

SPRINGFIELD SOUTHWEST BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

T- BALL RULES

Revised and adopted: March 27, 2007

There will be no more than 15 players per team at the start of the season. As all team rosters are filled, a waiting list will carry the name and date of each applicant. Assignments to teams will be made on a first come, first served basis.

1. Base paths shall be on a 50 foot diamond with a 38 foot pitcher's fielding position. A circular retaining line, extending 25 feet from the back of home plate, from the first base line to the third base line shall govern strikes and control general play as further explained.
2. All batters and base runners are required to wear protective headgear to protect them from thrown balls.
3. All catchers shall wear face masks, chest protectors and shin guards to protect against thrown bats.
4. Batters will be called out if he/she throws his/her bat or batting helmet.
5. All players bat in rotation, regardless of whether or not they are playing in the field. Complete lineups shall be exchanged before the game (optional).
6. Coaches will umpire their own games.
7. Free substitution of defensive positions is allowed during any point of play for any position. Each player shall play at least two innings in every game unless ill, injured, or being disciplined by the manager, who must so inform the opposing manager before the game begins.
8. Play begins when the player/coach places the ball on the batting tee on home plate and pitcher makes a pitching motion to the batter. Batter may not touch the ball until such motion by the pitcher. Penalty: A strike is called.
9. Batters are permitted to bunt or swing easy at the ball. The hit must travel past the 25 foot retaining line to be in play. A ball on the line is in play. Penalty: Batter is called back to the plate and charged with a strike.
10. Defensive infielders and outfielders cannot "load" or "shift" their position. All players must assume their normal fielding position. Infielders may back up to the edge of the infield or move up 1 to 2 feet in front of the base line. Infielders may "charge" the ball after it is hit, but cannot field a ball inside the retaining line.

- A. T-ball teams will be allowed to play with 10 players on the playing field when playing defense. The 10th player will not play an infield position.
 - B. Any ball fielded or touched inside the circle shall be a dead ball. There shall be no penalty strike assessed. It will be replayed if inadvertent. If it is intentional, first base will be awarded, and runners may only advance if forced to do so.
 - C. For each batter, the second time a ball is fielded or touched inside the retaining line the ball shall be dead and the batter is awarded first base.
11. A player may catch a fly ball within the restraining circle for an out. If the ball is touched and dropped and the ball remains within the retaining circle, it will be treated as a dead ball.
 12. On a hit ball, the base runners, and batter may advance as far as possible, until the ball is returned to inside the retaining line or its imaginary extensions in foul territory. All play is stopped once the ball crosses the plane inside the retaining line. Base runners are allowed to proceed to the base they were running to if they were at least half way, and may proceed no further. There are no plays at home.
 13. Base runners may not advance past the base they were running to at the time of the over throw, when the ball travels into dead ball territory.
 14. Base runners are not allowed to steal or lead off any base until the batter hits the ball. Penalty: the runner is called out.
 15. There is no “infield fly” rule.
 16. Regulation games are five (5) innings in length. Three innings constitute a complete game in case of rain or darkness (or two and a half innings if the home team is ahead). Coaches may mutually agree to change length of game.
 17. Each game shall start at 6:00 p.m. and no inning shall begin after 8:00 p.m. For games played on Saturday or Sunday, games will start at the appointed time with no inning beginning after 1.5 hours from the start of the game.
 18. A team can play a scheduled game with eight players. If a team has less than eight players for a scheduled game, the game shall be forfeited to the opposing team provided that the opposing team has eight of its players at the game. A team will be given 15 minutes from the time the game was to begin, to have eight players before a forfeit will be declared (optional).
 19. Innings shall consist of three outs or five (5) runs in one inning.

20. Only two adults may coach from the base lines. Two adult coaches may “coach” the defense from fair territory in the outfield only.

21. Only managers, coaches, scorekeepers, and players are allowed in the dugouts during the game.

22. Rainout games are to be made up if possible with the T-Ball Vice-President responsible for coordinating the makeup date and time with both coaches involved and the Springfield Recreation Department.

23. No adult manager, coach or sponsor, shall use profane language or smoke on or near, the playing field during a regular game. Unleashed or unattended pets are prohibited on or near the playing fields.

24. Parents are not allowed to drive on the grass areas around the fields for any reason.