

SFBSA T-BALL BASEBALL RULES (Ages 5 & 6)



1. The Playing Field:

1.01: The home team will prepare the field: setup the bases, lime the baselines, the pitching circle, and home plate semi-circle. The home team will also supply the tee and game balls.

1.02: The infield should be a 50 ft. square (i.e. bases are placed 50 ft. from each other).

1.03: A 10 ft. circle should be placed around the pitching area 25 ft. from the back tip of home plate to the center of the circle. A player playing the pitcher position must keep one foot in the circle until the ball is hit.

1.04: A 5 ft. semi-circle should be drawn in front of home plate. If a player hits a ball and it does not leave this semi-circle, then it will be considered a foul ball.

1.05: Both teams are responsible for field clean-up after the game. This consists of returning equipment to the field shed/box and picking up any trash around the field. Both teams are responsible for clean-up around their bench area. Both teams should make a collaborative effort to clean and drag field and make sure shed is locked.

2. The Game:

2.01: The game consists of 3 innings. No extra innings!! – An inning is complete when all players on both teams have batted the entire bench.

2.02: Incomplete games will not be rescheduled.

2.03: Each batter gets to bat every inning (i.e. 3 outs do NOT end an inning). The batting order should be rotate each inning (i.e. 1-10, 10-1). Batting order should randomly change each game. Players on offense that are not batting or on a base should sit on the bench. There is no “on-deck” circle.

2.04: Scores and standings are not kept.

2.05: Each team should field at least 7 players. If you do not have 7 players, then pull plays from the opposing team. If both teams cannot field 7 players, then play the game with the players you have.

2.06: All players play defensively, either in the infield or the outfield. The infield positions are Pitcher, First Base, Second Base, Shortstop, and Third Base. The remaining players should be spaced evenly in the outfield.

2.07: Each player must be given the opportunity to play an infield and outfield positions during each game. No player should ever play more than once inning at any one position.

2.08: Please start your game on time. Do not have warm-ups beyond your scheduled starting time.

3. The Batter:

3.01: During the first half of the season, the batter must hit from the Tee. There are no strikes kept so a child continues their turn at bat until the ball is hit in play.

3.02: Coaches will not start pitching to batters until the start of week number five (5) of T-Balls game season (NOT BEFORE).

3.02A: Each batter will get a maximum of 5 pitches.

3.02B: After 5 pitches, the batter must hit from the Tee.

3.02C: The coach must pitch overhand and should pitch from approximately 15-20 feet from home plate.

3.03: Once the batter hits the ball in fair territory, they should run to first base. They may not take an additional base even if ball is hit to the outfield. **There is no advance on an overthrow.**

3.04: A batter is considered "OUT" if a fair or foul fly-ball is caught by a fielder, or after hitting a fair ball, the batter or first base is tagged before the batter reaches the base.

3.05: If a batter is "OUT" they should remain on the base they were running towards. Congratulations should be directed towards the player(s) that were able to force an "OUT", but we do not want to discourage players by having them return to the bench.

4. The Runner:

4.01: There is no stealing or leading off the bases.

4.02: On fair balls hit anywhere in the field, base runners may only advance one base. **There is no advance on an overthrow.**

4.03: A base runner is considered "OUT" if tagged with the ball while off a base or if they fail to reach the next base before the runner or the base is tagged on a force play.

4.04: If a base runner is "OUT" they should remain on the base they were running towards. Congratulations should be directed towards the player(s) that were able to force an "OUT", but we do not want to discourage players by having them return to the bench.

5. Miscellaneous:

6.01: Coaches, players, and parents are expected to follow the Code of Conduct as completed during registration prior to the season. Violation of this agreement will be subject to disciplinary action by the SFBSA

6.02: Any player that is bleeding must be removed from the field and may not return until the wound has stopped bleeding and has been bandaged. Any parts of the uniform with blood must be removed.

General Information:

- In-house instructional league

Approved Bats:

USA stamped baseball bats only.

Revisions:

REVISED June 26, 2020: REVISED 3.02, 3.03 & 3.04 – Batters are never “OUT”

REVISED June 22, 2020: REVISED 4.02, 4.03 & 4.04 – Base runners are never “OUT”

REVISED June 18, 2020: ADDED Miscellaneous, General Information and Approved Bats

REVISED March 13, 2013: ADDED 3.02 – Pitching to the batter rule