



## **T-BALL DIVISION GUIDELINES**

**The rules for the Tee Ball Division are defined in the Little League Handbook Official Regulations and Playing Rules, except for the following Local League Rules:**

### **General**

Games should be limited to 1 hour or 2 complete innings, whichever occurs first. No scores or standings will be kept. Home Team is responsible for providing the league issued game balls for all

games. Only softened T-ball balls are allowed during games or practices. Home Team uses the 3rd base dugout and the Visiting Team uses the 1st base dugout.

### **Defense**

- Maximum of (11) eleven defensive players should be on the field. This means players may occasionally have to sit on the bench. Play consists of six standard defensive positions in the infield: pitcher, catcher, first base, second base, third base, and shortstop. All other players shall play in the outfield. All outfielders should be positioned in the grass. The pitcher should be positioned within the dirt of the pitching mound, not down the runway or on the grass in front of the dirt of the pitching mound.

- Coaches are encouraged to position themselves in the field to assist their players.

### **Offense**

- Every player on the team will be placed in the batting order. Every player will bat in a continuous order during their half of the inning. It is required to rotate the batting order every game.

- For the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the Spring season, all batters will be allowed to stay on base, even if they are thrown out. When batters are called out during the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the Spring season, they are out and must go back to the dugout, entire lineup will still get to bat.

- Base running will be base to base. Runners should not keep running on errors. However, if the batter hits the ball well enough, the player is free to keep running as long as the base ahead is not taken by another base runner.

- Sliding is not allowed.

- One coach from the offensive team should be positioned at home plate to assist the batter.

- During the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the Spring season the last batter is encourage to run all the way home to either be tagged out or score. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the Spring season the last batter will travel as far as they can until they are out.

### **Skill Positions**

All players must get the opportunity to play all positions during the year. However, managers should avoid playing players at positions beyond their skill level (e.g. if a child has difficulty defending himself from a thrown or batted ball, managers should place the child in positions which will minimize the safety risk).

### **Speeding Up the Game**

Have line-ups prepared before the game to ensure transitions from offense to defense is done quickly. Assign coaches and/or team parents to work in the dugout. (**All helpers must have a volunteer application on file.**) Team Parents, Coaches, etc., can help by telling the kids where



they will be playing in the field, getting the next batter ready to hit, helping the catcher put on his gear, etc., to keeping the game moving. Manager should also avoid having the catcher as one of the last 4 batters in the batting line-up.

### **Fairness**

Players must get the opportunity to play an infield position at least once during each game. Give every player an opportunity to play pitcher, catcher, and first base during the season. Make sure you

rotate the players that have to sit out an inning on defense. No player shall have to sit twice before every other player has sat at least once. Under normal circumstances, there should never be a lone player on the bench.

For example, if you have 10 Tballers then all 10 should be on the field, but if you have 11 Tballers, 9 should be on the field and 2 on the bench, not 10 on the field and 1 on the bench. This way no player is singled out.