



JUNIOR T-BALL

The Olentangy Braves Little League Junior T-Ball division is designed to introduce the game of baseball to participants aged 4-5. The rules set forth below are designed to provide the best learning opportunity for the participants. Because this is a non-competitive division, a certain amount of latitude is to be given to the managers and coaches to apply the rules below in a manner that promotes and protects the best interests of the participants.

Eligibility: Junior T-Ball is open to players 4 to 5 years old. Players aged 5 with advanced skills are encouraged to participate in Senior T-Ball.

Games: The Junior T-Ball season will consist of ten games. To the extent possible, each team will be scheduled to play one or two games per week. There will be no end-of-season tournament play for the Junior T-Ball division.

Number of Players Assigned to Each Team: No more than 12 players will be assigned to any Junior T-Ball team.

Use of Tee: In order to best ensure each player's development as a hitter, to reinforce proper batting technique, to instill player confidence and to promote play in the field, all hitting will take place off of a tee. Accordingly, there shall be no pitching at any time.

Number of Batters Per Inning: Each player present at a game shall bat once each inning. Three defensive outs will not end an inning. Do not run the bases with the last batter for safety and time restraints.

Defense: All players on a team's roster must be assigned a defensive position each inning. There shall be no more than 5 players in infield positions (1B, 2B, SS, 3B and P). There shall be no catchers.

Length of Games: Games shall be three innings long. If the third inning is completed before 55 minutes have expired since the start of the game, the teams may play up to one additional inning. No half-inning, however, shall begin more than 55 minutes after the first batter of the game.

Scoring: Scores shall not be kept.

Base paths and Base Running: T-Ball base paths shall be 60 feet. Base stealing and leading off are prohibited. No base runner may leave any base until the batter has struck the ball. Base runners and

hitters may advance more than one base on a batted ball if the ball is not in control of a defensive player. Base runners are not permitted to advance on an overthrow.

No Strikeouts: A player shall have an unlimited number of swings in which to hit the ball off of the tee. There are no strikeouts.

Fair Territory: Any batted ball that travels into fair territory, but less than 10 feet, shall be declared a foul ball.

Retired Batters and Runners: Although three outs shall not end an inning, any player who is retired while at bat or on the bases is required to return to the dugout. Under no circumstances shall a player who is retired be permitted to continue running the bases.

Coaches in Field of Play: Each team is permitted to have up to three coaches on the field during defensive game play. Coaches should not interfere with play after a ball is batted into fair territory, but are permitted to orally instruct players during live game play. While on offense, each team shall have a manager or coach positioned at home plate (to assist with the tee) and at first and third base (if three coaches are present). Once a ball is batted off of the tee, the coach positioned near home plate must immediately remove the tee to foul territory. Managers shall jointly agree on the outcome of any inadvertent coach interference.

Equal Opportunity for Players: Managers and coaches should ensure that all players are given an equal opportunity throughout the season to play each defensive position, and to bat in each position in the hitting lineup.

(Exception No. 1: A manager may exclude a player from playing the first base or pitcher positions if the manager believes, in good faith, that such a player would be exposed to undue risk of injury as a result of playing one of these defensive positions.)

(Exception No. 2: Although players should be encouraged to attempt to play all defensive positions, no player should be forced to play any defensive position if that player indicates that he or she does not wish to play the defensive position.)

Player Substitutions: There are no limits on the participation of players who arrive late or leave early from any Junior T-ball game. Such players shall be inserted into, or removed from, the offensive and defensive lineups in a manner that is consistent, to the extent possible, with the rules set forth above.