

Alliance Hot Stove Baseball League T-Ball League Playing Rules

The Alliance Hot Stove Baseball League (AHSBL) T-Ball League is the level representing the Charter's division for four (4), five (5), and six (6) year olds. The T-Ball League will be governed by the Ohio Hot Stove Baseball League (OHSBL) rules as well as the AHSBL rules unless noted and modified below. Managers and Coaches are expected to be familiar with each of these sets of rules.

The purpose of the AHSBL T-Ball League is to give children the opportunity to play as much as possible and not to emphasize winning. These rules are put in place to encourage the teaching of fundamentals, teamwork, and sportsmanship over the competitive aspect of wins and losses. We realize that some children do want to play competitively, and our goal is to prepare them to play in our upper leagues while learning the rules of baseball at this level.

GOALS

1. The goal of the T-Ball League is to prepare players for the next level of play by developing basic baseball skills, including catching, throwing, batting, and baserunning.
2. This league is meant to be non-competitive and fun for the players. The T-Ball League will have no post-season games and a league champion will not be determined.
3. These rules are set forth to provide consistent play under a structured setting and to help develop good sportsmanship while having fun in a healthy and positive environment.
4. This is an instructional league and all actions must have the players' growth and development in mind.
5. **SAFETY** is the first priority at all times.

TEAM FORMATION

1. The T-Ball League will accept players from the Alliance area. There shall be no Charter boundaries since this is a non-sanctioned league.
2. The number of teams will be determined by the number of sign-ups. Roster sizes will be approximately even with a minimum of 10 players and maximum of 15 per team.
 - a. Teams will be formed according to North, Central, and South districts in the Alliance City Schools, and Lexington and Washington districts in the Marlington Local School District.
 - b. A player signing up from outside these districts will be placed on a team where the League Commissioner deems necessary, and their decision will be final.
3. Second year players will remain assigned to the team that they played on as first year players unless they have moved into another district and make a formal request to the AHSBL Board of Directors to play in the new district.
4. Administration of the T-Ball League will be conducted by the League Commissioner appointed by the AHSBL Board of Directors.

TEAM MANAGEMENT

1. The AHSBL expects T-Ball League coaches to assist players, coach bases, act as umpires during games, and teach basic baseball skills. An overly competitive mentality will not be tolerated.
2. Managers will be selected on a volunteer basis as determined by review of the T-Ball League Commissioner and the AHSBL Board of Directors.
 - a. All prospective managers are required to submit a letter of intent to the T-Ball League Commissioner and the AHSBL Board of Directors.
 - b. Assistant coaches are selected by the team manager and will also submit a letter of intent for review by the League Commissioner and the AHSBL Board of Directors.
 - c. **All team managers, coaches, and volunteers must complete a background check as required by AHSBL, in conjunction with the Ohio Hot Stove Baseball League (OHSBL) to participate with the team. Directions for background check submissions will be provided by the AHSBL.**
3. Games will be scheduled on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Fields will be determined and listed along with dates and start times on the official League Schedule.
4. Make-up games for rainouts may be played on any day of the week based upon field availability and the ability of the League Commissioner to reschedule them.
5. Practice at least once a week is highly encouraged for each team and will be scheduled on fields as determined by the AHSBL. Practice for the teams within Marlinton districts will be scheduled directly with the people responsible for the fields in those townships.
6. Managers are required to fill out an official OHSBL roster of players for their team. Parents are required to fill out an Emergency Medical Authorization Form which the manager will keep in their possession at all times in case of injury.
7. Parents are reminded to act as adults, use appropriate language, and set an example for all the children in the league. Coaches have the responsibility to control spectators. In the event that an individual becomes an interruption to the game, coaches may stop play upon the agreement of each manager.
8. Coaches are reminded to be more concerned with the players learning how to play the game than with competition at this age. There is no scorekeeping, thus no wins and losses.
9. Concerns regarding conduct by a coach, player, or parent should be immediately brought to the attention of the T-Ball League Commissioner.

FEES AND EQUIPMENT

1. The fee for each player in the T-Ball League will be used to cover the cost of standard uniforms which will consist of a t-shirt with a one color screen of a sponsor name on the front and number on the back and a hat with a one or two color logo on the front.
 - a. Any additions to the league issued uniform will be an extra cost to the team.
 - b. Coaches are not to solicit sponsors for supplementary monies to defray additional costs that may be incurred.

2. Team sponsors will be determined by the AHSBL Board of Directors.
3. AHSBL will provide additional equipment to each team including: a catcher's mitt and equipment, batting helmets with chin straps, T-ball bats (when available), bases, and game T-balls. Practice T-balls will be provided as available and coaches are encouraged to purchase additional T-balls for practice sessions.
4. Participants will be required to furnish the following equipment: Tennis shoes (cleats are optional and must be rubber or synthetic only, NO METAL CLEATS ALLOWED), baseball glove, T-ball bat, and participants are encouraged to wear a protective cup.

GAME PRELIMINARIES

1. Alliance City Parks personnel will prepare fields prior to each game. Bases will be set at 50' apart and the pitching rubber will be set 38' from home plate.
2. Before the start of each game, both teams will be required to fill out a line-up card to exchange with the opposing team's manager.
3. The visiting team will sit on the third base side of the field and take warm-ups 20 minutes prior to the start of the game. The home team will sit on the first base side of the field and take warm-ups 10 minutes prior to the start of the game.
4. Each game will consist of a minimum of three (3) innings and a maximum of four (4) innings. No new inning shall be started after 50 minutes.

GAME PLAY

1. Three (3) coaches may be used on the field during offense: One to assist the batter, one at first base, and one at third base.
2. Two (2) coaches may be used on the field to assist the defense and must be positioned in the outfield.
3. Managers may field their full roster during their defensive half inning with 6 infield players and the remaining players spread evening in the outfield.
 - a. Players must be rotated to different defensive positions each inning.
 - b. Players should spend equal time in outfield and infield positions.
4. Each team will bat their full roster during their offensive half inning. All batters/runners must wear helmets with chin straps while on the field of play.
5. Coaches are required to start their roster batting at a different number in the lineup each inning so different players have an opportunity to lead off and bat last.
6. The batter is entitled to as many swings as necessary to put the ball in play, however coaches should be mindful of the pace of play.
7. The batter/runner is expected to advance only one (1) base for a hit ball that stays in the infield. Batters/runners may advance two (2) bases for a ball hit into the outfield.
8. Runners may not leave the base until the ball is hit, and runners must touch all bases. Coaches are encouraged to teach their players proper baserunning.
9. Outs and runs are not counted.
 - a. If a runner is put out, they will return to their dugout. The number of outs made per inning is irrelevant as each team will bat their whole roster.

- b. The last batter will run the bases until they touch home without consequence of being put out.
- 10. Play stops when an infielder secures the ball from the outfield or from a throw from another infielder.
 - a. Runners will not be granted extra bases on overthrows. In the event of an overthrow that causes the fielder to abandon their position, the ball is dead.
 - b. Play immediately stops in the case of an injury. The injured player must be attended to immediately.**
- 11. If a batted ball hits a coach/umpire in fair territory the ball is live and play continues.
- 12. No lead offs, stealing, pinch hitting, bunting, infield fly rules, or protests allowed.
- 13. Coaches are expected to teach fielders to throw the ball when on defense and encourage them to do so in appropriate plays during the game.
 - a. Infielders must play their own positions
 - b. The pitcher may not tag out batters running to first.
 - c. The catcher will field all throws to the plate when there is a play at home.

UMPIRES

- 1. Coaches are required to share umpiring responsibilities. Fairness is expected at all times.
- 2. Managers should choose coaches to act as umpires on the field during games.
 - a. One offensive coach will be positioned at the plate to assist batters and umpire all calls at the plate as well as foul balls. This coach must remove the tee from the plate after the ball is hit.
 - b. One defensive coach will be positioned behind the pitcher and make calls on the bases.
- 3. Managers are responsible for maintaining control of the game and must demonstrate knowledge of the rules governing the T-Ball League.
- 4. Managers should gather on the field and talk in a calm manner to discuss any questionable play, disagreement, or concern.
- 5. A written report of an incident must be submitted to the T-Ball Commissioner within 48 hours.

Revised and voted on by the Board: March 2024