

WEST BROWNSVILLE LITTLE LEAGUE 2020 T-BALL MODIFIED RULES & GUIDELINES FOR MANAGERS/COACHES

Updated 3/05/20

The following t-ball rules were created with the intent to keep games running smoothly and in an orderly fashion. For the 2020 season, it has been decided that there **WILL BE NO UMPIRES** in this division. We are asking managers and coaches to follow some general rules and guidelines throughout the 2020 T-ball season to maintain a level of uniformity and fairness for all t-ball games played at WBLL.

The purpose of the T-Ball program is to teach the game of baseball/softball to children who have only a beginner's knowledge of the game. The emphasis of the program is on having fun and learning the basics and fundamentals. It is important to note that outs and runs WILL NOT be recorded. In Little League, t-ball is considered a non-competitive division, therefore, **no official score or standings will be kept**. It is specifically designed to teach children how to throw, catch, hit, & run the bases. A fun learning experience is the goal.

COACHING STAFF A total of 4 adults will be permitted on the field or dugout (before/during games). One (1) manager, two (2) rostered coaches, and a Team Mom in the dugout (all whom will adhere to having a background check--2020 Volunteer Application). No other parents or other children NOT on the team are allowed in the dugout***Only exception to this rule*** *If a special needs child is participating on a team, one additional adult will be allowed to assist the team (usually the parent of the special needs child)*.

CONTINUOUS BATTING ORDER A continuous batter order will be used for all t-ball games. This means that all players in the line-up will bat in the proper batting order set by their coaches. Each inning, every child on the team line up will bat while their team is on offense. Since no runs or outs will be kept, the offense will bat their entire line up (each child bats one time) per inning. Once this is done, then the opposing team will have their opportunity to then come up and bat for their offensive half of the inning.

GAME TIME- Games should be completed within a ONE Hour Time Limit. The objective is to have EACH team go through their entire batting order TWICE and go out and play defense TWICE in the game. Once both teams have completely gone through their line ups offensively TWICE (from 1st batter to last batter), then the game shall conclude at that point. However, if the one hour time limit expires, and the teams have NOT completed their mandatory TWO times at bat, then they may continue until that is accomplished.

DEFENSIVE POSITIONS (Infielders & Outfielders)---ALL PLAYERS on a team PLAY DEFENSE EACH INNING---
While on defense, each infield player will play their infield position and the rest of the players will play in the outfield. The infielders will start in the general position that they are designated, while the outfielders play in the outfield positions. (For example, we should NOT have all the players at the pitcher's mound or short stop position.) Coaches shall set a regular infield defense and All other players will play in the outfield. This helps teach positions & avoid having all defensive players in the middle of the infield at one time.

SWING ATTEMPTS ALLOWED WHILE BATTING Each batter will have an unlimited number of chances to hit the ball in fair territory while they are batting. If the batter is unable to hit the ball in play (fair territory) on their own after several attempts, it will be okay for the coach near the batter to go ahead and assist the batter with making contact, so that the player may run to first base.

***Note: **NO "On-deck" batters allowed**. All players should REMAIN in the dugout until it is THEIR turn to bat. Once the play is over, the next batter may exit the dugout. NO PLAYER should be swinging bats inside the dugout and all bats shall be stationed near the dugout entrance within the dugout which should be monitored by the coach for safety purposes. We don't want injuries!!!

COACHING POSITIONS WHILE ON OFFENSE While on offense, only 3 coaches will be allowed on the field. One positioned at home plate with the batter, one at the 3rd base box, and one at the first base box. The remaining coach MUST STAY in the dugout with all the players (the coach may not exit), THERE MUST BE AT LEAST ONE ADULT IN THE DUGOUT AT ALL TIMES. It's a general Little League rule for a reason. Safety is Little League's top priority. Huge liability if the dugout is left unattended!!!

COACHING POSITIONS WHILE ON DEFENSE While on defense, all 4 coaches may be stationed on the field to verbally assist their players throughout the game. Only 2 coaches are allowed in the infield area to instruct players, while the other two coaches are in the outfield BEHIND the defensive players for supervision purposes. At NO TIME shall all the coaches be in the infield at the same time. However, at any point in the game if one of their defensive players needs to go to the dugout or doesn't want to go on the field, then at least 1 coach is required to be stationed in the dugout monitoring the child (even if its only just one child). **Safety is the top priority!**

FINAL NOTES- All games will be played with a standard tee and baseball t-ball provided by each team. There are NO Protests in tball. There are NO UMPIRES in this division. Managers & coaches will be completely in charge of their own games. Have fun!