

HOLLAND TOWNSHIP RECREATION
Youth T-BALL & COACH PITCH
MASTER RULES 2021

- All teams will have a coach who is responsible for seeing that his / her players act in a sportsman-like manner at all times. All discussion between teams and the Recreation Department will be handled through the coaches, only.
- Any player, coach, parent, or manager showing unsportsmanlike conduct will be asked to leave the game. The players/coaches/parents return to play is under the discretion of the league director.
- Go to www.hollandtwprec.com, click “Program Information”, then click the desired program listing and you will find schedules, rules, and more.

- RAIN - OUTS and other cancelled games will be rescheduled when fields are available. No decision will be made for weather until 4:30pm. Continue to check the web site & social media outlets for updated information on cancellations and more. If the first game of the night is cancelled, all games will be cancelled. Once at the field the call is at the discretion of the supervisor/umpire and/or coaches. Cancellations will be on the following...
 - Holland Township Recreation Hotline at 616.395.0178 ext. #4
 - Posted on our Holland Township Recreation website – www.hollandtwprec.com
 - Posted on our Holland Township Recreation social media pages – Facebook & Twitter
 - Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/hollandtwprec
 - Follow us on Twitter & Instagram @hollandtwprec. Use Hashtag #HollandTwpRec

- All players must wear shoes and shirts. No metal spikes will be allowed. Plastic cleats will be allowed, but not required.
- Teams must bat all players that are present at game time.
- All catchers for t-ball and coach pitch leagues are required to wear a batting helmet and stand against the backstop when the ball is batted, unless catching gear is provided for the team.
- There will be a free substitution for all levels of play. Any player may be removed from play and placed back in the line up without penalty.
- All teams may play up to ten players in the field, unless coaches have additional players and choose to play them all, defensively. Infield positions include pitcher, catcher, 1st base, 2nd base, 3rd base, and shortstop. Four outfielders are to be used including left field, left center, right center, and right field. Pitchers must wear a batting helmet while fielding the position.
- All leagues will play 3 innings and will not feature umpires.
- There will be absolutely no jewelry allowed to be worn during the games. Please have your players remove all jewelry before the game starts. Any player repeatedly disobeying this rule will be asked to leave the game. Any repeated disruption of the game to remove jewelry will also result in an out. This rule will be enforced at all levels.
- The next batter must be in the on-deck circle ready to bat. The on-deck batter must remove the bat after the batter has hit the ball. If everyone follows this rule, games will proceed much smoother and without any delays.
- While we encourage fan participation and cheering for all teams, abuse of opposing players, coaches, & umpires by spectators will not be tolerated. We encourage all coaches to make this clear to parents and others. If abuse becomes obtrusive, the supervisor will ask the coach to refrain the fans. If, however, this is ineffective, the supervisor will ask the coach to have the offending person(s) leave the park. As a last resort, the supervisor can end the game and report what happened to the league director, in which case a forfeit for the offending team may occur along with any other potential penalty as deemed necessary by the League Director.
- Any profanity, throwing of helmet or bat will be an automatic out and, possibly, an ejection from the game.

- All batters, base runners, pitchers and catchers are required to wear a helmet and/or gear depending on their respective league.
- No score will be kept for any t-ball league or coach pitch league games.

PITCHING

- **COACH PITCH LEAGUES** – A batter will receive (4) four pitches from the coach. If the batter fails to hit the ball fair (foul ball on the 4th pitch is an out) he/she will be out. No tees will be used in coach pitch leagues. Underhand pitching is encouraged but do not throw it in a slow pitch fashion. Make sure a batter hits the ball in his/her last-at-bat (3rd inning) regardless of the number of pitches it takes.

BATTING

- **T-BALL & COACH PITCH LEAGUES**
 - Each team goes completely through the batting order. Even if one team has more players, teams will bat the exact number of players they have for the game. Make sure all players know whom they follow, sometimes it's best to have a parent or assistant coach help in the dugout when teams are up to bat.
 - At the 4th-6th Girls' Coach Pitch Level... if the coaches choose to play like a regulation game featuring three outs per team per inning that is okay. However, if one team gets through the entire batting order and three outs have not been made, teams will switch offense/defense, regardless. Make sure at least three innings are played and/or each player gets three at-bats.
 - Last Batter Rule: Once an out is made, anywhere, play ends for that portion of the inning including putting out any runner on base after the last batter has hit the ball, or if the ball is brought to Home Plate before the last batter reaches home.
 - Once the ball passes the arc in front of home plate, the ball is fair. If it does not reach the arc, it is a foul ball.
 - Only one base may be advanced on an over throw in the field of play and any ball thrown out of bounds. Only one overthrow can occur per batter. (Coaches' discretion)
 - The ball is dead once a play is made and the ball crosses the arc in front of home plate intended for the catcher or if there is a "stop" in play. Runners will not advance.
 - Two-three coaches may be on the field to help direct the defense. The offensive coaches will be at 1st and 3rd bases and team dugout.
 - There will be no bunting at these levels.
 - If the ball hits the "pitcher", then it is an automatic single with all base runners moving up one base.

GAME BALLS

- Boys & Girls T-ball uses baseball sized "softie" t-ball
- Boys 1st & 2nd Grade Coach Pitch uses baseball sized "softie" t-ball and / or regulation size baseballs.
 - Coaches for each team will discuss before the game & decide whether they would like to use the "softie" t-ball or the regulation size baseball for game play.
- Girls 1st -3rd Coach Pitch uses an 11' "softie" softballs
- Girls 4th-6th Coach Pitch uses 12" regulation softballs

SCHOOL DISTRICT REQUIREMENTS

- There is a district wide ban on smoking in all school facilities and on all school grounds. Smoking will not be tolerated.
- Alcoholic beverages are strictly prohibited on school grounds and at Holland Township facilities.

- Please park in the designated parking areas only. Violators will receive warning stickers on their cars and second time violators will be towed at the owner's expense.
- Keep fields, dugouts, and the areas around the field clean. We do have staff that go around and pick up trash and debris, but it would be helpful for teams and their families to pick up after themselves. We utilize school and township facilities, and the maintenance staff would very much appreciate our cooperation in this area.

SEASON TIMELINE / GAME SCHEDULES

- Game schedules will be determined by field availability & will be finalized and announced the week of May 24th.
 - T- ball Leagues– Practices can begin the week of May 31st and continue the week of June 7th. Games begin the week of June 14th and continue with week of June 21st and week of June 28th. Games will be twice (Mon, Tues, Wed or Thurs evenings) a week at either 6pm to 7:15pm.
 - Boys' 1st & 2nd Coach Pitch Leagues – Practices can begin the week of May 17th, and continue the week of May 24th and May 31st. Games will begin the week of June 7th and continue the week of June 14th, June 21st and week of June 28th. Games will be twice a week (Mon, Tues, or Wed evenings) a week at either 6pm or 7:15pm.
 - Girls' 1st – 3rd Grade Coach Pitch Leagues – Practices can begin the week of May 24th and continue the week of May 31st. Games will begin the week of June 7th and continue the week of June 14th, June 21st and June 28th. Games will be twice a week at either 6pm or 7:15pm (Monday & Wednesday evenings).
 - Girls' 4th – 6th Grade Coach Pitch Leagues - Practices can begin the week of May 24th and continue the week of May 31st. Games will begin the week of June 7th and continue the week of June 14th, June 21st and June 28th. Games will be twice a week at either 6pm or 7:15pm (Mon, Tues or Wed evenings).

PRACTICES SCHEDULES

- Practice schedules will be set by each team's head coach with the recreation department. Most team practices will take place on weeknights either 6pm to 7:15pm OR 7:15pm to 8:30pm at local elementary school fields & Holland Township Park Fields / facilities on the north side of Holland.
- Coaches will communicate with their team on practices & games, etc. via email. The recreation department will assist in this area as well.

PICTURE DAY

- We will be taking all team pictures and individual pictures outdoors on a game night date this season. More details on picture day will be sent out via email, as the season gets closer.

GENERAL COMMENT

- It is the coaches' responsibility to inform all players of these rules and other materials pertaining to the Youth Summer Recreation T-Ball and Coach Pitch Programs. Let the players and parents know that the excuse of "NOT KNOWING" will not be acceptable as a reason for rule violations. Above all else, enjoy yourselves, have fun, and have a great season!!! ☺

COACHES GUIDELINES

- Stress over-running first base.
- Work on force-outs at second and third.
- Rotate positions to provide as broad of an experience as possible to each player, within his or her ability (lower levels, only).
- Only 10 players are on the field of play during their respective innings. Teach the players the proper infield and outfield positions, but feel free to move infielders closer to the plate and outfielders just outside the baseline
- “Chattering” by the defensive team is acceptable as long as it is not derogatory to the opposing team. “Heckling” will not be tolerated.
- Umpires will not be utilized at all games. Coaches work just fine. Be respectful of the site supervisors.
- Stress the importance of NOT throwing the bat. First time is a “warning”; second time will be an out.
- For T-ball, stress the idea of lining up the bat with the ball no more than twice and swing by the third attempt.

TEXT ALERTS

- Families can receive Text Alerts through our Holland Township Recreation Website at www.hollandtwprec.com. Just click on “edit your account information” and click the Text Alert service box to “Yes” and you will be all set.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call the Holland Township Recreation Department at 616-395-0178, ext. 3 for Amanda Klomparens - Bailey, ext. 2 for John Kievit, ext. 1 for Darrin Duistermars or ext. 4 for the Holland Township Recreation hotline. You can also email us at darrind@hct.holland.mi.us, johnk@hct.holland.mi.us, or amandak@hct.holland.mi.us.

Darrin Duistermars – 616.218.1861 (call or text)

Amanda Bailey – 616.610.9985 (call or text)



Holland Township Recreation Department
2021 – Youth T-Ball and Coach Pitch
COVID-19 Protocols in Place

- 1) Coaches will be responsible for administering a simple COVID-19 check on all players & coaches for each practice and game. This will include a temperature check.
 - a. Any player that has a temperature higher than 100.4 will be sent home from game / practice.
- 2) We encourage parents to bring their own seating (bag chairs, etc.) to games to encourage social distancing from others that do not live in the same household as you. Bleacher seating will not be available at most sites for practices and games.
- 3) Holland Township Recreation Department encourages all spectators to wear a facemask when 6-foot social distancing cannot be maintained, but it is no longer required.
- 4) All equipment (balls, bats, helmets, etc.) will be sanitized before, after and during games. Players should have their own individual batting helmet, glove and bat, if possible, to avoid sharing of equipment. Holland Township Recreation will provide teams with team-shared equipment as well - helmets, bats, tee's and balls for each team.
- 5) There will be no handshakes; high-fives or fist bumps at the conclusion of games. Little League Baseball & Softball International suggest lining up outside the dug out and doing a shout out of “good game” as a sign of good sportsmanship after the game to the other team.
- 6) We ask that all participants use the restrooms at home prior to coming to the games or practices. However, restrooms will be made available in case they are needed.
- 7) Please make sure your participant brings plenty of water for themselves to team practices & games. The game and practice sites do not have a working drinking fountain. There will be no use of shared team beverages or food.
- 8) Holland Township Recreation Site Supervisors will be on site for most games for the 2021 season. The supervisors will have game schedules, league rules, first aid kit, sanitizing spray and hand sanitizer.
- 9) All players and coaches must refrain from spitting at all times, including in dugout areas and on the playing field.
- 10) Gum, sunflower seeds, etc. are not allowed in dugouts or on the playing field.