

## **SUMMER BALL RULES**

### **T-BALL – AGES 5 & 6**

**PURPOSES:** The main purposes of this program are to:

- A. **Teach and promote sportsmanship.**
- B. **Teach and promote the game of softball and baseball.**
- C. **Provide summer sports activity for the enjoyment and fun for elementary age children in Waterford Township.**

**ELIGIBILITY:**

- A. **Ages:**  
Boys T-Ball: Boys age as of August 31, 2026  
Girls T-Ball: Girls age as of January 1, 2026  
We do allow parents to sign a Play-up Waiver to play their child up a maximum of one-year. A child MUST be 6 years of age to play-up in the coach pitch division.
- B. **Player Registration** Players will be added to team rosters by the Park and Recreation Department up until May 8, 2026 if there are openings on your team. Player additions after this date are done only with coach's approval. All players must have a signed player registration form and their payment turned in to the Waterford Parks and Recreation Department before they can play. The target number of players on a T-Ball Team = 10 - 12
- C. **Returning Team**
  - 1. Last years' teams may enter the league with the following restriction: Only players on last years' roster may appear on this years' roster - any shortages will be filled from the general registration.

**PLAYING RULES:**

- A. **The Game**
  - 1. Official Rules - ASA Softball Rules will govern play with any variations listed in these rules.
  - 2. Length - All games shall be 6 (six) innings when **time and weather permit.**  
Exception: Time Limit - No new inning shall start after 55 minutes have elapsed from the first pitch (umpires shall keep official time).
  - 3. Minimum Number of Players - A team must have at least 5 (five) eligible players present to begin the game. If a team has less than 5 (five), they should borrow players from the opposing team and play the game!
  - 4. Results - **No standings and/or score to be kept!!!**
  - 5. Protests - No protests are allowed!
  - 6. Offensive & Defensive Coaches - Each team is limited to (3) three adults in the playing area: First (1<sup>st</sup>) baseline, third (3<sup>rd</sup>) baseline and one (1) in playing field. The adults must be designated to the umpire before the game. They are not to discuss any call with the umpire; that is the responsibility of the Head Coach.

**B. The Field**

1. Games are played on grass fields.
2. Base Length - 50'
3. Pitchers Mound - 35'
4. Extended Foul Territory - An 8 (eight)-foot radius shall be extended from the tip of home plate. Any batted ball that does not travel past this radius is considered to be foul.
5. Restraining Lines - Diamonds that are not fenced in will have restraining lines put down. All players, not playing defensively, not at bat, or on base must remain behind these lines.

**C. Equipment**

1. Uniforms - Matching T-shirts and hats.
2. Shoes - Metal and hard plastic cleats are prohibited from use. They must be soft rubber.
3. Gloves - Any type of glove or mitt may be used at any position.
4. Bats - Only safety bats (foam covered) will be allowed in game play. NO METAL OR WOOD BATS – ONLY SAFETY BATS CAN BE USED!
5. Ball - All teams will use the 9" level 1 safety ball.
6. Helmets - All offensive players must wear a NOCSAE approved batting helmet while on the playing field. *Many helmets will have the logos embossed or stamped into the material, but others may use a permanent label.*
7. Catcher's Equipment - The catcher must wear a protective helmet with face mask and throat protector.

**D. Offensive Rules:**

1. Batting Order – 8 players will bat each ½ inning. Each player that appears for the game must be included in the batting order. No player may take a second turn at bat until every other teammate present at the game has batted. If both coaches are in agreement, then they can bat their entire lineup. If an agreement cannot be made then both coaches bat 8 players.
2. At Bat - Each player will hit the ball off the tee.
  - a. Batter has an unlimited number of swings to hit a fair ball.
  - b. Batter must wait until pitcher motions (mimics a pitched ball) to swing at ball.  
Penalty: No pitch is declared, all runners return to bases, and play is replayed.
  - c. If a batter throws his or her bat (intentionally or accidentally) and endangers the safety of another player, or umpire the ball is dead, the batter is out, and runners return to their bases.
  - d. Outs will be called, but players remain on their base.
3. Bunting - No intentional bunting is allowed.  
Penalty: Ball is dead, batter is out, and runners return to their bases
4. Base Running - Base runners may leave the base when batter hits the ball. Runner may advance to 1<sup>st</sup> base when the ball is hit, no farther.

**E. Defensive Rules**

1. Number of Defensive Players
  - a. Each team is limited to 10 (ten) players on the field defensively at any one time. Six (6) in the infield and four (4) in the outfield.
2. Defensive Line-Up
  - a. Playing in the field is mandatory.
  - b. Substitutes will play alternate innings with starters; for example, player A, a starter, plays odd numbered innings 1, 3 and 5; his replacement player B plays the even numbered innings 2, 4 and 6. This helps to assure equal playing time in the event the time limit on games prohibits playing 6 innings.

- c. Umpire may assist the catcher at this level of play in an effort to keep the game progressing in a timely manner.

### 3. Positioning

- a. No player on defense may stand closer to home plate than the pitcher. This does not include the catcher. Infielders should be taught the proper position. Umpires decision will be final if fielders are too close.
- b. The pitcher must remain on the rubber until the ball is hit.
- c. Since there is no penalty for a bad throw and every child needs a chance to try all positions to find their best skills, coaches are to rotate players defensively so everyone on the team gets to play every position on the field on a regularly rotating basis. (Exception: If a child will not wear the protective helmet, they may not play catcher.)

### 4. Ending The Play

- a. On every batter, the first unsuccessful attempt to throw a runner out will stop play, with each runner being awarded the base he or she is approaching.
- b. The intent of this rule is to force the defensive players to make a play on each and every batter, when possible, by removing the possibility of advancing a runner all the way home on wild throws. Please let the umpires decide when to stop play. There are No Overthrows in T-ball. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.
- c. If a team successfully throws a runner out, the ball remains live and any other runners may try to advance further at the risk of being thrown out. Once the umpire sees what he/she deems an intent by the lead runner to return to the last base touched, and if there is no throw attempted on that runner; they will stop play. This is a judgment call and not open to discussion. (Coaches may want to clarify the definition of Intent to Make a Play with the umpires prior to the game).

## **SPORTSMANSHIP:**

- A. Razzing of players by opposing players, coaches, or spectators is prohibited. Umpires have the authority to suspend any game in case of continued unsportsmanlike conduct. One warning will first be given by the umpire to the manager of the offending team.
- B. Any player, their coach or fan ejected from the game for unsportsmanlike conduct must sit out their team's next game.

## **SPECTATORS:**

- A. Pets - Pets do not belong at the ballpark. Anyone bringing a pet to the games will be asked to either take the pet back to their car or leave the park.
- B. Alcohol - alcoholic beverages are not permitted on school or park grounds. Fans caught consuming alcohol at games will be asked to get rid of the beverage and leave the grounds.
- C. Profanity - Profanity has no place in a youth program such as this.
- D. Smoking – Please refer to smoking policy.

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER:**

- A. The Rainout Number for the Summer Ball League is (248) 618-7672.
- B. The Rainout Number will be updated by 4:30PM on days when weather is inclement. But please note that many times the Rain Out Number is changed/updated throughout the evening based on changing weather conditions (for example: early games could be played, but later games might be cancelled) so you may have to check back if the weather changes.
- C. HEAT INDEX – Games may be cancelled or shortened due to the Waterford Parks & Recreation Department's Heat Index Policy.