T-Ball Division Rules

1. Coaches

a. Coaches will be responsible for the conduct of assistant coaches, players and parents. If poor conduct continues after a warning from a coach, the offender will be asked to leave. Refusal to leave will result in the game being stopped and the situation turned over to the league commissioner and executive committee.

b. Coaches are responsible for keeping the backstop clear of all distractions. Parents are not permitted to sit or stand behind the backstop during games.

c. Rattling of fences, yelling or trying to distract the opposing team/players is strictly prohibited and must be monitored by the head coach.

d. One head coach and 3-5 assistant coaches are the maximum allowed on the playing field and bench area during a game. All coaches and supervisors must have their appropriate clearances.

e. Coaches must make sure that there are no 'unregistered' players, siblings, friends, etc. in or around the bench area and the playing field area.

f. The offensive team can have a home plate coach along with a first and third base coach. The base coaches are to act as umpires on their bases. The home plate coach is responsible to properly align the batter at the plate and is responsible for announcing to the opposing team that the ball is on the tee and ready to play.

g. The defensive team may have coaches positioned in the outfield to assist with properly aligning the defense and remind them of where the play is to be made.

h. Teams must assign a "Dugout Supervisor" (a volunteer parent to ensure dugout safety). This volunteer is to be in the dugout at all times during the game to facilitate order and safety. This volunteer must also obtain non-coach clearances via the BMBL website.

2. Game Governance

a. Warm Up and Game Times

-Teams are to split the field in half and warm up in the outfield while the infield is prepared for play.

-At 5:50pm the head coaches should meet to review the rules and discuss any points of clarification.

-The game begins at 6:00pm and will last 6 innings or for 1 hour and 15 minutes with a hard stop.

b. Playing Field

-The home team will occupy the bench along the third base line.

-Both teams are responsible for having the field ready to play, batter's box put down, foul lines drawn and the pitcher's mound made playable.

-A foul line is to be drawn 15 feet from the point of home plate straight to both base paths. Batted balls that do not cross this line will be considered a foul ball. A ball touched before it crosses the line will also be considered a foul ball.

-The home team is responsible for supplying game balls.

-Both teams are responsible for seeing that the field is dragged, pitcher's mound and bullpens are raked and that everything is put away and locked up. Please make sure that all dugouts are cleaned up and that no trash is left behind.

-The distance from the front of the pitching rubber to the back of home plate is 46 feet.

-The distance from the tip of home plate to the back corner of first/third base is 60 feet.

c. Suspended Games

-In the event of darkness or inclement weather that does not allow a game to be played in its entirety, a game will be considered complete after 4 innings have been played.

-The home team is responsible for postponing a game until it begins. After the game has started, both coaches consult to make the decision. The safety of the players is paramount and should be the deciding factor.

3. Players

a. All players must be fully registered with BMBL and be placed in the divisions listed based on their age on or before April 30th of the current year: T-ball consists of 5-6 year olds.
b. The only players permitted off the bench are the on-deck batter and those preparing for entry into the game as instructed by the coach.
c. No players can be base coaches.
d. Free substitution will be allowed.
e. The batting order will consist of all players in uniform batting in rotation regardless if they have a position in the field or not. Any player arriving to the game late will be added to the bottom of the batting order. Late arriving players must be announced to the opposing team upon arrival and entry into the game.
f. Playing Time: In a 4-inning game, players must play at least three innings with at least one inning in the infield.
g. Coaches for the fielding team (maximum of 3 on the field) may have one stand behind the pitcher and two in the outfield to assist players.

4. Pitching

A. Our T-ball division is a tee/coach pitch division.
B. The T-ball season is broken up into 6 weeks of games. The following guidelines are to be followed when it comes to pitching.
   I First Two Weeks
   -all players will hit off a tee with no outs being called
   II Second Two Weeks
   -all players will hit off a tee for the first two innings with outs being called, but players remain on the bases
   -the third inning will have the players hitting off of a coach with outs being called and players who are out coming off the field
   -coaches are to give 5-6 quality pitches for the batter to hit; if they are unsuccessful after that, they may hit off the tee
   III Final Two Weeks
   -all players will hit off a tee for the first inning with outs being called and players who are out coming off the field
   --the second and third innings will have the players hitting off of a coach with outs being called and players who are out coming off the field
   -coaches are to give 5-6 quality pitches for the batter to hit, if they are unsuccessful after that, they may hit off the tee

*The commissioner will alert the head coaches when the different stages of pitching will occur.

C. The pitcher may make an out at home plate.
D. The catcher position is NOT utilized in T-Ball.

5. Base Running

a. A runner may not leave the base until the ball is hit.
b. If a runner leaves early, one warning will be issued per game, per team. A second occurrence will result in the runner being called out. In all occurrences, all runners must return to their original base.
c. A batter cannot advance past first base on a walk.

d. A play will be considered over when the ball is controlled in the infield. The infield will be considered anywhere in the direct area of the infield, not just the base paths.
d. Head first sliding is forbidden. If this occurs, stop the game and instruct the player on what they did wrong. Use it as a teachable moment.
e. Contact Rule: Runners must attempt to avoid contact with a player making a play on him/her. If, in the judgement of a coach, a runner makes avoidable contact, the runner will be called out. NOT a must slide rule.
f. Players cannot advance on any pitched balls.
g. Stealing, sliding or tagging up is not permitted.
h. Runners may NOT advance on overthrows.
i. At the end of the play, the ball is returned to the pitcher, who returns it to the home plate coach.

6. Batting

a. All batters and base runners MUST wear a batting helmet.
b. Every player will bat every inning. There are NO strikeouts.
c. During Coach Pitch, the batter is to receive (5) pitches. After five, the batter is to hit off the tee.
b. Any batter who throws the bat will receive ONE warning. A second occurrence by the same player in the same game will result in the batter being called out with no advancement of the runners.
c. A batter will NOT be called out for stepping out of the batter's box to hit the ball.
d. There are NO strikeouts.
e. Coaches should introduce bunting skills during practice but should NOT use bunting in games.
f. Assists from the outfield to first base are prohibited.
g. There will be no unassisted force outs from the outfield positions permitted. The outfielder must throw the ball to a base to record an out.
h. Hits should be limited to singles unless the hit ball would result in a legitimate double. That means when a ball is hit hard down the line or line drives past the middle infields or a fly ball over an outfielder's head. Not routine ground balls that find their way to the outfield. A batted ball that could be a legitimate double is not to be touched or "knocked down" by a coach. Allow the outfield player to retrieve the ball but hold the runner to second base. Please use your discretion, if you're not sure, hold them to a single.
e. Players may use their own bats but, if need be, those bats must be made available for use by all players on the team.
f. Bats cannot exceed a length of 28 inches.
g. All bats must be have a USA Baseball stamp. Full composite bats are NOT permitted to be used in BMBL events unless it carries a USA Baseball stamp. If a player uses an illegal bat without the USA Baseball stamp, the following will occur: the bat is removed from the game, the batter is out and the Head Coach will be removed from the game.

7. Umpires

a. There are no umpires in the T-ball division.

**For any rules not mentioned above, please refer to the Cal Ripken Rulebook.