

# **Delta Youth Baseball & Softball Association**

## **T-Ball Rules (5 & 6 Year Olds)**

### **Overview**

The intent of the T-Ball League is to provide some basic knowledge and understanding of the game of baseball, teach kids good sportsmanship, and provide a positive first impression of organized sports. Coaches and parents are encouraged to support these efforts by minimizing the competitive aspects of the game and focus more on the basic skills and sportsmanship aspects. The attitude and behavior of the coaches and parents are most of what the kids will take with them to the next level!!!

### **Safety**

Safety is of primary concern for everyone associated with organized sports. In addition to the following specific safety related rules, the safety component of any action should prevail when discussing and ruling on any activity in question.

**Throwing Bats:** Throwing bats can pose a serious threat to both players and coaches and will not be tolerated. A player will be warned after their first offense and be removed for the remainder of the game after their second offense. The coaches should ensure that this rule is known by all players prior to each game.

**On-Deck Swinging:** There will be no warm up swinging by any player on the field of play, during a game. The only player swinging a bat is the player at home plate.

**Helmets:** All batters and baserunners must wear a helmet.

**Catching:** The catcher shall stand/squat far enough back from the plate to help minimize risk of injury from both thrown balls and bats. It is recommended that a coach from either team be near the catcher to assist during the game.

**Jewelry:** No jewelry is permitted by any player on the field at any time.

**Sportsmanship:** Heckling, profanity, fighting and any unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated by Coaches, Players or Spectators at any time. No one is permitted to stand behind the backstop at any time. One warning may be given and the second violation will be cause for ejection and possible suspension.

### **General Playing Rules**

**Age Limits:** All players must be between the ages of five and six on or before Jan 1st for girls and before April 31st for boys. The league commissioner must approve any deviation from this rule.

**Field Dimensions:** The playing field will be a regulation field with the following distances:

Bases	45 Feet
Pitching	25 Feet

**Regulation Games:** Each game will be two innings and begin at 6:00pm unless otherwise directed. Any game cancelled or shortened by inclement weather will be made up at the discretion of the two affected coaches. Home coach to call opposing coach if rainout, preferably by 5:00pm.

**Umpires:** No umpires will be assigned to the T-Ball division. The coaches will serve as umpires and are allowed and encouraged to provide instruction during play.

**Balls:** RIF (Reduced Injury Factor).

**Scoring:** No scoring or standings will be kept in the T-Ball division. However, a scorebook should be used in order to maintain line-ups and batting order as well as ensure that all players get relatively equal playing time at all positions on the field.

**Home Team:** The Home Team is always listed as the first team on the schedule. The Home Team will bat last and is responsible for notifying the visiting team and commissioner of all cancellations and other events that may occur. Home coach to notify opposing coach of rain out no later than 5:00pm if possible.

**Playing Defense:** All players on the team will be placed in the field. Coaches should ensure that all players have the opportunity to play all the positions on the field throughout the season. Coaches are encouraged to be on the field to keep the players alert and assist in positioning, where to throw the ball etc. Players should be placed in the standard nine fielding positions with the remainder of players placed in the outfield.

**Pitching:** Coaches will pitch to their own team and use any style of delivery they choose. (It is recommended -but not required- that girls be pitched to "underhand" to help prepare them for Softball). No strikes or balls will be called. After 4 pitches, the ball will be hit from the Tee. (It is recommended that the coach take all four balls to the mound and pitch in succession. This will help move the game along and give the batter a better chance to hit, not having to wait. The catcher can then throw all balls back to the pitcher in between batters.)

**Batting:** All players on each team will hit each inning, regardless of outs made or runs scored. All batters and base runners must wear a helmet and should be encouraged to keep it on their heads while hitting, running and on base. There shall be no players swinging a bat on the field except for the batter at the plate (no warm-Up swings!).

**Base Running:** Players should take one base at a time. There will be no stealing or leading off. All normal base-running rules should be observed.

**Play Night:** Mondays-Thursdays and as scheduled. Approximately 10 games, mid May-June.

**Game Length:** Each team will bat entire line up for 2 innings.