

City of Gatesville Parks & Recreation

Pre-Tee Ball Playing Rules

2025 Pre-Tee Ball Rules

Purpose of T-Ball: To allow boys and girls the opportunity to participate in an organized, youth sports activity to help promote good sportsmanship. Fundamental skills such as throwing, catching, hitting, and base running should be taught to ease the transition to the 6U T-Ball Division. Every player/team is a winner, and to insure this, no win/loss records, or runs scored will be recorded. **All teams, coaches, and fans are encouraged to cheer for both teams.** All pre-tee participants will receive an award from the recreation department at the completion of the season.

Playing Rules:

1. The length of the game will be **six (5) complete innings or a forty-five (45) minute drop dead time limit**, whichever occurs first. Twenty-five (25) minutes shall be considered a complete game if play is discontinued because of inclement weather, darkness, or other causes which makes further play impossible.
2. Player participation is the key to the recreational league philosophy.
3. No scores or standings are kept in this league. This is a non-competitive league utilized for instruction and introduction to baseball/softball.
4. Teams on the field will keep the clock and make all calls during the game.
5. Each team is allowed one (1) Head Coach, and three (3) assistant coaches.
6. When a defensive team gets three (3) outs teams will trade places and the half inning will be complete.
7. If a defensive team fails to get (3) outs before the team batting bats their entire line-up, then the half inning is considered over. Teams will then switch from batting to fielding.

Batting Rules:

1. The offensive coach will place the ball on tee for his/her players.
2. When on offense, coaches must bat their entire line-up. Once the entire lineup has batted or when the offense receives 3 outs, teams will switch from offense to defense.
3. When a team is on offense, the head coach may have a maximum of two (2) field assistants to guide the players around the bases.
4. Players are required to hit the ball off the tee.
5. At no time will the offensive or defensive coaches be allowed to physically assist players or field batted balls.
6. When running the bases:
 - All tag-up rules are in effect.
 - If at any time a trailing runner passes a lead runner, the trailing runner that passed the lead runner will be considered out.
 - All base runners must stay on the base until the ball is hit into play.
 - No infield fly rule.

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Fielding Rules:

1. The entire team will play the field at the same time. For safety reasons no players can be in front of the imaginary line from third (3rd) base, through the pitcher's rubber, to first (1st) base. Each team will utilize a "catcher".
2. Catchers must stand back toward the fence. Catchers are required to wear helmet/facemask.
3. When on defense, two (2) coaches will be allowed on the playing field to assist the players. Coaches are not allowed to touch the ball, just to direct the players.
4. The "pitcher" must remain within 6ft of the pitching rubber until the ball becomes live.
5. When the pitcher gains control of the ball within 6ft of the pitching rubber, the coach will call time and all baserunners will remain at the base they were at. If a runner is making an attempt towards the next base before time is given then they can continue to the next base.

Facility Rules and Conduct

1. Teams are required to wear the uniforms provided by the Recreation Department.
2. The official ball will be determined by the Recreation Department for league play.
3. There will be no coaching by anyone behind the home plate area this includes parents, coaches, siblings, and spectators. Violations of this rule may result in forfeiture or removal from the city park.
4. There will be no disciplinary action, such as extra running, push-ups, licks, etc., at any time. All disciplinary action will be acted upon by the child's parents. Conditioning drills will not be considered disciplinary action.
5. The head coach is responsible for the conduct of his/her team, assistant coach(s), and spectators.
6. Coaches are prohibited from using any tobacco products (cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, vapor smoking devices) on the field, dugout, or in the stands. Parents will also not be allowed to use tobacco products near or around the stands.
7. To assist with facility maintenance, teams should clean up their dugout at the conclusion of the game. Coaches should encourage their parents to utilize trashcans that are available in the area.