



## **T-Ball Rules**

### **Game Time Limit**

The T-Ball Division games and practices will be held on Sunday or Monday and Wednesday Evenings. Tournament may be held on different days of the week.

Coaches should use their judgement on ending the game a little early, if the end of an inning occurs shortly before the time limit.

Games may be played with 8 players (NO automatic out). Players are to be reminded that they are to wear their full uniform for all games. This includes the League-provided team cap, belt, pants, and shirt.

Shoes with metal cleats or spikes are not permitted by any player, coach, or manager.

### **Playing Time**

All coaches will be required to rotate players equally. All players will have a position on defense—place extra fielders in the outfield, spread out as evenly as possible.

### **Batting Order**

Batting order is set at the beginning of the game and cannot be changed once the game starts.

There is a different line -up for each game. By using the scorebook provided, it will ensure that players are receiving equal playing time at each position and will vary at what position in the batting order they will bat. If a player is gone, still enter their name in the player rotation form and replace that player with a player that is on the bench that inning. Every player present will bat during each inning – therefore, there is no “tracking” of outs.

### **Batting**

The objective of T-Ball is to teach the players the proper hitting mechanics. A tee is essential to developing the player’s proper swing and to help them gain confidence. It is the policy of Mandan Park District that players only hit from a tee during games. Coach pitch to players is not allowed as this significantly slows the game down and prevents players from getting multiple at bats on during the game. On-deck batters are to remain BEHIND the fence, in the dugout with their helmet on and ready to hit. Once the player in front of them has hit and the play has stopped, the on-deck hitter may advance to the batter’s box.

It is very important that coaches instruct their players NOT to throw their bat after they make contact with the ball. The player should swing and drop the bat at or near the tee. Should a player throw their bat, the coach should instruct the player and demonstrate how they should drop the bat after they swing. If the player continues to throw the bat, that player will not be allowed to hit until it is resolved. This is to ensure that players and coaches are not injured. The player’s parents should be consulted, and they should help solve the issue. It is the coach’s responsibility to ensure that the players on their team follow this rule.

## **Base Running**

Runners may advance one base at a time. They may not advance an extra base on an overthrow, error, or ball that is not caught by the catcher. If a player hits a ball over the heads of the outfield on the fly, they may take an extra base.

When **last batter hits**, all players on base may continue to run until there is a true out on any base runner. Once an out has been established then the inning is over. Any base runner that made it home before the true out will be awarded a run. The ball can then be thrown home and placed on the tee.

*\*Not every base runner will need to be tagged after the true out was established.*

Example: Bases are loaded, and the last player hits a ground ball to the 3rd baseman. The 3rd baseman steps on third and gets out. The ball is thrown home, so no additional base runners can advance. That half of the inning is over at that point.

## **Fielding**

Coaches should instruct the players on the proper mechanics of both fielding and throwing and encourage their players to make the proper play. Coaches should position themselves on the field to assist players on defense. Coaches are responsible for determining whether a player is out or safe. If the play was close, always rule in favor the offensive player. Throughout the season, each player should play equal time at every position.

Should the coach feel that a player is not capable of playing a certain position as they may be injured, you may switch that player to a different position on the field. The coach should consult with the parents of the player and explain the situation. If there are any questions regarding this, please consult Casey Johs, Recreation Supervisor.

## **Positions**

Players should play at regular baseball positions, with extra fielders in the outfield. Potentially an extra infielder between first and second standing out near the grass, or between second and third standing out near the grass. The extra position players placed will depend on the size of the roster and the number of kids that show up during games. However, please start with extra players in the outfield before moving any additional kids into the infield. For example, we do not want three kids standing around the pitcher's mound making it very challenging for kids to get a hit.

Also, please coach and encourage the kids to make the throw to each of the bases to get out. We do not want kids fielding the ball at the pitcher's mound and then running and tagging the batter out rather than throwing the ball. Remember, we are trying to teach baseball lessons and the fundamentals of the game. All the kids are learning and the best way for the kids to learn and develop baseball skills is to reinforce the fundamentals of the game.

## **Scrimmage Games**

No need to keep score during scrimmage games. Play all kids in the field and bat all kids in the line-up. The goal of the scrimmage game is to incorporate what the kids have learned in practice and put together in a less formal game situation. Coaches, please make sure you are all out in the field during these scrimmage game opportunities. Teaching and coaching in the moment are one of the best ways for the kids to learn. Scrimmage games are a great way to not only help with where the kids need to be standing in the field, but also a great opportunity for coaches to teach base running.

## **Game Rule**

Teams will have an hour for a game, please try to be ready and get 50-55 minutes of game play in. When fielding, please have all kids playing in the field, positioning the kids in all baseball positions with extra kids backfilled in the outfield. For batting, please have all kids bat the entire way through the line-up before changing the inning. Our goal is to simulate as close to "real" baseball as we can. No official score needs to be kept; however, Mandan Parks and Rec. will just need to have the winner recorded. Recording the winners each week is needed for seeding in the tournament at the end of the season.

## **Tournament Rule**

The same rules will be applied as the "Game Rules" noted above. However, we want to make sure the teams get an equal number of at-bats. For example, Team A has 11 players, and Team B has 9 players, Team B will have two of their players bats twice, so each team gets equal number of at-bats.

You do not need to keep track of the number of outs, but if a player gets an out, they need to return to the dugout. The last batter will hit, and all players on base including the hitter will run home. All players that run home will count as a score unless there is a true out.

Even if there are only 1 or 2 outs after all players hit, you will still go to the next inning.

## **Coaches**

While your team is batting it is recommended that you have coaches or parent volunteers to help coach both 1st base and 3rd base, as well as a coach or parent to help keep players in their proper batting order bench. The head coach should be assisting the players that are batting.

## **Weather**

For T-Ball nights, in the event weather cancels games for the day, the information will be posted to the Mandan Park District web site/Facebook page, and/or an email will be sent out. In the event games have started, it will be the decision of the coaches at the game to decide to call the game. In the event lightning is seen or thunder is heard you are to call the game for a period of 20 minutes. If the weather improves you may begin play again. If it doesn't, games are cancelled.

**MY Lightning Tracker** is an app that can be downloaded to your phone. Please set your parameters to 12 miles for initial notification and then at 8 miles you will need to get everyone off the field and out of the area or seek shelter.

Coaches - please ensure that all players are accounted for prior to leaving the fields.

## **Sportsmanship**

Coaches are responsible for their own behavior, as well as the behavior of their Assistant Coaches, Players and Player parents/family members/spectators. The coach will give a warning to the individual(s). If the behavior continues after the warning, the coach will be responsible for pulling the player off the field and asking the offending party, player, and player family to leave the field. Play should not continue until this has occurred. Mandan Park District has a zero-tolerance for inappropriate sportsmanship. Mandan Parks and Rec will support any enforcement of this policy undertaken by the coaches.

Should the spectator, family member, player or coach partake in unsportsmanlike behavior at any future games, the player and family will be removed from the League.

After a warning or ejection is given, coaches should send an email summarizing the situation to Casey Johs, Recreation Supervisor. [cjohs@mandanparks.com](mailto:cjohs@mandanparks.com) or 701-663-8469

## • Objectives of Tee Ball Baseball

- Develop the kids for the next level of baseball.
  - Players should know how to:
    - Throw and catch the ball.
    - Know the positions.
    - Catch a pop fly.
    - Run the bases.
    - Field a ground ball and throw to a specific target.
    - Hit the ball from a coach pitching.
- Coach the kids for their skill levels.
- Structure and repetition are key at this level for the kids to develop the fundamental skill of baseball.
  - Practice batting (hitting off a tee)
  - Fielding practice- have kids practice at all positions.
    - Have kids throw to other kids, not coaches when practicing fielding.
    - Have the kids play catch while warming up and see how many times they can throw the ball back and forth without the ball hitting the ground.
  - A structured practice should consist of: (Kids should not be standing around for long periods of time)
    - 30 mins of infield practice. Rotate kids through all positions while taking infield.
    - 30 mins of batting practice focused on stations to keep the kids engaged. 3+ batting stations work well.