



2021 T-Ball Local Rules (5U and 6U)

Objective:

The objective of Waxhaw Athletic Association T-Ball league is to teach children the basic fundamentals of the great game of Baseball.

Official Baseball rules will be observed except as provided in the official Cal Ripken Baseball rule book and in the following local league modifications.

Game Rules:

- 1) Games will be six innings or **one hour and fifteen minutes** in length, whichever occurs first.
- 2) No new inning shall start after 1 hour and 10 minutes.
- 3) If a team cannot field at least 6 players, the game will be declared a forfeit. A 10 minute grace period from the scheduled start time will be given for the 6th player to arrive.
- 4) The score will not be kept or recorded for T-Ball 5U teams. **Score will be kept for T-Ball 6U teams and they will record the number of defensive outs. In the event of a tie on runs, the number of defensive outs determines the final score.**
- 5) There will be no paid umpires. The games will be played under the supervision of the two head coaches, acting as umpires.
- 6) A soft core safety baseball will be used at all games and practices.
- 7) The home team lines the field. Pitchers circle is 10' in diameter – use string provided. The visiting team rakes the field after the game. Pay particular attention to filling in any holes around the infield and batters box area.
- 8) Both teams are responsible for cleaning up their dugouts and the field area.

Batting / Offense:

- 1) All players will bat round robin. All players arriving late (after the start of the game) will be added to the bottom of the batting order.
- 2) The batting order will remain the same throughout the game. If a player refuses to bat, leaves the game due to sickness, injury or at parents request, then that position in the batting order will be skipped without penalty for the remainder of the game.
- 3) All batters and baserunners must wear batting helmets.
- 4) On deck batters are not allowed.
- 5) Bunting is not permitted. A half swing will not be considered a bunt attempt.
- 6) A foul ball zone shall be set as an arc ten (10) feet in front of home plate. Batted balls must travel beyond this line or be ruled a foul ball.
- 7) The offensive team may station a batting coach near the tee to assist the batter in taking his/her position in the batters box area and addressing the ball. The batting coach may adjust the height of the tee to place the ball at the proper position for each batter. The batting coach may not assist the player with swinging at the ball. The height of the ball while resting on the tee should be just above the batter's waist level as to



insure a level swing. Coach cannot line up batter to purposely hit the ball towards any part of the field (ie. Pull the ball down 3rd)

- 8) Base runners must maintain contact with the base until the ball is batted.
- 9) Base stealing is not permitted.
- 10) **All Players will bat in each inning (5U).**
- 11) When the team at bat reaches their last batter, the hitter will continue to circle the bases until he or she is either out by force at first, tagged out, or reaches home plate. An out or score will end the inning.
- 12) All players will bat off the tee (5U).
- 13) There will be no strikeouts.
- 14) **If an out is recorded in the field, the offensive player should be removed from base.**
- 15) A player may advance only one base on an overthrow into foul territory.
- 16) Players will not throw the bat. If this happens, call time after the play and talk to the player. This would be considered a warning. A second occurrence in the same game will result in calling the player out.

Defense:

- 1) **All players will take the field on defense.**
- 2) The infield shall consist of a pitcher, first baseman, second baseman, shortstop and third baseman. Catchers will not be allowed for safety reasons. All additional players must be positioned in the outfield and play on the grass.
- 3) Infielders other than the pitcher must remain at or behind the first-second and second-third infield base lines until the ball is batted.
- 4) The Pitcher is a defensive position only and must remain with one foot in the pitcher's circle until the ball is batted.
- 5) Players must be rotated on the field and **cannot play the same position twice** in a game.
- 6) Each **player must play the outfield at least once** per game within the first 3 innings.
- 7) The defensive team may position two coaches in the outfield to help direct the defensive players. Defensive coaches cannot however, physically assist players in making defensive plays or interfere with the offensive players in any way.
- 8) **The Pitcher cannot make an unassisted out at first, second or third base. They must make a throw to the bag.**
- 9) The Pitcher may make no more than two unassisted force outs at home plate in an inning.
- 10) First base outs are made by a ball thrown to the first baseman. The exceptions to this are: a) a first baseman fields the ball and tags the bag or the runner, b) First baseman fields the ball and throws to any other player covering the bag.
- 11) An Outfielder may not make an unassisted out at any base. Should this happen, call time and explain to the outfielder how they should throw the ball to a base. Do not call the runner out and allow he or she to remain on the base.
- 12) No infield fly rule will be used.
- 13) **Infield Hits:** Time will be called whenever the pitcher has the ball in their possession and is inside the pitchers circle or when the lead runner has been stopped on a base by a defensive player who is in possession of the ball and in such position to cause the runner to be out if he/she attempts to advance (natural stoppage). *Example: Ball is hit into the outfield with a runner at first base. An outfielder throws the ball into the infield where it is picked up by an infielder between second and third base. The runner*



previously at first base has rounded the bag at second base but stops and retreats to second because the fielder is in between the runner and third base with the ball. Time may then be called due to a natural stoppage of play.

Outfield Hits: Time will be called whenever an infielder has the ball in their possession and is within the perimeter of the infield.

The spirit of these rules is to prevent excessive running on the bases due to the natural errors at this age.

- 14) If time is called because the Pitcher has the ball within the pitcher's circle, base runners that are at or beyond the halfway point to the next base may continue to advance to that base. Runners who have not reached the halfway point when the pitcher enters the circle are required to return to the last base they safely touched before time was called.
- 15) In any event, time may not be called until the batter/runner has safely reached first base or has been put out before reaching first base.

Special Notes:

- In the event a player runs in the wrong direction when running the bases there is no penalty for failing to retag bases when the runner attempts to correct the mistake.
- Coaches and parents should realize that the T-Ball league is the minimum age for learning baseball skills and the players are of the very youngest ages for participating in a team sport. Allowances must be made for the varying levels of mental and physical development that will be encountered in the children participating in this program.

6U:

These adjustments will assist the older t-ball players in their eventual adjustment to Rookie division play. It will also prepare all players for end of season tournament play which would have recorded scores.

- 1) The Coach will pitch three pitches to each child. If contact is made on ANY of the 3 pitches, the batter will receive a 4th pitch. If contact is not made, the Coach will place the ball on the tee for that child to swing away. If a child hits the ball off the tee, they cannot advance past first base. If there are runners on base, all base runners can only advance one base. There will be no strikeouts.
- 2) The innings can end before each player has the opportunity to bat. This can happen due to 3 outs being recorded or 5 runs being scored. In the event an inning ends prior to each player batting, the next inning will begin with the player that was due up next.
- 3) Official Score will be recorded. 6U teams will also record the number of defensive outs. In the event of a tie on runs, the number of defensive outs becomes the final score.

Above all this league is intended to be fun and teach the basic fundamentals. Coaches and Parents should resist the temptation to become too involved in "winning" games. Please remember that these players are four, five and six years old. Enjoy the experience as a fun family event and let the children play as they will.