

T-Ball Rules and Information

OVERVIEW AND GENERAL INFORMATION

- Coaches are responsible for games starting and ending promptly within their assigned field times. There are no umpires or officials assigned to T-Ball to manage this on game days.
- Coaches are responsible for the behavior of their players & parents at all times. Unsportsmanlike conduct by any player/parent must be dealt with immediately. If there are questions about conduct please contact the T-Ball coordinator.
- The HOME team occupies the 3rd Base dugout or bench.
- Two Innings at a minimum are played (assuming less than 1 hour). If time allows and both coaches agree, a 3rd inning can be played before expiration of time, it's at both coaches' discretion.
- The diamond shall be 60 feet between bases
- There will be NO scorekeeping for any games and everyone WINS. Players and coaches should shake hands upon completion of the game.

BATTING

- The SIAA T-Ball league is about having fun while introducing and developing core baseball skills to each player. Every inning the entire team will have an at-bat regardless of how many outs are made.
- Every player will hit from a tee while at-bat for the first 4 weeks of the season (**no exceptions**). This will help develop proper hand-eye coordination and allow coaches to teach proper fundamentals of swinging the baseball bat. In the second half of the season, every player will have the opportunity to hit 3 pitched balls from his/her coach. If there is no contact made after the 3rd pitch, the coach must set the ball on the tee for the player to hit.
- Barring injury or sickness, once the batting order is set, you must bat in that order the entire game. After every child bats one time per half-inning, teams will switch to hit or play the field.
- All players on the field surface (not the dugout or bench) **MUST** wear a helmet; this includes all base-runners, on-deck batters and the batter.
- The batting tee will be placed directly on home plate or if conditions dictate as close to home plate as possible.
- An arc from the 1st and 3rd base lines (approx 3-4 ft stretching from home plate) will be drawn on the field. Balls hit off the tee must pass this arc or are considered foul balls.

T-Ball Rules and Information (continued)

RUNNING

- Base coaches are encouraged for 1st and 3rd base to help instruct their players the fundamentals of properly running the bases.
- Once a ball is returned to an infield player or in the infield area (within the baselines) coaches should hold their players from taking extra bases assuming the player isn't ½ way to the next base.
- Players cannot leave their current base until the ball is hit. (No leading off, etc)

FIELDING

- SIAA T-Ball is about developing the fundamentals of baseball and learning to play the game properly. For infield play, there is only one player allowed to play each appropriate position. (P, 3B, SS, 2B, 1B). Therefore there are 5 players allowed within the base-paths at any given time. The remaining players play outfield positions backing up the infield positions. The infield is considered the area up to and 12 feet past the baselines
- There will be no catcher position in Tball
- No one player should play the same position the entire game or year. It is the **responsibility** of each coach to rotate their players to play different positions during the season to gain experience.
- As mentioned earlier, there are unlimited outs per inning. In this developmental league think of outs as more important than runs and its just as important to reward players for fielding and throwing as it is hitting.
- If a team clearly makes an out either by throwing it to a player in a force out scenario or by tagging a runner properly, the player is considered out and shall return to their proper bench after the 4th week of the season.
- Coaches are allowed on the diamond/outfield while their team is fielding that half of the inning to help instruct and aid in coaching his/her players, which base to throw, etc.
- Stopping of hit balls (unless foul) by coaches is not permitted. Players must retrieve the ball.

Actions of Coaches, Players or Fans

Coach

A coach should be an ambassador of sportsmanship. He/she has the right to question umpire interpretation of rules but not judgment calls. Unsportsmanlike conduct of a coach may result in discipline from the umpire and/or the league director. An umpire has two basic discipline options in dealing with an unruly coach. First, he may confine the coach to the dugout and warn him any other problem will result in ejection. This is suggested when a coach oversteps his rights to be on the field. (Example: A base coach goes in fair territory during live play, etc...). Secondly a coach maybe ejected from the game and at this time he must leave the playing area or, at the umpire's discretion, he may have to leave the entire park. Once ejected, the coach is suspended for the next two games. The coach suspension is for two games, the game the incident occurred in is considered Game #1 and the next scheduled game is Game #2. If a coach is ejected and refuses to leave as told by the umpire, the umpire has the right to forfeit the game and/or call the proper law enforcement to remove the coach. Once a coach is told to leave and refuses, he/she may be charged with trespassing. The umpires are in control of the field and have this legal right. Unsportsmanlike conduct of a coach may be directed at players, spectators, or other coaches as well as umpires. The umpires shall not allow a coach to belittle, over punish, or mistreat any players on or around the field area that they are in control of. Base coaches are expected to stay in the coach's box. (The umpire will usually give a coach a warning before removing him/her.) Only one of the three official coaches of the team is allowed on the field to talk to his/her players at a time.

Player

A player may be warned, confined to the dugout, or ejected for unsportsmanlike behavior. This is a judgment call by the umpire and should be based on his opinion of the situation and what is in the best interest of the player, not whose chances of winning a game it helps. A player who has committed an unsportsmanlike act deemed to warrant ejection from the game should be removed from the game and confined to the dugout under the control of the coach. A player ejected for unsportsmanlike reasons is also suspended for the next two games. The player suspension is for two games, the game the incident occurred in is considered Game #1 and the next scheduled game is Game #2. A player may be confined to the dugout for the rest of a game for unsportsmanlike behavior not deemed to be serious enough for ejection. This is an umpire's judgment call. Throwing equipment, taunting, cursing, and other acts deemed to be detrimental to the spirit of game are considered unsportsmanlike conduct.

Spectator/Fan/Parent

Spectators/Fans/Parents are expected to act in a proper, sportsman-like manner. Any fan using inappropriate language, smoking in the dugout area, drinking alcoholic beverages, or being disrespectful of players, other fans, or umpires maybe ejected from the field area or from the entire park at the discretion of the umpire. If it is clear to which team the fan is pulling for, then the umpire may ask that team's coach to take care of the situation. The coach is responsible for the behavior of his/her team's fans. If the situation continues to the point the umpire wishes to eject the fan, he/she should inform the coach that he/she has two minutes to have the fan removed or the game will be called a forfeit and be over. If the coach cannot control his fan, the umpire will not hesitate to call law enforcement to remove the fan. Be sure to get the fan's name as he/she will be suspended for at least two games and possibly the season. The fan's suspension is for two games, the game the incident occurred is considered Game #1 and the next scheduled game is Game #2. If it is not clear as to which team the fan is from, then the umpire will deal directly with the fan. Fans will not be allowed to belittle opposing players. (Calling them names, easy out, he's scared, etc.) Parents are not allowed on the field of play unless called for by the umpire in the case of injury.

Disciplinary Protocol for Ejected Individuals

It is the game umpire's responsibility within 24 hours of an ejection of Coach, Player, or Parent to provide an email summary of the events that led to the ejection decision. This email must be forwarded to the Lead Baseball Director and the President of LAYAC. The designated LAYAC Conflict Resolution Board may at their discretion, interview the coach/parent involved and potentially others in attendance to determine the severity of infraction and determine if future actions are deemed necessary by the board. Unless the Dispute Resolution Committee and/or the President of LAYAC, upon review of a protest if filed by the ejected individual in writing, overrules the field decision of the umpire, the two game suspensions is mandatory. Penalties can be more severe at board discretion based on the particulars of the incident once reviewed. The ejected individual will not be allowed to attend (be at the facility or anywhere on the grounds) for the two games following the game of which that individual was ejected. If such an ejection occurs at the final game of a particular season, the suspension will carry to the following season. In the unfortunate event, an individual receives two ejections within any 12-month period; the LAYAC Baseball Committee will meet, review the incidents and have the authority to ban the multi offender for a period not less than one year.

All suspensions are reviewable by the LAYAC Exec Board. Final decisions are made for the betterment of the individuals involved and the league as a whole.