

Tball (Kinder / 1st Grade) Rules

Territorial Sports Program
Revised 5/2024

NFHS rules apply except for the following exceptions:

1. Home team sits on the 3rd base side.
 - Athletes' parents should sit on their team side and are not allowed behind the home plate area.
 - Coaches must stay in the boxes until the ball is dead.
 - ScoreKeepers must be in the bench area so umpires can quickly check scores between innings
2. When warming up for games, there is no infield or batting practices at Bolton
3. T-batters may not lead off or steal bases. They must remain on the base until the ball is hit. Once the ball has been controlled by the pitcher within the 10-foot circle, and the batter has reached the base or been called out, the ball shall then become dead until it is hit again.
4. Each batter shall be allowed up to 3 practice swings regardless of foul balls. Foul balls on the third strike receive another. Each batter is allowed ONLY 3 line-up swings.
5. T-ball games will be **7 innings** or a 1-hour 30 minutes time limit. **No new innings will start after 1 hour and 30 mins (90mins total).** Games canceled due to rain or darkness after 4 innings shall be considered complete games.
6. Each player on the roster will bat in the order they appear in the lineup. Only 9 batters will bat per inning or 3 outs whichever occurs first.
7. T-ball pitchers must keep one foot on the rubber until the ball is hit.
 - If the ball is hit directly to the pitcher in the circle, they must throw the ball to make the play.
 - If the ball is hit to the 1st base side, the pitcher can run down the batter, but then must make a play to get another out. This applies to when the ball is hit to the third base side.
8. There will be a 6-foot arc in front of the plate between the foul lines that a hit ball must clear in order to be considered fair. Any ball first touching inside the arc will be a foul ball; the line is in fair territory.
9. The distance between bases will be 60 feet. The distance from the home plate to the pitcher's rubber will be 40 feet and there will be a 10-foot circle around the pitcher's mound.

10. When the ball is controlled inside the 10-foot circle, the ball is considered dead after the batter is either put out or has control of the first base. At that time the lead runner goes back to that last base he had control of unless all bases behind him are occupied by other runners. The pitcher is the only one that can stop the play.

EXCEPTION: On the 9th batter, the play will be stopped when the 3rd out occurs or the ball is controlled at home plate by the catcher, even if the ball goes out of play. The ball must be thrown to the catcher from outside a 12' arc.

11. T-ball games will be played with a maximum of 10 players on the field. If 10 players are used there will be 4 outfielders. Fielder positions will be left field, left-center field, right-center field, right field. Teams with 10 players or more will play with 10 on the field. The exception will be discipline, illness, or injury.

12. All players will play in the area of the position assigned. Outfielders shall be at least 15 feet behind the baseline and at least 15 feet apart and 3rd base positions will play within 15 feet of their bases. Base and shortstop will play within 3 feet of the baseline, either in front or behind the baseline, and must be at least 15 feet from other players. Players must assume these positions before the ball is hit. This will be a judgment call by the umpire.

13. T-ball bats will not exceed 2 1/2 inches in diameter. Big barrel bats not exceeding this size are legal.

14. The first time the bat is thrown it will be a team warning, after that it will be an out.

15. All players must play 3 full innings of a 6-inning game, and 4 full innings of a 7-inning game. A full inning is defined as a play in the field.

16. Players should not have to be placed on the field by the Coaches after the first week of games, this takes up way too much game time every inning, same with setting the batters.

17. If a player is not playing for disciplinary reasons, the Sports Director and parents must be informed 24hrs in advance of the game (email or call, not through text), and the umpire must be informed before the game starts.

18. No Tobacco, alcohol, or drug use by any players, coaches, or spectators during games.

19. Good sportsmanship will be displayed at all times. Coaches, players, parents, or fans arguing with an umpire may result in an ejection from the game. **This can result in an out for that team.** Only positive chants will be allowed!