



## CLAYTON PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT 2026 T-BALL RULES

### I. PURPOSE

The program is intended to provide an organized recreation program, which is fun for the participants and also provides opportunities to learn fundamental aspects of the game of baseball. Because of the ages in T-Ball, competition is not a primary objective. Therefore, a strong commitment should be made to de-emphasize the aspect of winning and emphasize the improvement of skills and enjoyment of the game.

### II. LEAGUE INFO

- A. The Head coach should hold a parents meeting prior to the season to discuss rules, conduct, etc .....
- B. The use of tobacco products in the dugout or on the playing field is prohibited.
- C. There will not be any changes to team rosters unless it is approved through the Parks and Recreation Department.

### III. ELIGIBILITY

The T-Ball Program is for players 5–6-year-old as of July 31, 2024.

### IV. EQUIPMENT

- A. Molded rubber cleats or tennis shoes are recommended for all players. Metal cleats and bare feet are not permitted.
- B. Batting helmets will be worn by all batters, base runners, and on deck batters.
- C. Catchers must wear catchers' helmet and mask.
- D. Each player must wear a glove in the field.

### V. PLAYING RULES

- A. The field will be occupied defensively by all players present
  - a. Infields should position themselves consistent with traditional positions, first, second, shortstop, third, pitcher and catcher. There will only be six (6) players in the infield.

b. Outfielders should position themselves across the outfield in right field, right center, centerfield, left center and left field. The outfield will be defined as 15 feet behind the base paths.

B. Each game shall be five (5) innings or a one (1) hour time limit.

C. The offensive team will bat until all players have batted.

D. Outs will not be call, and every batter will reach first base. Infields should be taught to make a play.

E. CONSECUTIVE BATTING ORDER

Each coach will make up a batting order consisting of all members of the team that are present for the game. Players will bat in this order throughout the game. Any player arriving after the game has started must be placed at the end of the batting order.

F. Players will swing until they put the ball in play.

G. The infield fly rule does not apply in T-Ball.

H. Bunting is not permitted. If a player has attempted an intentional bunt, the ball is immediately called a foul ball. (The ball must go out of the ten (10) foot arc to be fair).

I. The CATCHER must stand to the side and back of home plate on the opposite side of the batter.

J. A base runner cannot steal or leave the base until the ball is hit.

K. Coaches must position their infielders so they will not obstruct the baselines. The base runner is entitled to the baseline and proper positioning will minimize obstruction calls.

L. A team may have two base coaches when at bat. Base coaches should be instrumental in teaching the basics of proper base running. Encourage children to pay attention to the location of the ball.

M. THERE WILL BE NO SLINGING THE BAT!!

N. The Recreation Department encourages coaches to play players in all positions throughout the season.

O. Two (2) coaches are allowed in the field while their team is on defense. (One in the outfield and one in the infield)

P. No score will be kept.

- Q. There will not be an “umpire” to call each game. Each team should select 1 (one) Assistant coach/parent to help umpire each game. This person should be non-biased and help keep the game running smoothly.

**VI. UNIFORMS**

- A. There will be no additions/altercations made to any part of the uniform by a parent or coach
- B. No uniforms from previous seasons may be worn by participants unless approved through the Recreation Department
- C. Uniforms will consist of a hat and shirt.

**VII. TROPHIES**

- A. The Clayton Parks and Recreation Department will not provide trophies.