



## **2018 T-Ball Division Rules**

### **A. COACHES**

1. Coaches will be responsible for the conduct of assistant coaches, players and parents. If poor conduct continues after one warning (either from the umpire or the coach), the offender will be asked to leave. Refusal to leave will result in the game being stopped and the situation turned over to the league commissioner and executive committee.
2. Coaches and umpires are responsible for keeping the backstop clear of all distractions.
3. Rattling of fences and yelling at the opposing team/players is strictly prohibited and must be monitored by the head coach.
4. One head coach and three assistant coaches are the maximum allowed on the playing field and bench area during a game.
  - a. *Commissioner's Note: At this level the more help the better. It is acceptable to have additional coaches/parents helping provided they have submitted their clearances to the league.*
5. Coaches must make sure that there are no "un-registered" players, siblings, etc. in or around the bench area and the playing field area.

### **B. GAME GOVERNANCE**

1. WARMUP / FIELD PREP
  - a. The home team has the field from 5:30 p.m. till 5:45 p.m.
  - b. The visiting team has the field from 5:45 p.m. till 6:00 p.m.
  - c. T-ball games begin at 6:00 p.m. and will last 6 innings or for a time limit agreed upon by both coaches prior to the start of play.
2. SUSPENDED GAMES
  - a. In the event of darkness or inclement weather that does not allow a game to be played in its entirety, a game will be considered complete if 4 complete innings have been played.
  - b. The home team is responsible for postponing a game up until it starts. After the game begins, the umpire in consultation with both coaches will make the decision. The safety of the players is paramount and should be the deciding factor.

### **C. PLAYING FIELD**

1. The HOME team will occupy the bench along the THIRD BASE line.
2. The HOME team is responsible for having the field ready for play and will supply the game ball.
3. The HOME team is responsible for seeing that everything is put away and locked up. All trash picked up and the lights turned off. Rake and fill in holes at batter's box and pitcher's mound.
  - a. *Commissioner's Note: If a drag is available drag the field.*
4. The distance from the front of the rubber to the back point of home plate shall be 40 feet.
5. The distance from the tip of home plate to the back corner of 1st/3rd base shall be 50 feet.

### **D. PLAYERS**

1. ALL players MUST be fully registered and will be placed in one of the divisions listed below based on their age on April 30th of the current year:
  - a. T-ball – 5 and 6 year olds
2. The only players permitted off the bench are the on-deck batter and those preparing for entry into the game as instructed by the coach.
3. No players can be base coaches.
4. Free substitution will be allowed.
5. The batting order will consist of all players in uniform batting in rotation regardless if they have a position in the field or not. Any player arriving to the game late will be added to the bottom of the batting order. (late arriving players must be announced to the opposing team upon arrival and entry into the game).
6. PLAYING TIME:
  - a. 6 inning games (T-ball and Knee-hi) – players must play a minimum of 3 innings per game.
    - i. *Commissioner's Note: In most cases it will be difficult to complete a full 6-inning game. It is not acceptable therefore for a player(s) to sit the bench for all of the first three innings.*

### **E. BASE RUNNING**

1. NO STEALING and the runners may not leave the base until the ball is hit.
2. NO SLIDING in the T-ball and Knee-hi Divisions.
3. GENERAL BASE RUNNING RULES
  - a. If a runner leaves early, one warning will be issued per game, per team. A second occurrence will result in the runner being called out. In all occurrences, all runners must return to their original base.
    - i. *Commissioner's Note: Instead of calling runners out, simply instruct them to stay on the base until the ball is hit.*
  - b. Head first sliding is forbidden and will result in the runner being called out with no warning. Unless the runner is going back to the base.
    - i. *Commissioner's Note: Follow rule H(14) for this.*

- c. Contact rule: Runner must attempt to avoid contact with a player making a play on him/her. If, in the judgment of the umpire, a runner makes avoidable contact, the runner will be called out. NOT a must slide rule.
  - i. *Commissioner's Note: Instead of calling runners out, simply instruct them that they must try to avoid contact with a fielder.*
- d. Any runner who, in the judgment of the umpire, maliciously runs over a player will be called out and will be disqualified for the rest of the game. A second offense will result in a two-game suspension. A third offense will result in the player being suspended for the remainder of the season, including league playoffs. Any malicious conduct must be reported by the head coach to the commissioner immediately.

## **F. BATTING**

- 1. ALL batters and base runners MUST wear a batting helmet.
- 2. Any batter who throws the bat will receive one warning. A second occurrence by the same player in the same game will result in the batter being called out with no advancement of the runners.
- 3. Players may use their own bats. Player owned bats must be made available for use by all players on the team.
  - a. For the Spring 2018 season, the 2017 BMBL bat rules for in-town play apply as well as the new USA Baseball bat standard.
  - b. All personal owned bats must be 2-1/4" barrel or carry the USA Baseball label.
  - c. Bats cannot exceed a length of 28".
  - d. FULL composite bats are NOT permitted for use in BMBL events unless it carries the USA Baseball label. If a player uses a FULL composite bat without a USA Baseball label the following will occur:
    - i. The bat is removed from the game.
    - ii. The batter is out.
    - iii. The Head coach is removed from the game.

## **G. UMPIRE**

- 1. There are no umpires in the T-ball and Knee-hi divisions.

## **H. MISCELLANEOUS RULES**

- 1. A foul line is to be drawn thirty (30) feet from the point of home plate straight to both base paths. Batted balls that do not touch or cross this line will be considered foul. A ball touched before it crosses the line will be a foul ball.
  - a. *Commissioner's Note: 30 feet is measured from the point of home plate along each baseline toward 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base. Stepping it off is fine. This should be a straight line, not an arc.*
- 2. The offensive team will have a home plate coach along with a first and third base coach. The base coaches are to act as umpires on their bases. The home plate coach is responsible to properly align the batter at the plate. The home plate coach must announce to the opposing team that the ball is on the tee and ready for play.

3. The defensive team will have a coach positioned directly behind second base area. If the ball accidentally touches the field coach, there are no penalties and the ball remains in play. All runners including the batter will receive two bases. The second base coach is to act as the umpire on plays at second base.
  - a. *Commissioner's Note: It is customary at this level to have more than one coach in the field to instruct the defense.*
4. The pitcher may make a put out at home plate.
5. The catcher position is not used.
6. Every player must play at least three different positions in a game with one of the positions being an infield position.
7. Four (4) outfielders will be spread evenly in the outfield. The fourth outfielder cannot be positioned as a short fielder behind second base.
8. No strikeouts. The home plate coach can help the batter if needed.
9. Play is stopped when an infielder makes a play to a base or an outfielder has control of the ball and is in position to throw.
10. Outfielders may not make a direct put out at a base.
  - a. *Commissioner's Note: An outfielder must throw the ball to another fielder covering the base in order to record an out.*
11. Players cannot advance on an overthrow.
12. At the end of the play, the ball is returned to the pitcher, who returns it to the home plate coach.
13. Every player will bat every inning.
  - a. *Commissioner's Note: It is customary that the last batter clears the bases to end the inning.*
  - b. *Commissioner's Note: Runners who are put out may remain on base or return to the bench as agreed upon by the coaches prior to the start of play.*
14. Sliding is not allowed. One warning will be issued per game, per player. A second occurrence will result in the runner being called out.

**I. COMMISSIONER'S NOTE: TRANSITION TO COACH PITCH**

1. *At a time, to be directed by the commissioner, games may transition to coach pitch as agreed upon by the coaches prior to the start of play.*
2. *Coaches may elect to soft toss in lieu of pitching.*
3. *Five hittable pitches shall be provided to each batter after which the batter should hit off the tee.*

**J. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MUST APPROVE ANY CHANGES OR ALTERATIONS TO THESE RULES.**

**K. ANY OTHER RULES REVERT BACK TO MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL.**