# NHYSA T-BALL RULES

## General Rules

- The following rules are intended to enhance the T-Ball Division. Babe Ruth league rules shall apply to all areas not specifically covered by this handbook.
- Rules of proper conduct and sportsmanship for this age division shall be the same as all age divisions. The rules appear in the section of the Babe Ruth handbook under General Conditions. All rules contained under General Conditions shall apply to all participants unless otherwise stipulated. All terms and definitions are consistent with those listed in the current year's *Babe Ruth League Softball Rules & Regulations & Official Playing Rules.*
- Only the coach and parent assistants will be allowed in the dugout during playing time.
- No score-book will be kept. Coaches will make a lineup for batting purposes only.
- The ball used will be a 11" Safety 1 rated softball.
- Metal spikes or cleats are not permitted.

## Pre-Game

- No batting practice will be allowed before games on any field.
- In order to preserve time, no infield practice shall be permitted prior to the start of any game or between innings.
- Both teams should be ready to play at posted game time with line-ups and other pre-game activities complete.

## Game Start Times

- NO GRACE PERIOD IS ALLOWED FOR ANY GAME. (EXCEPTION: Rain Delays)
- The league shall be the sole judge as to whether a game shall be started because of unsuitable weather conditions or the unfit condition of the playing field. League board members shall be allowed to suspend play during a game due to unsuitable weather conditions or unfit conditions on the playing field.

## Game Time / Inning Limits

- Games will last three (3) innings or one (1) hour.
- An inning will end after both teams have completed their batting lineups.

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## Coaching Requirements for Field of Play

- *Offense* - No more than four (4) coaches will be allowed in field of play during offense. This will consist of a pitcher, catcher and two (2) base coaches.

- *Defense* - No more than three (3) coaches will be allowed in the outfield or outside of the dugout. No defensive coach is allowed in the infield during play, coach must stay behind all players until time is called or ball is announced dead.

## Offense - Batting

- Each player of the offensive team shall bat in the order that her name appears in her team's batting order.
- All players in the lineup will bat each inning.
- Batters will receive five (5) pitches from coach to put the ball in play. If the ball is not put into play, the ball will be placed on the tee by the umpire or coach.
- If a ball is foul tipped on batter's last "coach pitched" ball, then batter shall receive an additional pitched ball. The batter will continue to receive pitched balls only if the previous ball was fouled off the batter's bat, otherwise, the batter will then be required to hit a ball from the tee.
- Once a batted ball enters the field of play, the batter shall proceed to run to first base. Runners occupying existing bases shall proceed to the next base. Only one (1) base shall be advanced per at bat for all runners. The last batter in the lineup will end the half inning inning and shall run all bases until home plate is reached, both sides then retire.
- If a batted ball hits the coach before being touched by a defensive player, the ball shall be dead. Runners may not advance, and the batter continues at bat, with pitch being replayed.
- All players shall use a protective helmet with a mask or shield on deck, at bat and while on the bases. Such headgear must cover the top of the head and have extended ear flaps which cover both ears and properly fit the player wearing it. If a player refuses to wear the headgear, the player shall be removed from the game.
- Batters and base runners must keep their batting helmets on their heads while at bat, on base, and running bases until they re-enter the dugout.
- Bats must be dropped at the plate. Any batter caught throwing a bat should be addressed by player's coach when play stops or batter re-enters dugout.

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## Coach Pitching

- Coaches will pitch five (5) pitches to his/her own players.
- Coaches should begin each pitch with at least one foot within the pitcher's circle. Some consideration is taken, if coaches need to position themselves a little closer to batter to help increase batter's chances to hit coach pitched ball.

## Defense - Fielding

- A maximum of nine (9) players are allowed on field to play defense at one time.
- No more than five (5) infielders, no catcher, are allowed to play infield.
- The player in the "pitcher's circle" must begin within the circle and on the left or right side of the pitching coach.
- All infielders, except pitcher, shall position themselves no closer to home plate than half the distance of the base paths leading to or from home plate. This rule pertains mostly to 1st and 3rd baseman.
- All remaining fielders not playing an infield position MUST be placed behind infielders, starting behind the base paths or beyond.
- Defensive players may attempt to make a play against a base runner, but no outs will be awarded. Even if a defensive player successfully makes a play on an offensive base runner, the base runner will still be awarded the base.
- Once the base runners have advanced to the next base, defensive players should return the ball to the pitching coach in preparation for the next batter.