

SUMMIT-PARKLAND YOUTH ASSOCIATION

T-BALL (5-6 YR)

Rules and Regulations (revised 2018)

1. TEAMS

- Shall consist of no more than 15 players.
- Age, for league purposes, is that age attained by a player prior May 1.

2. EQUIPMENT

- The ball shall be a 9 inch "safety or reduced injury" (Safety 1) type ball.
- Wooden, metal, graphite or ceramic bats which are round and not more than two and three-fourths inches (7.0cm) in diameter at the thickest part, nor more than 42 inches (106.7cm) in length, are acceptable. Smaller bats manufactured for use by T-Ball or beginning players are recommended. Bats must be taped or wrapped at the handle.
- The batter, players in the on-deck batting area and base runners must wear protective headgear, which gives protection to the top of the head, temples, ears and base of the skull.
- Catchers are required to wear a facemask with protective headgear.
- Illegal equipment shall be removed from the game.
- Batting tee will be located on home plate.

3. PLAYING FIELDS

- Distance between bases is 50-55 feet

4. PLAYING RULES

- **Score and standings will not be kept.**
- The home team shall occupy the third base dugout.
- Coaches must rotate players through infield & outfield positions each game.
- Players may not play the same position more than two innings in any one game.
- All players will bat in line up order. A team will receive one (1) team warning, after which batters will be called out.
- A team failing to field at least nine legal players within 15 minutes scheduled starting time of a game (applies to early game only), or at any time during the game shall forfeit the game.
- Eleven players will be used defensively (5 outfielders).
- Outfielders must stand at least 20 feet behind the baselines (behind OF arc) before each batter attempts to hit the ball.
- Infielders must play within five feet of the baseline in what is considered a "normal" position.

- Pitchers must remain with both feet in the dirt area until after the ball is hit.
- Three outs or nine batters per inning. (If there are less than 3 outs after the ninth batter has batted, the teams shall change sides.)
- All batted balls must travel beyond the home base dirt area, or shall be considered a foul or strike.
- A player shall be declared out after failing to hit a fair ball after eight swings at the ball on the tee.
- Two coaches are allowed in the outfield (beyond the OF arc) on defense.
- Base coaches may not make contact with runners at any time or the runner will be called out.
- There is no infield fly rule.
- Base runners are not permitted to steal or leadoff base and shall remain in contact with the base until the ball is hit. Penalty - the runner is called out.
- Catcher will stand away from the batter until after the batter swings, then field the position defensively.
- Each team will receive one verbal warning from the umpire for thrown bats, after which the batter will be called out.
- Any player who is injured or leaves the game will not be considered an out in the batting line up.
- Players who intentionally (umpire judgment) discard their protective headgear while batting or running the bases, will be given a team warning upon the first violation. Thereafter the player shall be called out.
- Batter/runners cannot advance past first base unless they hit a ball beyond the outfield arc. If a ball is hit beyond the arc then the batter/runner can advance at their risk.
- Runners will not advance beyond first base on any throws to first base that go "out of play". This is to encourage fielders to throw the ball in an attempt to get batter/runners out. Players will be allowed to advance on throws out of play to any other bases. As awarded by the umpire.
- Play is dead when ball is controlled in the infield (umpire judgment) – inside of the base-paths.
- Runners who are 1/2 way to next base when attempted throw to infield is made, may advance to next base (umpire judgment).

5. LENGTH OF GAMES

- Six innings in duration. Innings started before one hour and five minutes may be completed. No inning shall begin after one hour and five minutes.

6. SCHEDULE

- Scheduling and rescheduling of league games shall be the responsibility of the League Director or appointed representative, and should provide each team not less than 10 games.
- Games may be postponed only by the action of the Director or representative. If weather makes playing conditions unsatisfactory, the Director may postpone

games before 4:30 PM, but it shall be the duty of each coach to call the Info Line 253-298-3019 to make certain of the postponement. If games have not been postponed by 4:30 PM both teams must appear at the game site in full strength or the non-appearing team shall forfeit the game regardless of playing conditions due to weather or otherwise. The umpire shall be the sole judge as to the fitness of the field of play after 4:30PM -Games must be played as scheduled or be forfeited.

7. UMPIRES

- There should be at least one staff umpire working each game.
- Umpires other than staff, when staff umpires fail to report on time, or are otherwise unavailable, shall be agreed upon, preferably in writing, by opposing coaches.

8. COACHES

- Adult coaches must be used on both first and third base coaching boxes.
- Base coaches are not allowed to touch the runners. Each team will receive one team warning.

9. SPONSORS

- Specifically, no firm or company whose advertising reflects the sale of alcoholic beverages or tobacco products shall be permitted to sponsor the program or to be permitted to display any form of such advertising in connection with the program.

10. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

- Any coach or player ejected from a game will receive an automatic two game suspension at a minimum.
- Persons, youth or adult, who refuse to comply with the above rules and ethics of the Summit Parkland Youth Association, may be considered for the following disciplinary action:
 - 1) **WARNING** - The offending person is to be advised, in writing of the offense, and further advised that repetition of the offense will result in a more severe penalty.
 - 2) **SUSPENSION** - The offending person is to be advised in writing that he or she has been suspended from all league activity for a specific number of games or days.
 - 3) **DISMISSAL** - The offending person is to be advised in writing that he or she has been dismissed from the league for the remainder of the current year.
 - 4) **BARRED** - The offending person is to be advised in writing that he or she has been barred from present and future participation in the league, permanently, or for a specific number of years.

- Persons subject to such discipline shall have the right to a hearing before the League Board before such discipline is imposed. Exception: Coaches or players ejected from a game receive automatic suspension (ineligible to participate) from the next 2 scheduled games.

11. MISCELLANEOUS

- SPYA operates with a no profanity policy. Players, coaches and fans found to be using inappropriate language will be asked to leave the playing area.
- Each coach must obtain a copy of these rules and regulations and he/she shall acquaint his/her players with their contents. Ignorance of the rules and regulations shall not be accepted as an excuse for violations.
- The coach of a team is responsible for the conduct of spectators following his/her team.
- The umpire has the authority to forfeit a game because of the conduct of the spectators.
- It is against the law to drink alcoholic beverages on county park and public school property. It is possible for a team to be suspended from the league if any of those supporting it are found to be drinking. A suspension of that supporter is also a possibility.