

TMS T-BALL SOFTBALL RULES

1. Field Dimensions:

- Distance between bases forty (40) feet
- Distance from plate to arched line (30) feet
- Field boundaries shall consist of an imaginary line drawn from the wings of the backstop parallel to the baselines.
- 1st base shall be a safety base (with the orange side to the fences)

2. Dress Code:

- A player MUST wear a full uniform to play in a game.
- A full uniform consists of the hat, jersey provided by the league for the current softball season.
- Short pants are not allowed; long pants MUST be worn.
- Hats must be worn properly with the peak at the front. No hats may be worn backwards or sideways by any league participant on the field (players, coaches, assistant coaches or umpires) with the exception of the catcher or home plate umpire while wearing their masks.
- If a player is unable to wear a full uniform due to medical reasons or lost items, the player is required to notify the coach prior to the start of the game and the coach will notify the Convenor. Any exceptions to the rule will then be made.
- Glasses/Sunglasses are allowed. They MUST be worn properly on the face. They may not be worn on the top of the head, hat, or on the neck.
- No jewelry of any kind may be worn with the exception of a medical alert.
- All players, coaches, and assistants on the playing field must wear fully enclosed shoes (i.e. no open toe shoes or open heels; e.g. sandals, flip flops, "croc", etc.).

3. Each team will field all players on defense. Players will be placed at traditional infield and outfield positions.

4. A team must be able to field a minimum of seven (7) players at the start of a game. In the event a team does not have seven (7) players the coaches of both teams will consult and decide together whether to move children from one team to the other to balance out the teams for this game only.

5. All players shall bat in each inning.

6. A batter will bat the ball from the tee as many times as required to make a legal hit.

7. The ball must be bat to or past the thirty (30) foot arched line to be considered a legal hit. NOTE: This rule may be relaxed at the coach's discretion during the early half of the season. By mid-season coaches should be encouraging players to bat until the ball reaches or surpasses the 30 foot line.

8. As a player develops pitching may be done by an adult representative of the offensive team, either a coach or preferably an assistant. If the batter does not make a legal hit by the third pitch the ball will be placed on the tee. The defensive team will position a player to field the pitcher's position once the ball is in play.

- NOTE: it is preferable to have transitioned to this pitching method for all players by mid-season however this will be at the discretion of the coach.

9. Ball size to be used is 9" soft.

10. An inning is complete when all of the batters on the offensive team have batted once.

11. Last Batter:

- When the last batter in an inning comes to the plate the offensive coach must clearly announce this fact.

- When the ball, hit by the last batter in the lineup is returned to the tee the inning is over.

12. Batting helmets, with chin straps securely in place, must be worn by all batters and base runners.

13. The batters may NOT use wooden or cogenic bats.

14. In the event the batter hits the ball and it goes into the bushes along the 3rd base-line at EASTERN diamond the hit will be ruled a ground rule double.

15. In the event the batter hits the ball to the dip in the ground between the ball field and track at TOTTENHAM PUBLIC NORTH diamond the hit will be ruled a ground rule double.

16. The catcher MUST, without exception, wear a face mask, chest protector, shin guards and a helmet.

17. Any baseball glove may be worn at any position.

18. Leadoffs and base stealing are not allowed. The ball must be in play (due to a hit, walk, etc.) before a base runner may leave the base.

- NOTE: A batter swinging and missing a pitch does not constitute a ball in play. If in this event a runner is off the base, the runner will be call out.

19. If a ball is thrown by the fielding team hits a runner, that runner IS NOT OUT and the ball is still in play. Please also see Rule 8 Sec. 9j of the Softball Ontario Rulebook regarding a batted ball.

20. Play is complete and time is called when an infielder that is in front of the runner or the player in the pitcher's position is in control of the ball and holds it in the air. In that case runners shall be awarded the base to which they were advancing when time was called.

- i.e. a defending outfield player simply holding up the ball will NOT stop the play.

21. If a defender overthrows the ball which goes out of fair territory runners shall advance one (1) base only from the time of the throw.

22. When a base runner is thrown out, tagged out, or a fly ball is caught, the base runner will be considered out, however the base runner may continue to run if desired on subsequent hits by the following batters. By mid-season this rule should change that if a base runner is put out then they shall not continue to run the bases.

23. A game will consist of two (2) complete innings.

24. A game will be considered official after one (1) complete inning.

Mid-Season Rule Change Re- Cap (Commencing July 1st)

25. Both coaches may use a helper at each base position.

26. The home team coach is responsible for setting up and returning equipment.

27. Rainouts:

- If a game is to be cancelled, it is the responsibility of the coach of the home team to notify the visiting coach at least 90 minutes before the game.
- The home team coach must also notify the convenor at least 90 minutes before the game.
- The rescheduled game will be played during the last week of August and/or first week of September permitting diamonds are available; convenor will communicate rescheduled game dates to affected coaches.

28. No arguments between coaches. Any disputes are to be brought to the attention of the league executive.

29. If a person directly or indirectly connected with a team, be it a player, coach, assistant coach or any other, is deemed with due process to be exhibiting behaviour contrary to the policies of Tottenham Minor Softball;
- Said person may be suspended from play subject to a review by the executive of Tottenham Minor Softball.
 - Should it be deemed that the behaviour could have or in fact did cause injury then the suspension will most likely be the remainder of the season including tournament play

Tottenham Minor Softball asks all coaches to make it clear to all participants and their supporters that abusive behaviour or arguments (especially in front of the players) is absolutely contrary to the Association's policy of good sportsmanship!

The coach or preferably an assistant will pitch to their batters. If the batter does not make a legal hit by the third pitch then the ball will be placed on the tee for the player to hit from there until they do make a legal hit.

If a base runner is out they shall not continue to run the bases.

NOTE: These rules are at the discretion of the coaches as this is considered a weaning process and the coaches may wish to apply them over a few games.

This process is a great help in preparing the children for higher levels of softball.

Generally speaking T-Ball is considered preparation for normal softball play. With this in mind it is recommended that the defending coaches place their players more or less in proper positions (i.e. first base, shortstop, etc) The children should be taught to play their "zone" rather than all over the field.