



## **OBSA LEAGUE SPECIFIC RULES**

### **T-Ball American (4/5-year-old)**

**The set of In-House Rules approved by the Board of Directors, are rules, which apply to the local League and supersedes the Babe Ruth National Baseball Rules. These rules may be necessary due to safety reasons in situations unique to the field or may enhance the normal set of rules implied by the Babe Ruth League. Updated 12.17.25**

#### **TIME LIMITS:**

Regulation games shall be six (5) innings in duration, or when a one-hour (1:00) time limit is reached, THIS IS A DROP-DEAD TIME LIMIT. We do not keep score in the T-Ball Division.

#### **PLAYER AND POSITION RULES:**

1. All players shall be used defensively. A normal infield: 1st base, 2nd base, shortstop, 3rd base and a pitcher will be utilized. The remaining outfielders shall be spaced equally apart. To speed up game play, there will be no catcher in the division.
2. ALL players MUST ROTATE infield and outfield each inning – no player shall remain in the infield/outfield an entire game
3. The player fielding the pitcher position must take position at a chalk line to be drawn 6 feet long centered on the imaginary line that connects first base and third base.
4. Players positioned in the outfield must be a minimum of twenty (20) feet behind the base paths. Outfielders may not tag out or force out any runners. (In an attempt to assist with the (20) foot requirements, a cone or similar marker shall be placed in the outfield to mark where the outfielder must stand).
5. Each player must play at least two innings in the infield during an official game.
  - a. One inning constitutes six (6) batters.
  - b. Infield positions are: Pitcher, 1st base, 2nd base, 3rd base, or Shortstop. This rule must be adhered to for all games where 4 innings, or more, are played.

#### **Penalties for Coaches:**

1. First violation for not playing a player is a one game suspension and review by board of directors.
2. Second violation for not playing a player will require a hearing before the Board with possible suspension for remainder of the season and forfeit of the game in which the violation occurred.

#### **PITCHING RULES:**

1. For all games, all players shall hit off the tee.

2. At any point in the season ,a coach pitcher may pitch to those players who have demonstrated the ability to swing the bat properly.
  - a. The coach must pitch from a distance of at least fifteen (15) feet and no greater than thirty-eight (38) feet from a kneeling position.
  - b. Players shall receive 5 attempts to put the ball in play.
  - c. If the ball is not put into play on the final attempt, the ball will be placed on a tee, and the batter shall hit until the ball is put in play.
3. The Coach pitcher will be considered live and in play if hit by a batted ball.
4. Any player that shows up after the start of the game will be inserted into the last batting lineup spot.

\*Please note that all passed balls are ruled a dead ball. There will be no player catcher in the T-Ball division.

### **BATTING RULES:**

1. An inning will be complete when ALL players(entire team) have completed the at bat. Outs will be enforced but will NOT change the number of batters in an inning.

### **BASERUNNING RULES:**

1. Runners may only advance one base on a batted ball remaining in the infield.
2. Runners may advance a maximum of two bases, when a batted ball reaches the outfield, without assistance; however, runners advance at their own risk.
3. When the last batter is up, the batter will be limited to a single, if not put out, (on a ball batted fair) regardless of where it goes.
4. The infield fly rule does NOT apply in this division.

### **COACHING RULES:**

1. A team may have up to a total of 4 OBCA board approved coaches participating in the game. Defensive coaches must be in the dugout or dugout opening. Offensive coaches must be in the dugout, dugout opening, first base coaches box and/or third base coaches boxes. No coaches shall be on the field during play. For this age division, there are the following exceptions:
  - a. The defensive team may have one coach in the field of play
  - b. To speed up play, a designated coach from the defensive team will receive passed balls
  - c. The offensive team may have one coach pitching as defined in the league specific rules

### **UNIFORM RULES:**

1. Metal cleats are not allowed in this division.

2. All players must wear the jersey provided by OBSA.

**EQUIPMENT RULES:**

1. This division will use a Safety Ball.

\*Please note because of the use of the Safety Ball, bats that are marked as Tee Ball or USA bats ARE allowed.

**PARTICIPANT RULES:**

1. Negative chatter by ANYONE on or near the field will not be allowed and may result in removal from the game.
2. A spectator, player, or coach who uses profanity will be removed from the game at the umpire/coach's discretion and must leave the area.

**TEAM ADMINISTRATIVE AND HOUSEKEEPING RULES:**

1. The home team shall have the third base dugout.
2. Home teams are to provide a brand-new game ball as provided by the league at the beginning of the season for every home game in addition to one gently used game ball.
3. Home team is responsible for setting up the field before each game (bases, bumps/mounds, fences (if applicable). Visiting team (if the final game of the day) is responsible for removing and placing all bases, mounds etc. into the appropriate storage containers. Visiting teams must take into consideration the following games (if the visiting team is baseball and the next game is softball, then the visiting team needs to remove all mounds/bumps etc. not to be used by the coming softball team.)