



Plainfield Park District
Instructional T-Ball League Rules (Ages 4-6)
Revised 3/2021

The following are modifications made within the Plainfield Park District Instructional T-ball League. All other rules will be governed by the Little League Baseball Rules. All players must be registered with a signed release form by his/her parent or guardian before being eligible to participate. **The Plainfield Park District reserves the right to modify any rule as deemed necessary.** This is an Instructional League & play may be delayed at any time for instruction and coaching. However, coaches should use discretion concerning frequent stoppages of play.

A. Game & Length

1. Schedule: Games are to be played as scheduled.
2. Cancellations: Should questionable weather develop, call the Field Hotline, **779-252-2715**
 - i. In the case of rain or inclement weather, games will be called at the discretion of Park District Staff. Cancelled practices will not be made up.
3. A "regulation game" is 5 innings. After 60 minutes have elapsed, the inning in progress should be completed and no new inning is to start. Game can end in a tie & there are no extra innings.
 - i. Games may be called by Park District Staff in order to start the next game on time
4. Home team occupies the third base dugout and Visitor's will occupy the first base dugout.
5. Game balls will be supplied by Park District Staff
6. Teams must have 8 players to start a game but can finish with less in the event of an injury
 - i. If a player shows up late, he/she will be added to the bottom of the line-up order
7. Bases are 60 feet apart

B. Uniform and Jewelry

1. Uniform: All players are to wear the jersey/hat provided by the Park Plainfield Park District.
2. Jewelry: For the safety of all involved, participants are strongly encouraged not to wear any sort of jewelry, including earrings, rings, necklaces, watches, bracelets, hard hair barrettes or accessories.
3. The site supervisor responsible for all decisions related to illegal equipment
4. Medical bracelets are allowed to be worn during practices and games.

C. Pitching/Defense

1. The ball is under control of the pitcher inside the 12' diameter pitcher's circle. Advancing runners must return to the prior base if not past the halfway mark. Players cannot catch it and quickly throw to a base unless he is OUTSIDE the circle.
2. Once the ball is placed on the Tee by the catcher and the coach announces "Play Ball".
3. The pitcher must hold his position on the Pitcher's Rubber until the ball is struck.
4. If the ball is struck prior to "the pitch" the Umpire will call "no pitch" and start the play over.
5. Outfielders must begin the play with both feet in the outfield grass. Infielders must have both feet in the infield.
6. After placing the ball on the Tee, the catcher should stand against the backstop opposite the hitter.
7. There will be no child playing the catcher position and the adult catcher will serve as the catcher on all plays at the plate.
8. Players must stay in the same position for the entire inning.
9. Teams will have (9) defensive players on the field at once. Remaining players cannot sit out more than 1 consecutive inning (must be entered into the game the next time on defense)
 - a. Teams will play with three outfielders, five infielders (5th infielder behind second base), and a pitcher.

D. Batting/Offense

1. The batter has five swings to put the ball into fair play. If the batter does not, he will return to his bench but he will not be called out.
2. Fair Ball=a ball projected into fair play off the Tee by a swing, even if the Tee is hit instead of the ball.
 - a. The ball must cross the arc in front of the plate in order to be ruled a fair ball

3. The batter must take a full swing. No chopping, half swings, or swinging bunts.
4. All players bat in a continuous order (regardless of whether they are playing in the field) and the line-up will not be changed unless a player has to leave the game.
5. The team at bat will return to the field after they have committed (3) outs or scored (5) runs, whichever comes first.
6. The most runs a team can score in a half inning are 5 runs.
7. The batter may not shift his feet after the ball is placed on the Tee and the umpire has called "Play Ball". A dead ball will be called and the team warned.
8. The batter may not swing until the pitcher has made a pitching motion.
9. The batter must not throw the bat. If the bat is thrown, a Team warning will be given. Any subsequent occurrences by any batter on the team in that game will be called "out".
10. There is no on deck circle and warm up swings are not permitted in the bench area. The only player who may take warm up swings is the player up to bat at home plate.
11. The only coaches allowed on the field are the 1st and 3rd base coaches. All other coaches must remain in the dugout.

E. Base Runners

1. The base runner must begin each play wearing a helmet.
2. The base runner can NOT steal a base.
3. The base runner must be in contact with the base at the beginning of every play until the batter strikes the ball.
4. Lead-offs are not permitted.
5. If a thrown ball strikes a runner the play is dead. The runner is awarded the base he was going to when hit.
6. One base will be awarded to any runner on an overthrown ball that goes out of play.

F. Playing Field

1. The distance from the back of one base to the front of another is 60 feet.
2. The pitcher's rubber is located 45 feet from the front of Home plate.
3. An arc from the tip of Home Plate will be marked. A batted ball must cross this line to be in play. If the ball crosses this line and retreats within the arc prior to being touched, that ball is out of play. If a fielder touches the ball before it crosses the line, the ball is out of play.

G. Equipment

1. Soft-tee ball will be used for all games. All defensive players must have a glove and there will be no catcher's equipment.
2. All bats meeting Little League standards may be used at practices and/or games. The league will provide (1) team bat and teams are encouraged to have their own bats.

H. Sportsmanship: Good sportsmanship is required. It is expected that all team personnel (coaches, assistant coaches, team attendants, and players) and spectators will conform to sportsmanlike behavior at all times. Violations such as the following will not be tolerated and will result in immediate ejection from the game and premises by Park District staff or officials:

1. Verbal or physical abuse towards umpire, Park District staff, coaches, participants, or spectators.
2. Foul, profane or obscene language or gestures.
3. Violation of Coaches' Code of Ethics.
 - i. Players: Should a player be removed from the game, he/she will be suspended a minimum of 1 game (the next scheduled or played game). The player and parents must also meet with the League Manager before he or she is allowed to return to the League.
 - ii. Coaches: Any coach who is removed from a game will receive a minimum (1) game suspension and must meet with the League Manager before being allowed to resume their coaching duties. Any coach who is asked to leave the fields a 2nd time will be suspended for the rest of the season and must meet with the League Manager a 2nd time to discuss any further involvement with the Park District of Oak Park Youth Sports Leagues.
 - iii. Ejections: Any player, head coach, assistant coach, or spectator that has been ejected from a game must immediately leave the premises or the game will be forfeited. Ejections will result in a minimum 1 game suspension (cannot come to the fields) upon review of the League Manager.

4. Balanced Playing Time is required for all teams. This is an “Instructional” League and the goal is to provide all players the opportunity to learn the game of baseball. The only way this will be accomplished is by rotating players into different positions and giving each child a chance.

I. Bench/Sideline

1. Each team is permitted to have a max of 1 head coach, 3 assistant coaches, and their players on the team bench (no siblings, team parents, etc.). Both the 1 head coach and 3 assistant coaches on the bench must have a completed background check/Volunteer Coach Application.