

GVA A BASEBALL 4/5 TBALL GUIDELINES

1. SUMMARY POINTS:

a. It's all about having fun at this age.

b. Try to place your players in actual positions defensively, to help avoid having everyone run to field every batted ball. Focus on the infield positions.

c. The following "rules" are meant to provide a guide.... If the coaches from both teams agree to something slightly different (like ignoring the arc in front of home plate for a ball to be fair), then so be it!

2. Teams may play with any number of players that show up on a given day. There will be no forfeits in this division. If teams have less than 5 players then have players from the opposing team play in the field when they are not batting.

3. T-Ball games are scheduled for 90 minutes or 3 or 4 innings (coaches discretion depending on number of players on each team). Coaches should be ready to start games at scheduled times. Upon completion, if there is another game scheduled to begin soon please vacate the dugout area promptly to allow the next game to begin, and gather your team for a post- game huddle in an area outside of the field.

4. Bases will be at a distance of 40'. That is shorter than a regulation field, typically set at 45' or 50' distances.

5. Batting line up will consist of all players present.

6. All players on the team will play in the field every inning. We will attempt to keep the **number of players on each team under 10** so that you won't have an excessive number of players on the field. Positions should be played such that the infield positions (1st, 2nd, 3rd, SS, Pitcher) are fielded first, followed by the outfielders and lastly a catcher. (This is a guideline, if a player really wants to play catcher, by all means let him.)

7. If there are not enough players to have outfielders the coaches should attempt to stop any ball going into the outfield so that the infield players are still playing their positions.

8. The pitcher must play his/her position and be on the pitcher's rubber until the ball is hit. The fielding team coach should be stationed just behind the pitcher instructing him/her where to throw (also for safety reason). Assistant coaches may be stationed throughout the infield/outfield instructing other players.

9. The catcher should be in full protective gear (thrown bats are a frequent occurrence).

10. No fielder, other than the catcher, can stand closer to the batting tee than the pitcher. Infielders cannot play deeper than three feet beyond the base paths. Outfielders cannot play in the infield or closer than 10 feet from the base paths. Try to stress to all defensive players to play their position so that we avoid clustering in the infield in pursuit of a ball in play.

11. All infield players must play in their assigned positions. Backing up is allowed but a play made at a base must be made by a player covering that position.

12. Only legitimate throws will constitute an out. Rolling the ball to the base should not be encouraged nor should underhand throws

unless necessary (short throws).

13. There is no infield fly rule in effect.

14. No defensive player can obstruct a base unless there is a definite play at the base. Infielders may not block the base paths when runners are on base.

15. All batters will hit each inning regardless of the number of outs made by the defense. Three outs does not end an inning ... all players will bat in each inning. If both teams have 6 players or fewer present, then go through the lineup twice in an inning before having the other team bat. (Most time is lost getting players into positions and having the catcher suit up with equipment). The final batter of an inning once reaching first base safely may continue to circle the bases until he/she is tagged out or scores - either of which will end the inning.

16.—The Batting Team may put their last three hitters on base to begin an inning. This is to encourage base running and keep more kids involved in the game.

17. To start the season, a coach will place the ball on the tee and may adjust the tee as necessary. He/she will then inform the defensive players that the “ball is on the tee” or “batter’s up”. The player swings until he hits the ball and puts it in play. There are no strikeouts.

18.(Commissioner Option) Midway through the season when announced by the TBall Commissioner, coaches will start doing an underhand soft toss to the batter instead of using the tee. If the player swings and misses three times then the coach is to put there are no strikeouts. The player will get the hit from the tee instead of from pitching for that at bat.

19. No bunting or half swings are allowed; the ball must pass an imaginary 15-foot arc from home plate to be a fair ball. Once again, there are no strikeouts.

20. To start the season, batters and baserunners that see an out made can still stay on base. At the midway point, the batter and baserunners that see an out made should give up their base, in recognition of the defensive team's efforts. Use your discretion on this though— we don't like to see players crying when they're out, but they should learn how this works at some point.

21. If a bat is thrown dangerously (i.e. more than three feet horizontally in the air), the batter will be warned. Future occurrences will result in the batter being called out and the runners cannot advance. (Only do this if the player absolutely refuses to try to hold on to the bat)

22. The batter and runner(s) cannot advance on an overthrow.

23. Runners can advance on any ball hit into the outfield until an attempt is made to put any runner out or the ball is thrown to the pitcher or coach setting up the tee.

24. On any play, runners can no longer advance once:

- A play is made at a playable base

- The ball is thrown to the pitcher

- The ball is thrown past the 15 foot arc to the coach setting the Tee

25. A runner that intentionally runs over a player holding the ball will be automatically out.

26. There is no mandatory slide rule. A runner should avoid a defensive player or slide in order to prevent a collision.

27. All players are to be in proper uniform with shirts tucked in.

28. Since the objective of T-Ball is to teach the fundamentals of baseball and, more importantly, good sportsmanship, all official scoring is eliminated. The final score of each game will be considered as a tie game with no winner or loser. The league will not maintain standings and participation trophies will be awarded to all players.

29. Prior to **games** coaches/parents are encouraged to line the field to assist players with field boundaries etc. Unnecessary for practice.

30. Upon leaving the field coaches/parents from each team should assist in field clean-up. (raking of field, trash pickup, etc.).