

## **2022 GAME RULES FOR T-BALL AND MITE BASEBALL LEAGUES**

**These rules are a guideline and can be changed at the discretion of the coaches, only in the event that BOTH coaches agree prior to the start of the game!**

**1) FIELDS** - Games will be played at the Johnson Teen Center in Corvallis, which is attached to the Boys & Girls Club, and Philomath Middle School in Philomath. The bases shall be placed at 50 feet with a 15-foot foul line which the ball must pass to be considered in fair territory.

**2) PLAYERS** – For T-Ball, all of the players are on the field at the same time. For Mites League, ten players shall be allowed on the field (four in the outfield). We can be flexible with this requirement. For example, if a team has only eleven players, a coach may want to add the last player into the outfield. Teams with less than ten may still play. If a team has 6 players or less, the teams should “share” players to make the numbers more even. Players should hold a relative fielding position until after the ball is hit and not over shift for certain players as teams do at upper levels.

Assistant coaches and parents may stand with defensive players on the field to help manage kids and playing action as needed. We work during the season to get the kids out there by themselves, but since kids develop at different rates, this may last longer for some teams than others.

**3) GAME LENGTH** - The game length in all leagues will be one hour and fifteen minutes. Please do not begin an inning if it will cause the game to go past this limit.

**4) DEFENSE** - No player should sit out from defensive play more than one inning at a time. Coaches should work with all players to play various positions during the season. Players should switch every inning.

**5) RUNNERS** - In T-Ball, runners may not advance on an overthrown ball into foul territory (which will happen a lot at the start of the season). In Mites, runners may advance one base only. Our reason for this is to stop a runner from scoring on every hit, which is very possible. This also allows for force-outs to be made at other bases and teach the kids more of the overall game. There is no leading off, stealing, or sliding in any league. Play may continue (runners run) until a “dead ball” situation occurs as listed.

- a) An out is made (includes all catches, tags, and forces, common to baseball)
- b) The ball is thrown into foul territory
- c) An outfield hit ball is returned to the infield in T-Ball, and an outfield hit ball is returned to the infield and a fielder has possession in Mites

**6) BATTERS AND PITCHERS** - In T-Ball, a tee is used for all batters, and every player will bat in every inning. Outs are not officially kept to change innings. In Mites league, the team’s own coach will pitch to his/her own players. Teams will hit one full time through the line up even if 3 outs occur. No official score is kept in any league. No player will strike out in any league. If a player is having trouble hitting the ball, a tee may be used in Mites after a “few” pitches. (Give players a chance, but do not delay the game; throwing 8 pitches is a good limit to bring in the tee.)

**7) CATCHERS** - Catchers will be used for all leagues. In T-Ball, a coach or parent shall stand with the catcher to ensure no injury occurs to the player, as they are not experienced enough in the game. In Mites, catchers may stand alone but at least four to five feet behind all batters. (All players in all leagues should be instructed in batting safety protocol.)

**8) LINE UP** - The batting order is rotated every inning such that, the batter who batted first in the preceding inning shall bat last in the next inning. (This allows everyone a chance to run the bases, since the last batter will always become an out.)

**9) BALL** - A safety soft baseball is used for T-Ball and Mites leagues.

**10) SCORING** - No official score or standings are kept for any leagues.

**11) OTHER** – All coaches, parents, and spectators are asked to use excellent sportsmanship at all times. Positive encouragement and cheering are very acceptable. Players, coaches, and parents who do not exhibit positive characteristics will be asked to leave the area immediately and must meet with the Club's Athletic Director before being re-admitted.

Parents and coaches of the offensive team (at bat) shall provide a “base coach” at first and third base. They shall also function as umpires and shall call out and safe at bases and in the field.

*If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to give the Club offices a call. The Boys & Girls Club of Corvallis number is 757-1909. The Philomath Youth Activities Club number is 929-4040.*

**Thanks, and have a great season!**