

## **MASON DISTRICT LITTLE LEAGUE TEE BALL DIVISION PLAYING RULES**

**Philosophy:** To teach the players the fundamentals of baseball in a positive and noncompetitive environment; but foremost, to allow the children to have fun and enjoy the game of baseball.

### **Rules & Guidelines:**

1. Required Play: Each player shall play the entire game. However, a manager may discipline a player for failure to attend practices regularly, unsportsmanlike conduct, etc.
  - A. A minimum of 6 players on each team will be required prior to starting a game.
  - B. No more than 8 fielders shall be positioned in the infield.
  
2. Regulation Game: 3 innings of play. One and one half hour time limit. No inning will start after 1 hour and 15 minutes of the scheduled starting time. Should a game be called after 2 complete innings it will be considered a completed regulation game.
  
3. As a developmental program, with the goals of introducing the concept of baseball and the basic rules, the game score will not be kept and should be de-emphasized by coaches and parents. Please use common sense, be fair, emphasize hustle and sportsmanship and focus on teaching skills and rules of the game.
  
4. Defensive Play: All players will play the field. Only one player at the pitcher position, and one player at the catcher position are allowed. Try and spread the remaining players out as much as possible.
  - A. The catcher will be required to wear all protective equipment except the regulation catcher's mitt.
  - B. Each player should play at least one inning in the infield and one in the outfield.
  - C. Players must be encouraged to make defensive plays by throwing the ball instead of running the offensive player down.
  - D. Normally, the runner is removed from the base when he/she is put out unless he/she becomes upset with being put out.
  
4. Offensive Play: All players on the offensive team bat in their half of an inning, no matter how many outs are made. The offensive half inning will be over when all players of the offensive team have batted once.
  - A. Players MUST have a batting helmet on before picking up a bat. NO on deck swinging of the bat.
  - B. The tee MUST be used at least the first innings of every game. Then, if the coaches agree, the coach can pitch to his team the last two innings. No more than 5 pitches should be thrown to each batter in order to keep the game moving. If the batter does not hit within 5 thrown pitches, the ball should then be placed on the tee.
  - C. Players must hit the ball 5 feet from the tee to be considered a hit. Batters that do not do this will re-hit. The coach assisting the hitter will be the judge and call "dead ball" and instruct the batter to hit again.
  - D. The manager of the offensive team must inform the manager of the defensive team of his last batter before the batter enters the batters box. When the last batter hits the ball, play will stop when a defensive player holding the ball touches home plate.
  - E. Each manager establishes his lineup prior to the start of the game. For each inning of a game, the lineup shall be shifted such that no batter will be the last batter more than once per game.

- F. There is no advance on an overthrow. For balls hit to the outfield, base runners may advance until the ball is "under control" (in possession) in fair territory in the infield by one of the infielders. If a base runner is more than half way to the next base, then the runner is entitled to try to reach that base. Otherwise, the base runner must return to the last base legally occupied. A fielder still has an option of making a play on the runner and if tagged, the runner is out; otherwise the above rules apply as to whether the runner was half way or not when the ball was originally "under control".
  - G. Runners cannot leave bases once the ball has been touched by the defensive pitcher while in the immediate area of his normal defensive position. Runners cannot steal bases or lead off. Runners can advance only on batted balls.
  - H. Base runners and batters must wear batting helmets at all times.
5. Spectators, managers, coaches, and players are expected to practice good sportsmanship at all times. Chattering of encouragement is permitted. General harassment is not permitted. Repeated violations can result in forfeiture. Managers are responsible for the conduct of spectators supporting their team. After the game, line the players up and shake hands with a good sportsmanship attitude: good game, nice play, etc.
6. With the exception of the player's glove, only playing equipment furnished by the league will be used.
- A. Players are not permitted to carry bats to, from and at the game site. Only parents and coaches are permitted to carry bats.
  - B. The home team manager will supply the game ball -
7. All players are required to wear long pants. Sneakers or regulation baseball shoes with rubber cleats are to be worn. Bare feet or the wearing of heavy shoes is prohibited.
8. If there are any accidents - report it to the Tee Ball League Commissioner.
9. Post-Game responsibilities. Both teams are responsible for picking up trash in the dugouts, stands, and field after the game. Remind players and parents that keeping our parks clean is everybody's responsibility.
10. It is anticipated that games will be scheduled twice per week. This leaves little opportunity for practicing during the season so coaches should teach and coach the kids during games. Two (2) defensive coaches are permitted on the playing field, and one (1) offensive coach shall operate the tee and determine whether the ball is fair/foul.
11. It is anticipated that players will be assigned on an school/neighborhood basis as much as possible. Players registering after regular team assignments have been made will be assigned to teams to maintain an equal number of players as nearly as possible on each team.

**Remember:** Basics should be taught!! Throwing correctly, level swing, base running, fielding positions, fielding ground balls and catching pop ups. Try and make it as fun as possible for the players. If the players learn the fundamentals, and they all want to play again next year, the season is a success.