

Bismarck Youth Baseball

2020 T-Ball Division Rules

Game Time Limit

The T-Ball Division games will be held on Sunday evenings, on the 4 west fields at the Scheels Complex (Bill Barth Ford, GWHM Pharmacy, Sanford, and Chuppe). There will be one session per night on each field – starting at 5:30 pm. The first 45 minutes of each session will be used for practice, and the second 45 minutes will be used for a game. Play will end promptly at 7:00 pm – regardless of whether a game is in the top or bottom half of an inning. Coaches should use their judgement, as to whether or not they want to end the game a little early, if the end of an inning occurs shortly before the time limit.

Team

Games may be played with 8 players (NO automatic out). Players are to be reminded that they are to wear their full uniform for all games. This includes the League-provided team cap and shirt.

Shoes

Shoes with metal cleats or spikes are not permitted by any player, coach or manager.

Playing Time

All coaches will be required to rotate players equally. 9 players on defense per ½ inning – no extra fielders.

Batting Order

Batting order is set at the beginning of the game and cannot be changed once the game starts. If needed, coaches can refer to the Bismarck Youth Baseball web site (T-Ball Division section) for the player rotation card. There is a different line-up for each game of the year. By using this player rotation form it will ensure that players are receiving equal playing time at each position and will vary at what position in the batting order they will bat. If a player is gone, still enter their name in the player rotation form and replace that player with a player that is on the bench that inning. Every player present will bat during each inning – therefore, there is no “tracking” of outs.

Batting

The objective of T-Ball is to teach the players the proper hitting mechanics. A tee is essential to developing the player’s proper swing and to help them gain confidence. **It is the policy of Bismarck Youth Baseball that players only hit from a tee during games. Coach pitch to players is not allowed as this significantly slows the game down and prevents players from getting multiple at bats on during the game.** On-deck batters are to remain BEHIND the fence, in the dug-out with their helmet on and ready to hit. Once the player in front of them has hit and the play has stopped, the on-deck hitter may advance to the batter’s box.

It is very important that coaches instruct their players to NOT throw their bat after they make contact with the ball. The player should swing and drop the bat at or near the tee. Should a player throw their bat, the coach should instruct the player, and demonstrate how they should drop the bat after they swing. If the player continues to throw the bat, that player will not be allowed to hit until it is resolved. This is to ensure that players and coaches are not injured. The player’s parents should be consulted, and they should help solve the issue. It is the coach’s responsibility to ensure that the players on their team follow this rule.

Please contact the T-Ball Division Director (Chad Wick – 701-391-8831) should you have any questions. Remember hitting, fielding and running are the primary objectives of the game!

Base Running

Runners may advance one base at a time. They may not advance an extra base on an over throw, error, or ball that is not caught by the catcher. If a player hits a ball over the heads of the outfield on the fly they may take an extra base.

The last batter may continue running until a play is made on ANY base-runner. The player may not continue to run until someone tags or throws them out. Example: Bases are loaded and the last player hits a ground ball to the 3rd baseman. The 3rd baseman steps on third and gets the out. That half of the inning is over at that point.

Fielding

Coaches should instruct the players on the proper mechanics of both fielding and throwing, and encourage their players to make the proper play. Coaches are responsible for determining whether a player is out or safe. If the play was close, always rule in favor the offensive player. Throughout the season, each player should play equal time at every position.

Should the coach feel that a player is not capable of playing a certain position as they may be injured, you may switch that player to a different position on the field. The coach should consult with the parents of the player and explain the situation. If there are any questions regarding this, please consult with the T-Ball Division Director.

Coaches

While your team is batting it is recommended that you have coaches or parent volunteers to help coach both 1st base and 3rd base, as well as a coach or parent to help keep players in their proper batting order bench. The head coach should be assisting the players that are batting.

Weather

For T-Ball nights, in the event weather cancels games for the day, the information will be posted to the Bismarck Youth Baseball web site/Facebook page, and information will be broadcast on the local KFYZ radio station by 4 pm. In the event games have started, it will be the decision of the coaches at the game to decide to call the game. In the event lightning is seen or thunder is heard you are to call the game for a period of 20 minutes. If the weather improves you may begin play again. If it doesn't games are cancelled. Coaches - please ensure that all players are accounted for prior to leaving the fields.

Sportsmanship

Coaches are responsible for their own behavior, as well as the behavior of their Assistant Coaches, Players and Player parents/family members/spectators. If inappropriate behavior is observed by an umpire, or brought to an umpire's attention, the umpire will bring the two coaches together to determine which team is represented by the individual(s) exhibiting the behavior. The applicable coach will then give a warning to the individual(s). If the behavior continues after the warning, then the umpire will stop the game, and the applicable coach will be responsible for pulling the associated player off the field and asking the offending party, player and player family to leave the field. Play should not continue until this has occurred. **This is not an option for the coach to decide, this is the policy that must be followed.** BYB has a zero-tolerance for inappropriate sportsmanship, and all parents agreed to such at the time of registration. The Board will support any enforcement of this policy undertaken by the umpires and coaches.

Should the spectator, family member, player or coach partake in unsportsmanlike behavior at any future games, the player and family will be removed from the League by the Board of Directors, and future registrations will not be considered for siblings.

By the day after a warning or ejection is given, umpires/coaches should send an email summarizing the situation to info@bismarckyouthbaseball.org. The BYB Executive Committee will consult with the appropriate Division Director and Director of Umpires to determine if any additional action is necessary. All documentation will be retained by the League for future reference.

- The above sportsmanship rules are League-wide. As there are no umpires in the T-Ball Division, coaches will need to work together to address sportsmanship matters that occur during T-Ball sessions. If a situation warrants real-time involvement by someone other than coaches, please call the Board Rep on-call (names will be posted at concession stand). Then, email the league as noted above no later than the following day.