



# New Baltimore Baseball League Rules

## Division: T-Ball

T-Ball is an instructional league for boys and girls ages 5 and 6 years old. Emphasis is on participation and instruction in throwing, hitting, catching, and base running. No score or standings are kept.

**Games are held at city parks, and all park rules apply while attending games. Dogs must remain leashed at all times. Owners must clean up after pets or they will be asked to leave the premises. No smoking allowed in the park at any time.**

All T-Ball teams will adhere to all rules and regulations of the League adopted by the New Baltimore Recreation Department.

### General Game Play

1. There will be no scorekeeping during the game and no standings during the season.
2. Roster teams consist of no more than 12 players.
3. Games will consist of 4 innings. A new inning starts once the last batter reaches base in the previous inning.
4. Bases are to be fifty (50) feet apart. Thrown down bases will be used if no bases are set.
5. No smoking, drinking, or dogs are allowed on the field or in the coaches' area (bench area, behind backstop, coaching boxes, etc.) at any time.
6. All managers or coaches will return all equipment after the last game to the City of New Baltimore Recreation Department, 35248 Cricklewood Blvd., New Baltimore MI 48047.
7. In case of severe weather, cancellations will be posted by 4:00PM on our Department Facebook page and by email.
8. In the case of severe weather that occurs after 4:00PM and prior to a practice/game time, cancellations will be determined by the team coaches on the field at practice/game time. All players and coaches should report to the practice/game site unless notified otherwise.
9. Coaches are not to encourage or condone unnecessary roughness. Coaches will be warned once. Any player using unnecessary roughness will be called out and removed from the game.
10. Remember: This is a fun, instructional league. It is for the children to learn, not to compete. Positive, encouraging cheering and instruction only.

## Offensive Play

1. When batting, coaches will be positioned as follows:
  - One coach at first base
  - One coach at third base
  - One coach to position the batter
  - If available, a parent or 4<sup>th</sup> coach may be placed at second base
2. A full team's turn at bat will consist of half the team's present players, regardless of the number of outs made. If a team has an odd number of players, they will bat the larger half the first and third innings, and the smaller half the second and fourth innings. In the event a team has less than 8 players present, the entire roster will bat.
3. No base stealing will be allowed.
4. No lead offs are allowed.
5. Batters must hit the ball past a 20 foot radius of the Tee to become a playable ball; otherwise it will be considered a foul ball.
6. There are no automatically safe players. If an out is called, the player is out.
7. No bunting; the batter must take a full swing.
8. No throwing the bat. If a batter throws the bat whether the ball is hit or not he/she will be warned once. The batter will be called out following a second occurrence.
9. The "infield fly" rule will not be imposed.
10. A runner may advance on any errant throw from an infielder at his/her own risk, but no more than one base will be allowed (**one advancement per runner.**) Once that player reaches that base, the play ends and time out is called. A thrown ball entering the dugout is a dead ball and all runners will be awarded one base.
  - a. Base runners may advance only one base when the ball remains in the infield. (Infield hit, holding ball, not picking it up.)
11. Once the outfielder has made an attempt to throw the ball and release it, the runner may only continue to one base beyond the last one he has passed, running at his own risk. Once the player reaches said base, the play is dead and time is called. Example: Runner is between first and second, the outfielder attempts to throw the ball in, the runner may advance to second base only. He may not continue to third. Once the player reaches second base, play is stopped.
12. If a fielder is blocking a base or obstructing a runner from reaching the base (unless making a play), the runner will be awarded the base.
13. Sliding is NOT TO BE ENCOURAGED.
14. Base coaches MAY NOT PUSH, SHOVE, OR USE ANY PHYSICAL FORM OF DIRECTION. He may only verbally coach. A congratulatory pat is in keeping with the rules.

## **Defensive Play**

1. When fielding, coaches will be positioned as follows:
  - One coach at pitcher's mound
  - One coach on each side of the infield, behind the players
2. When a team has 10 or more players present, 10 players will be allowed on the field for defense. There will be no catcher, so the 9<sup>th</sup> player will be positioned as a 4<sup>th</sup> outfielder and the 10<sup>th</sup> player will be an additional pitcher.
3. The pitcher will be required to wear a batting helmet at all times.
4. Each player must play at least one inning in an infield position and one in an outfield position per game. The New Baltimore Recreation Department encourages rotation of field positions for all players. Do not sit out players for two consecutive innings.
5. All outfielders must be in the outfield grass 15 feet behind the infielders and one player must be behind pitcher's mound, with at least one foot on it, before each attempted batted ball.