do not stress winning. We emphasize teamwork, sportsmanship, and cooperation since soccer is not an individual sport. We do not keep scores or standings. **REMEMBER TO HAVE FUN!!!**
- ❖ **League information, weather information, and cancellations can be found on our athletic website 24/7.**
<http://www.quickscores.com/tinleypark>
- ❖ **Our weather hotline (708) 779-6010, is a great source to find out if a game or practice has been canceled due to poor weather conditions; the hotline will be updated one hour prior to the start of the first game scheduled the day of.**
- ❖ Players should arrive approximately 5-10 minutes before scheduled times.
- ❖ All players should bring water bottles.
- ❖ Gym shoes or plastic cleats only.
- ❖ Please do not wear any jewelry.
- ❖ DO NOT dry jerseys and wash on cold delicate.
- ❖ Make sure to call the coaches if you are unable to make games or practices.
- ❖ Please keep any child who is not participating with you on the sidelines at all times.
- ❖ The Athletic Supervisor can be reached at (708) 342-4208 or at ronald.woodworth@tinleyparkdistrict.org
- ❖ The Assistant Athletic Supervisor can be reached at (708) 342-4214 or at emily.wetzel@tinleyparkdistrict.org
- ❖ **The coaches will have complete control of the game and his/her decisions will be final. Any parents involved in fighting, arguing, swearing and etc., will have to meet with the athletic supervisor before attending any future games.**

The league supervisor has the authority to delete and/or create and enforce any additional rules and regulations that are necessary and beneficial for the entire league. Coaches will be notified of leagues changes, but schedule changes will only be posted online.

THE GAME

- ❖ Games are not allowed to exceed an hour and 10 minutes. No new inning should start 20 minutes before reaching the time limit. If you reach the maximum time limit, end your game and allow the next team on the field. Games are scheduled to be 6 innings long.

BATTING

- ❖ A batter can strike out by missing the ball, fouling the ball, or hitting the tee to total 3 strikes. We only count a strike when the tee is hit well below the ball.
- ❖ If players are removed from fielding positions, they still remain in the lineup as batters.
- ❖ If the ball is not hit more than 2ft, the ball will be considered a dead ball and need to be hit again. This is also considered a strike.
- ❖ Teams may elect to bat differently from time to time, but the Park District recommends one of the following...
 - 3 outs.
 - **The whole team bats through one time. (Please remember that this option may cause the hour and a half time limit rule to come into effect as outs will not be applied).**
 - 3 outs or half the team, whichever comes first.
- ❖ **When a team is batting, a coach or parent can assist the batter in setting tee height. Also, the coach or parent can place the batter in a normal batting stance (squared to pitcher). If only one coach is available the head coach will act as the batting coach only.**

RUNNING

- ❖ No lead-offs or stealing.
- ❖ Runners can only advance on hits and overthrows in fair territory.
- ❖ Coaches and/or parents, who are coaching first and/or third base, cannot in any way restrain or touch runners. They also must remain off the field.

UMP/CATCHER'S RESTRICTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- ❖ **The catcher shall be from the fielding team and must be a coach or parent.** The catcher receives balls thrown from the fielders and guides his/her team on the field.
- ❖ The catcher can go out to receive a throw from a fielder only as far as his/her reach, with one foot in contact with the home plate.
- ❖ The catcher cannot make an outgoing play to any other base and must step on the home plate for an out to be counted. At no time should the catcher tag a runner.
- ❖ **If only one coach is available this position must be covered by the head coach before a base or fielding coach.**
- ❖ **The catcher, base coaches, or field coaches will act as the umpires and must be from the fielding team. The batting team's coach should never act as the umpire as they need to assist their team while batting.**

EQUIPMENT

- ❖ The Park District provides t-ball shirts and hats, as well as all equipment besides batter and catching gloves. Players may use their own bats and helmets if they wish to. We do not have any restrictions on these.

GENERAL RULES

- All players must bat and alternate between infield and outfield positions at least once throughout the game.
- **In addition to the catcher, another adult can be allowed on the field to verbally assist the kids in play, etc. This "coach" will be positioned in the outfield. This "coach" cannot in any way hinder the ball, or physically assists.**
- All coaches are required to alternate starting line-ups so that all participants receive a chance to start half of the games.

PITCHING

- For the first half of the season no coach is to pitch, the second half of the season a coach can pitch, but only after everyone hits at least once off the tee to warm up. Also, if the player misses it two times, they must use a tee on the third. If a child does not want to be hit by a pitched ball that is OKAY!!!

The league supervisor has the authority to delete and/or create and enforce any additional rules and regulations that are necessary and beneficial for the entire league. Coaches will be notified of leagues changes, but schedule changes will only be posted online.

Rainout Hotline (708.779.6010) will be updated at 4:30 pm if inclement weather.

3/28/24