

NAPERVILLE PARK DISTRICT

T-BALL RULES



1. The batting order cannot be changed once the first player bats. Everyone bats once per inning regardless of "outs". The inning ends when the ball the last batter has hit is returned to the pitcher. All children should be encouraged to finish running the bases rather than being left on base. The batting order must be changed from game to game so that the players at the end of the batting order are near the beginning at the next game.
2. **OUTS**- An out is made when:
 - A fielder catches a fly ball. (batter out)
 - A force out is made . Fielder has control of the ball and touches the base before the runner. (Runner Out)
 - A fielder tags the runner when the runner is off the base (Runner Out)
 - The batter **throws** the bat (Batter Out)
3. The pitcher does not pitch. The play ends when the pitcher has control of the ball and is standing on the pitcher's plate.
4. The batted ball must travel approximately ten (10) feet in fair territory in order to be considered a "hit". A ball which does not travel the required distance is considered a foul ball. Strikes will not be called nor can a batter strike out. If a **player throws the bat, the player is OUT!** If the player swings the bat with one hand, the player is out.
5. No stealing bases. No sliding.
6. The runner must stay on base until the ball is hit.
7. Each fielder must play a minimum of two (2) defensive positions during the game. The fielders must be changed every inning. Based on a three (3) inning game, each child must play two (2) innings.
8. A coach from each team will umpire the game. The home team will start behind the plate while the other coach takes the field. If a coach is not available from a team, then that team shall provide a responsible adult who is familiar with the rules.
9. The "umpire coaches" are responsible for:
 - The game starting and ending on time. Each game has a one (1) hour time limit.
 - Determining when each play has ended and the ball is dead.
 - Calling fair and foul balls.
 - Calling all outs
 - Ejecting anyone from the game, playing field, or spectator area who is interfering with the game.

10. A coach may be present on the field behind the base lines gently and verbally directing his/her defensive players. There should be a **'dugout coach'** in charge of the players on the bench. This can be a volunteer coach or a parent. This person will be in charge of supervising the players during batting and those left on the bench during fielding. All players should remain in the designated dugout area.
11. **Games will not be scored.** The object of the game is not to win or lose, but to enjoy playing it. Everyone is a winner if they feel good about what they did accomplish and not what they failed to accomplish. Winning per se should not be emphasized, but learning and improving ones' skill level will make the child feel successful.
12. Base coaches are allowed to verbally direct the base runners from outside the first and third baselines.
13. On a hit, the base runners and batter may advance as far as possible until an out is made or until the pitcher has control of the ball on the pitcher's plate. Runners not half-way to the next base when the pitcher has control of the ball must return to their previous base.
14. **Field.** The diamond will have Fifty (50) foot baselines. The pitcher's plate will be thirty (30) feet from the batting tee.
15. **Safety.** Coaches are responsible for keeping all players at least twenty (20) feet away from the first or third baseline and batting tee. Stored bats should be kept away from the dugout area . **There will be NO on -deck circle or warm-up!**
16. A team consists of TEN (10) players. Three (3) basemen, one (1) shortstop, four or five(4 or 5) outfielders (deeper in the grass away from the infielders), one (1) fielding-pitcher and no catcher. The pitcher is to cover home. Additional players can be played as outfielders, so no one sits during fielding. This is really a blessing in disguise because coaches don't have to make the difficult decision of who sits on the bench; and the parents are all able to see their children play the game.
17. Players should line-up and shake hands with opposing team at the end of the game. Good sportsmanship should be encouraged and demonstrated by the coaches.