

6U (Tee Ball) Division Baseball Playing Rules

The goal is to provide a wholesome, enjoyable activity, which develops character, skill, sportsmanship and goodwill.

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Rules will govern this league unless otherwise stated in these playing rules.

REGISTRATION FEE

To help offset expenses, a team fee will be required (amount to be determined at the beginning of each season).

AGE GROUPS AND ELIGIBILITY

1. This league is open to kids, 4-6 years of age. A player's age on September 30 of the current school year determines eligibility for both the spring and fall seasons.
2. Players must register with their coordinating association, and teams must follow their association's rules. A player must meet the age requirement of the league in which they participate. Players are encouraged to participate in their own age group. Exceptions to "play up" to the next age group must be submitted by the parent and approved by their association's coordinator.
3. Players may only participate on one team at a time.
4. If eligibility of a participant is questioned, proof of age must be verified through one of the following (no copies): Original Birth Certificate, Military ID, or Passport.
5. Non-Virginia Beach residents must first register with a Recreation Association and are subject to all the Association's terms and conditions for participation. No Virginia Beach resident shall be excluded to accommodate a non-resident. No more than 2 non-residents on a team. Residents of Knotts Island, NC are eligible to participate and are considered residents.

ROSTERS

1. Team rosters are limited to fifteen (15) players, one (1) head coach, four (4) assistant coaches. All coaches must obtain a city volunteer ID badge.
2. A completed roster to include team name, team age group, coaches' names, and all player information (name, date of birth, jersey number) must be turned in by each team to their respective area baseball coordinator prior to the first game of the season.

SCHEDULING OF GAMES

1. Games (8 games) will be played in accordance with the schedule.
2. Any coach finding it impossible to play a scheduled game must notify their Baseball Coordinator as soon as possible.
3. If games are postponed due to weather or other conditions, makeup information will be e-mailed to coaches by their baseball Coordinator.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Each association will assume the following responsibilities:
 - A. Identifying and preparing game sites.
 - B. Custody of rosters and authority to rule on player eligibility.

STANDARD GAME AND PREGAME PROCEDURES

1. Head coaches are responsible for maintaining proper conduct of their assistant coaches, parents, and players always. (In accordance with their area's Code of Conduct)
2. The home team will be noted on the schedule and occupy the third base bench.
3. **Starting of Games and Total Innings:**
 - A. Teams should arrive 30 minutes before scheduled game time. Games may start early only if both coaches agree.
 - B. The game will be 1 hour.
 - C. A regulation game is 3 innings, or when the time limit expires (whichever comes first).
4. **Coaches:**
 - A. Maximum of one (1) head coach and four (4) assistant coaches.
 - B. These individuals are the only ones permitted on the field or in the dugout/bench area during the game. Coaches are responsible for keeping spectators off their benches and out of the dugout area.
 - C. Only coaches/scorekeepers with a valid Virginia Beach Youth Sports League Volunteer Identification Card may occupy the player's dugout/bench area in addition to the limited number of players.
 - D. Coaches will be permitted in the field of play to coach the fielders. The coaches are allowed on the field for verbal assistance only and will not interfere in any way with any ball in play or opposing base runners. Another coach may be stationed behind the catcher or as a replacement for the catcher to aid in recovery of passed balls to speed up play.
5. **Pregame Warmup:**
 - A. Players and family on teams scheduled for the next game shall stay behind the bleachers to warm up and may not detract in any way from the game in progress.
 - B. For the pleasure and safety of spectators and fairness to the teams playing, no pregame loose ball batting of any kind or hitting ground balls or pop flies is permitted, including by coaches. Players must have a helmet on any time they are swinging a bat. No hitting off a pole during the game, either in the on-deck circle or near the playing field. Waiting teams can use a hitting stick if they are a good distance from the playing field. Players can only work on throwing/catching or hitting off a stick prior to the game.
 - C. Due to the time limit, pre-game infield practice will not be taken.

PLAYING EQUIPMENT

1. Game balls to be used are as follows: use tee-balls.
2. Game balls will be supplied by the team at bat.
3. Shoes with metal spikes are not allowed.
4. Catchers (not required) must wear a full helmet (no skull cap), with facemask, throat protector, chest protector, and shin guards. Hockey style masks do not require a throat guard.
5. Batters and runners must wear helmets with earflaps and a NOCSAE warning label.
6. Teams must provide their own practice balls and uniforms.
7. Team members must all have the same color uniform and individually identifying jersey numbers. There shall not be duplicate jersey numbers.

PLAYING RULES

1. **Base Distance:** 55 feet
2. **Pitching Distance:** At the coach's discretion.
3. **Chalk Lines:**
 - A. Required
 - Foul ball curve 5' from home base connecting the first and third base foul line.
 - Foul lines from home base to the foul pole on both first and third base.
 - B. Optional
 - Pitcher Circle 16' diameter.
4. **Team Makeup:**
 - A. A team may play with 6 players. No automatic outs.
 - B. If a player arrives late for a game, they can play and are added to the bottom of the batting order.
 - C. The batting order will remain the same for the entire game.
 - D. Each team will bat the same number of players each inning.
5. **Game Rules:**
 - A. The game will end after 3 innings or after 1 hour, whichever comes first. Home and visiting team must leave the field and dugout immediately following the game to allow for the next game/practice. Game scores will not be posted.
6. **Pitching and hitting:**
 - A. No called balls and strikes.
 - B. For the first four (4) games, batters will have four (4) swings at tee.
 - C. After the first four (4) games, or when the head coach feels players are ready, each batter will receive 3 pitches from their team coach. If the batter does not hit the ball in fair territory during those 3 pitches, the batter will have 2 swings at a ball on a tee. If both teams agree, the number of pitches from the coach can be increased with a decrease in swings from the tee in the last half of the season.
 - D. A hit ball must go beyond the 5' curved foul line connecting the first and third base foul line to be considered a fair hit.
 - E. Each team will have the same number of players for their batting lineup of each inning. (example: if team 1 has 15 players and team 2 has 10 players, each team will bat 15 players and swap). Coaches can agree to hit through their own lineup and swap if lineups are different sizes.
 - F. Outfielders must be at least 10 feet behind the bases until the batter hits the ball.
 - G. Infielders must be farther from home plate than the pitcher until the batter hits the ball.
 - H. All players (unless a catcher in full catcher's gear) must be behind the pitching rubber until after the batter has swung the bat.

PLAYER/TEAM CONDUCTS

1. All parents of players are required to read and sign their area's Code of Conduct. Each team will turn in completed forms to their Area Baseball Coordinator prior to the first game of the season.
2. Head coaches are responsible for their assistants, players, and spectators at games. Any team refusing to control a coach, player or spectator is subject to game forfeiture.

AUDIO/VISUAL

1. Head coaches/assistant coaches may not record during game time play.
2. Recording equipment may not be attached to any part of the field of play- includes attaching recording devices to the backstop.
3. All recording must be done outside the field of play.

FIELD CONDITIONS/WEATHER

1. In the event of rain or other inclement weather, your area's baseball coordinator will notify head coaches of delay or cancellation 2 hours prior to game time.
2. If a game has gone at least 40 minutes and then called due to weather, it will be considered a complete game. If a game is stopped prior to 40 minutes, it will be replayed from the start.

NOTES

1. Coaches will advise parents and players of the playing rules. Ignorance of any playing rules will not be tolerated.
2. Please Park in authorized parking areas only.
3. Smoking, use of tobacco products including smokeless tobacco, and use of all types of e-cigarettes (including nicotine vapor and non- nicotine vapor products) are
4. prohibited by State Law on School Property. No smoking, vaping or use of smokeless tobacco in dugouts or on the field by players or coaches.
5. Per Virginia Beach School Board Policy, pets other than service animals are prohibited on school property.
6. At Virginia Beach City Parks, pets are permitted but must be always leashed and under control with leash in hand. Please be sure to scoop the poop.
7. NO PETS are allowed on the athletic fields at any time.