

## **2020 DCLL T-Ball Division Mission Statement**

The mission of the DCLL T-Ball division is to provide the introduction to baseball concepts and skills in a development-first environment for our youth baseball players.

### **I. Game Definition(s)**

- A. A *Regulation Game* will be defined as complete after (3) innings (2 1/2 if home team leads).
  - a. A fourth inning may be played if time allows and is agreed upon by both coaches.
- B. Time Limit: Maximum 2 hour time limit. No inning shall start after 1 ½ hours.
- C. If time allows, the home team shall bat in the bottom of the final inning even if ahead.
- D. Inning Definition:
  - 1. Three (3) outs or five (5) runs per half-inning; six (6) outs per full inning.

### **II. Field Set-Up**

- A. Distance between bases shall be 50 feet. (Approx. 70'-8" from outer corner to outer corner of opposite base – i.e. 1<sup>st</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>/home)
- B. Distance from mound to rear point of home plate is 35'.
- C. An arc drawn 15' at the rear point of home plate, foul line to foul line, shall be used to determine if a hit ball is considered 'live'. If a hit ball does not reach the arc, it shall be considered the same as a foul ball.
- D. Tee shall be placed immediately in front of, not on top of, home plate.
- E. The coaching staff of the home team shall be responsible for setting up the field prior to games. Setting up the field shall consist of: locating home plate and the tee, placing each of the bases, and field markings (foul lines, dead ball arc, pitchers mound).
- F. The coaching staff of the visiting team shall be responsible for field tear-down after games. Tearing-down the field shall consist of placing home plate, the tee, and all bases back in the blue lock box.

### **III. Batting**

- G. Entire roster will bat continuously.
  - 1. If a player arrives after the start of the game, they shall be inserted at the end of the batting order.
  - 2. If a batter is in the lineup but not present for their turn at bat, he/she will be considered out.
  - 3. If player is unable to bat due to injury, the player will not be considered an out.
- H. If a batter hits out of order, he/she will be considered out.
  - 1. Runners will return to previous base, no scored runs shall be counted.
- I. Roster will continue to hit until 3 outs or 5 runs/inning is met.
- J. Batter must stand square in the batters box to avoid intentionally aiming the ball.
- K. If a batter throws their bat, they shall receive a warning. If any batter throws the bat a second time after receiving a warning, they shall be called out and the ball is dead.
- L. Batter will remain hitting until: three strikes, reaches base via base hit or is retired in the field.
- M. Strikes will be called for swings where a ball is not put in play, including swings that hit the tee.
  - 1. The batter may strike out. A foul ball shall not count as a third strike.
  - 2. Count shall be kept by batting team coach assigned to help batters as they hit.

#### **IV. Base Running**

- A. The game is played under dead ball conditions. Once the ball is under control in the infield, the base runners must stop. Under control is defined as being held by a fielder within the extents of the base lines.
- B. Stealing: stealing will NOT be allowed. If a runner leaves the base early and the ball is put in play, play shall be allowed to finish and the team shall receive a warning. The second time in a game that it happens, the runner shall be called out and the ball is dead.
- C. No head-first slides are permitted. If a player slides head first, they shall be considered out and the ball is dead.
- D. All runners must 'avoid contact or slide' in order to prevent player injury. The runner will be called out if he runs into a fielder standing up while a play is being made at a base, regardless of whether the fielder catches or drops the ball.
- E. No pinch runners are permitted
  - 1. If a player is injured and must be removed while he/she is on base, the player will be substituted by the last batter that was scored as an out (including last inning)

#### **V. Fielding**

- A. Each player must sit one inning before any player can sit a second inning.
- B. Pitcher: The player playing the pitcher position must remain within a 3 foot radius of the pitching rubber.
- C. Infield: The first and third baseman must play within 10 feet of their respective base. The second baseman and shortstop must play no more than 5 feet in front of or behind the base line.
- D. Outfield: The outfielders shall play LF/LC/RC/RF (if 4 OF), LF/CF/RF (if 3 OF), or LC/RC(if 2 OF).
- E. Catcher: The catcher shall stand a minimum of 5 feet behind home plate and shall not engage in the play until after a batter has hit the ball and left the batter's box. Catchers must wear a catcher's helmet but may use a standard fielding glove in lieu of a catcher's mitt. Leg guards and chest protector are optional.

#### **VI. Equipment**

- A. Baseball: DCLL T-Ball division will use safety balls provided by DCLL.
- B. Helmet: Every player must provide and possess his/her own helmet.
- C. Bat: Each player shall have their own T-ball bat. T-ball bats do not need to meet the USA bat standards that upper division bats do.

#### **VII. Coaches**

- A. There is not a maximum amount of coaches/parent volunteers in the t-ball division.
- B. All coaches and volunteers MUST have all clearances submitted to DCLL prior to involvement
  - 1. This will be the responsibility of the Head coach.
- C. When a team is batting, the following coaches shall be permitted on the field:
  - 1. First base and third base coach. Base coaches must remain in the coaching box which, if not indicated, is six feet outside of the base line.

2. Batting coach. A third coach is permitted to be in the proximity of home plate to do the following:
    - a. Reset the ball on the tee,
    - b. Help align the batter in the batter's box prior to each swing,
    - c. Remove the tee after a ball is put in play,
    - d. Place the tee back immediately in front of home plate at the start of each at bat,
    - e. Keep track of strikes.
    - f. Help position the catcher in a safe location prior to each swing and ensure the catcher does not enter the play until after the ball is hit.
  3. Only verbal instruction is allowed from offensive coaches. Physical interference in the play is not.
- D. When a team is in the field, the following coaches shall be permitted in the field:
1. Two defensive coaches. Coaches may stand anywhere and provide verbal instruction to their players before, during, and after each play. Coaches shall not interfere in any play in any manner.
  2. There are no umpires in this division. Head coaches shall be responsible for all live/dead ball, fair/foul ball, and safe/out decisions. Remember that development is the number one goal of this division – we are not keeping score, there are no winners or losers. Coaches will be held to the highest standard of sportsmanship.

### **VIII. Scorekeeping**

- A. Score shall only be kept to determine when a team has reached 5 runs in a given inning. Beyond that, scores shall not be kept, recorded, or reported.