



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB, INC.
7833 Walker Drive, Suite 430, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Web site: www.pgcbgc.com

Phone: (301) 446-6800
Fax: (301) 446-6801
TTY: (301) 699-2544

Byron Thompson
(301) 446-6818
Countywide Sports Coordinator
Byron.Thompson@pgparks.com

Lawrence Sedgwick, Jr.
(301) 446-6800
Executive Director
Executive.Director@pgcbgc.com

Jahmoni Ruffin
(301) 446-6814
Administrative Support
Jahmoni.Ruffin@pgparks.com

2023 T-BALL RULES & REGULATIONS

The Babe Ruth League, Inc. Baseball Rules and Regulations and Official Playing rules will govern play. In case of conflict, the current PGCBGC “T-Ball Rules and Regulations”, existing “Ground Rules and Definitions” (Rev. 11/24/2021) and current “Baseball Special Rules” will supersede. PLEASE FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THESE RULES AND KEEP THEM WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES!!

1. AGE CLASSIFICATION:

- A. To participate, players must be between 5-6 years of age inclusive, and not older than 6 on or before January 1st of the current year and season. **NO EXCEPTIONS!!**
- B. Any player not meeting the age requirement set forth herein shall be ineligible and **MAY NOT PARTICIPATE** in league play. Any game in which an ineligible player participates shall be forfeited. Further, any organization that puts ineligible players on their team roster shall be considered for dismissal action and/or disbarment from the league.
- C. **Players are not allowed to participate simultaneously in T-Ball and Rookie League Ball.** Failure to comply will result in forfeiture of game(s) and suspension of the coach.

2. PLAYING FIELD:

- A. The Playing field shall be set up and marked off as shown in the field diagram below. **The circle around the pitching mound shall be 9-foot diameter (4 1/2' radius).** The designated home team shall be responsible for setting up the field including lining or re-lining of the field as necessary. Other measurements:
 - **50' distance between bases**
 - **35' distance from home plate to pitching rubber**
 - **15' arc between infield foul lines from home plate** (a ball must travel beyond 15' to be fair) (see diagram)

*****OVER*****

- D. Players must wear baseball shoes, all-purpose rubber cleats or tennis shoes. Shoes with metal cleats or street shoes cannot be worn for any games.
- E. No jewelry will be worn and is prohibited.
- F. All batters and base runners are required to wear helmets with dual earflaps.

4. GAME RULES:

- A. A game will consist of six (6) innings or 105 minutes, whichever occurs first. No inning will start after 105 minutes have elapsed. Teams, however, will be allowed to complete an inning started provided it started before the 105-minute time limit.
- B. The visiting team has the right to the field fifteen minutes before game time for warm-up. The home team shall have warmed up prior to the visiting team.
- C. Coaches during batting may make hand adjustments, however, all players must hit on their own.
- D. Balls that are not hit beyond the 15-foot arc are considered foul balls. Seven fouls or a combination of strikes and fouls totaling seven is considered an out.
- E. There is no mercy rule for this league.
- F. The infield fly rule will not be in effect.
- G. Play will stop and time is called when the ball is secured within the pitcher's control in the pitcher's circle and runners return to the last base occupied before the ball became dead. The pitcher must make a play on any ground ball hit by the batter and fielded within the pitching circle. If the ball is fielded outside the pitching circle, the pitcher may return to the circle to stop play.
- H. Base runners may advance on overthrown balls based on standard baseball rules.
- I. End of Inning – An inning will be completed and no more runs scored after either 3 outs have been made or the 9th batter has batted in an inning or five runs have been scored in an inning by the team at bat, whichever occurs first. When the last inning is played, the ninth (9th) batter rule and the 5 run rule are suspended. The fielding team must get three (3) outs to retire the side or end the inning.
- J. Coaches may call only one timeout per inning except for injuries.
- K. Parents and spectators (other than coaches) may not sit or stand closer than 5 feet from the out-of-play lines.

5. FORFEIT:

A team must have at least 8 players to play a game. If a team cannot field 8 players within the grace period, the game is considered a forfeit by the shorted team(s). If one team has more than the required players to start a game, it is encouraged to “loan” players to the shorted team so that an “unofficial” game may be played.

6. PLAYING RULES:

A. **Batting Tee** – The batting tee rests on home plate. The coach of the batter may adjust the tee and reposition the batter at any time as long as the ball is not in play. Play will not begin until the umpire has determined that everyone is ready and it is safe to begin play. The umpire will place the ball on the tee and signal “play ball”. The batter may then strike the ball. The pitcher must stay within the pitching circle until the batter hits the ball. When the ball is hit, the batting coach will move the batting tee immediately if a player is attempting to score at the plate.

Foul Ball/Strike Outs – The batter must strike the ball within 10 seconds after the “play ball” notification or a strike will be called. Seven fouls or a combination of strikes and fouls totaling seven is considered an out.

B. **Bat Throwing** – Not allowed. First such occurrence will result in team warning. Second such occurrence will result in batter being called out. In both cases the ball, if struck, will be a dead ball and all runners must return to their base.

C. **Base Running** – All base runners must wear protective helmets when on base. All base runners must have obtained or reached any individual base before the ball is returned to the possession and control of the pitcher within the 9-foot circle. **If they have not reached the base completely** (not half way), **the runner(s) must return to the last base touched safely** before the pitcher had control of the ball within the circle to stop play. No head first slides are allowed except when returning to a base.

D. **Overthrows** – If the ball is overthrown either from the outfield or the infield and goes out of play (beyond the out of bounds area), the base runners are entitled to the base they are advancing to plus one additional base. However, if the ball is only in the foul ball areas and does not get completely out of bounds, the base is not automatic, and the runners may advance at their own risk.

E. **Players** – **Eleven players are allowed to play in the field, but only one player at each of the primary positions of:** pitcher, catcher, first base, 2nd base, shortstop and third base. The outfield shall have a short fielder plus 4 other outfielders playing umbrella style. Free substitutions are permitted.

F. **Playing Time** - **Every player must play at least two (2) innings per game, all players present will bat whether playing in the field or not. The batting order will not be changed once the game has started. Late arriving players will be added to the end of the batting order. Once a player is in the batting order, he/she has to stay there regardless whether he/she is playing a field position.**

*****OVER*****

- G. Infielders - Infielders consist of 1st baseman, 2nd baseman, 3rd baseman and shortstop. The pitcher and catcher are infielders also, but play these positions as defined by regulation baseball. Infielders shall not be positioned more than 10 feet in front or behind the baseline of the infield. Only the pitcher is allowed within the pitcher's circle. For safety reasons, the catcher must remain along a straight line from the pitcher through the tee and close to the backstop until the ball is hit.
- H. Outfielders - Outfielders must play an outfield position associated with normal baseball and should position themselves at least 20 feet beyond the infield base line until the ball is struck. Outfielders will not come within the infield to cover a base or other infield positions unless backing up another infield player. First violation of this rule will be a warning. Future occurrences will result in obstruction being called.
- I. Field diagram stats –
1. There is a 50-foot distance between all bases.
 2. A 15-foot arc between infield foul lines from home plate. A ball must travel beyond 15 feet to be fair.
 3. A 9-foot diameter circle (4 1/2' radius) around the pitching mound.
7. **UMPIRES:** Umpires will be assigned by the PGCBGC. All calls on the field should be honored. If there is a question regarding a ruling on the field, a timeout can be requested once the play has stopped and time is called. An umpire's judgement should not be questioned. A clarification on a ruling can be requested. All official protests must be logged with the PGCBGC offices in Greenbelt.
8. **SCOREKEEPING:**
- A. Each team will have a scorekeeper as selected by the Head Coach. The home team will be the official scorer for each game. Scorekeepers must maintain their own team's score sheet and be aware of the other team's players and score. After each half inning, the scorekeepers shall meet and reconcile their scorebooks, if needed
- B Immediately after the game or within 24 hours, thereafter, the winning coach shall report the score to PGCBGC pursuant to the current PGCBGC Baseball Special Rules.
9. **INCLEMENT WEATHER:** If inclement weather occurs for the scheduled games, coaches and parents should call the PGCBGC weather line (301-927-0822) for updates on field playing conditions. If the county weather line does not states "all games are cancelled" or games are cancelled for the field at which your game is scheduled, the coaches shall meet at the field to make a positive playing determination at that time. Any team that doesn't appear will forfeit the game.

