

Gahanna Junior League Sports T-Ball League Rules

- A. In all situations, the safety of the players, coaches, umpires, and spectators shall be of primary importance. To that end, and by way of example, on-deck batters shall be positioned behind the current batter, regardless of where his or her team's bench is located. Coaches shall help ensure on-deck batters are properly positioned and that teams maintain appropriate sportsmanship and behavior when an opposing team's on-deck batter is positioned in front of its bench. In addition, coaches are instructed to become familiar with how to recognize concussions and to understand and apply the proper concussion protocols when warranted.
- B. There shall be no smoking, alcohol, drugs, or profanity used by anyone on the field, in the dugouts or within the limits of the field. No jewelry or bracelets of any type may be worn.
- C. The home team will be the first team listed on the schedule and will be responsible for getting out the diamond equipment before the game. The away team is responsible for making sure all the diamond equipment is put away and locked up after the game. Both teams are responsible for preparing the diamond before the game and cleaning up the diamond at the end of each game (this includes lining the baselines and halfway lines between the bases, dragging the field prior to each game; and having the players clean up their trash around the benches, and the coaches emptying the trash cans as needed).
- D. The home team shall take the first base side. The away team shall take the third base side.
- E. Bases are 60 feet apart, but the coaches may, by agreement, shorten this distance to 50 feet.
- F. Games must begin within 15 minutes of the designated time. Games will be limited to 1 hour and 45 minutes, or 6 innings, whichever comes first. No new inning may start after the time has expired.
- G. Cheers and chants are encouraged. They promote teamwork, motivate kids, and add to the child's overall experience. However, no chants or cheers that taunt or make fun of the opposing team or individual players will be allowed. No "swing" or "hit" cheers will be allowed.
- H. For safety reasons, players and spectators are not allowed to stand on the benches.
- I. It is the coaches' responsibility to control their players, parents, and spectators on the sidelines regarding conduct and comments to the other team's players and coaches.
- J. All players will play approximately the same amount of time -- at least three (3) innings per game. Players must enter the game on defense by the second inning.
- K. Only ten (10) players will play defense for the team in field at any time. Players must play the basic positions on defense, except the tenth (10th) player must play in the outfield. It is recommended that each player plays at least three (3) innings per season at each position.
- L. The pitching position is for fielding purposes only, but the pitcher must be in the center of the diamond.
- M. Batting helmets must be worn while batting, running bases, catching, playing first base, playing the pitcher position, and in the on-deck circle. The batting helmet must have a mask when playing defensive positions.

- N. No runs or outs will be counted. When a player is considered out on a play, that player may stay on base until reaching home.

Beginning Late May/Early June:

- (a) When a player is deemed out, the player will not continue to run the bases - a normal out will apply.
- (b) At the discretion of both coaches agreeing before the start of the game, Coaches may pitch, as follows:
- i. Coaches pitch for three (3) strikes or four (4) pitches per batter, whichever occurs first.
 - ii. After three (3) strikes or four pitches, the batter will hit from the batting tee.
 - iii. When a coach pitches, another coach will catch, but a defensive player will stand by for other catching duties; and
 - iv. The number of innings or batters to be pitched will be determined by the coaches.

NOTE: Both coaches must agree to play by either or both of the above rules. If one of the coaches disagrees with either or both of the above rules, the original rules stand.

- O. Each half inning will end when all the offensive players have completed one time at bat in that inning.
- P. All hits must travel beyond an arc that is drawn between the first (1st) and third (3rd) base lines. The arc will intersect the baselines approximately 6 feet from the back "point" of home plate. No bunting is allowed.
- Q. At the discretion of the coach, if a bat is thrown or if the tee is hit, the player will bat again. The batting tee should sit in front of the plate. All balls will be hit from a batting tee (exception: when the coach is pitching).
- R. No runner shall advance after being stopped and when the ball is being thrown to the catcher.
- S. An offensive coach is allowed behind the catcher. Two (2) defense coaches are allowed on the playing field.
- T. If any problems or concerns arise, it will be the coaches' responsibility to try and resolve them, with the T-Ball league commissioner having the final decision-making authority when required.
- U. The head coach is responsible for the entire team, including players, parents, and spectators before, during, and after the games while at the diamond facility.
- V. Assessment of the ability to play on the diamond will be the decision of both head coaches. The safety of the players will need to be the number one factor at all times.
- W. Rainouts, cancellations, and partial games will be rescheduled, if at all, via the T-ball league commissioner. The home team coach will be responsible for notifying the T-ball league commissioner of any incomplete or cancelled games.

Revised March 2024