

# Commerce City Parks & Recreation Department

## Youth Baseball – T-Ball

### Performance Objective of the Tee Ball Program

The performance objective for the Tee Ball program is for our children to participate in coach assisted Tee Ball games that will be used to develop individual player skills in a non-competitive environment. The dimensions of the Tee Ball diamond are smaller than regulation baseball. The rules are simplified to accommodate young beginner players. The program emphasizes skill development and sportsmanship over winning.

### Performance Goals of the Tee Ball Program

1. Familiarize players with the concept of teamwork and with the responsibilities of a team-member. Players will know and address all teammates by name.
2. Familiarize players with the concept of sportsmanship. We will not run-up the score on any team. We will shake hands with the opponent after the game. Etc.
3. Players will demonstrate knowledge of Tee Ball rules.
4. Players will demonstrate knowledge of basic offensive and defensive strategies.
5. Players will be able to identify parts of the baseball diamond.
6. Players will be able to identify the positions played in the game.
7. Players will be able to identify equipment used in baseball.
8. Players will be able to assume a proper batting position in the batter's box.
9. Players will be able to hit a ball off the Tee when at bat.
10. Players will be able to run the bases.
11. Players will be able to assume the baseball ready position on defense.
12. Players will be able to field a ground or fly ball.
13. Players will be able to make a throw to the appropriate base or cut-off man.

### General Information

1. Boys and girls baseball ages of 5 & 6 years old (as of June 1, of given year) are eligible to play.
2. All games will be played at Pioneer Park, 5902 Holly Street. Games will be on Thursday evenings.
3. Practices will be once a week. Coaches and players will have determined practice days and times.
4. Coaches have the authority to not play a player that has too many unexcused absences.
5. All spectators, parents and players should refrain from sitting/standing behind the backstop and heckling the umpire.
6. Parents, players or spectators acting in an unsportsmanlike manner will be asked to leave the field, bleachers and area.
7. Players must furnish their own glove and shoes. Caps and shirts will be provided. Participants are not allowed to wear shoes with metal spikes.
8. Please do not add any names, numbers, etc. to baseball jerseys, T-shirts or batting helmets until the season is over.
9. Home team will supply a batting tee.
10. One umpire will officiate.

### Safety

1. Safety is always first.
2. No throwing the bat.
3. All batters will wear a batting helmet while both at bat and on base.
4. No base stealing.
5. There is no on-deck circle. The on-deck batter will wear a helmet to be ready but will not have a bat in their hands until they are at the tee.
6. Shoes with steel spikes are prohibited.
7. No jewelry will be worn.
8. Throwing the bat outside the 10 foot circle by the batter constitutes an OUT. Speak with the player first, point out the danger that is caused by throwing the bat, but if the problem continues the player will be forced to lose an "at bat turn".

### Start of the Game

1. A team should field a minimum of 7 players to complete a game.
2. If a team has 7 players and the opposing team has 10 or more players, then the coaches will select 1 or 2 players to play with the team, which is short.

3. Infield practice: Each team is allowed 10 minutes for infield practice. The home team should start the infield no later than 30 minutes before the game time. The visiting team should start their infield no later than 20 minutes before the game time. NOTE: If time does not permit – both teams will be denied infield practice.
4. All players present will be placed in the batting line-up and will bat in the order listed.
5. The home team will sit on the first base side.
6. Protest will not be allowed. All rule disagreements will be settled on the field between coaches from each team. Judgment calls by the coach are not to be protested.
7. Each coach shall be responsible for the conduct of his/her players and fans/spectators.
8. Both Teams are responsible for cleaning up the area after each game.
9. No animals/pets of any kind are permitted on the fields during practices or games there is NO exception to this rule.

## Players and Positions

1. A team should field a minimum of 7 players to complete a game.
2. All players present will be placed in the batting line-up and will bat in the order listed.
3. If a player is hurt, they may be removed from the game and at a later time return to the game. They may return only to the batting position that they held prior to being injured.
4. A fielding team will consist of 11 players (5 in outfield).
5. On defense, the players will be positioned at Catcher, 1B, 2B, SS, 3B, and 1 pitcher. All other players will be positioned evenly in the outfield area. Pitchers should stand at the pitching rubber (35 feet). Outfielders must start within 5 feet the grass area. Catchers must stand outside the 10 foot circle.
6. Playing requirements: Each player must play 2 complete innings in the field. No one player may play more than 2 innings in a row in the infield and no more than 1 inning in a row in the outfield.
7. All players must participate in each game and must be playing on the field by the second inning. No player may sit on the bench for more than one inning.
8. In every game, each player must play an infield position for at least one inning (pitcher, catcher, first baseman, second baseman, third baseman or shortstop). The intent of this rule is to promote instruction and participation and should not be interpreted or used to give any team a competitive advantage. Every manager and coach must use their best efforts to insure that this rule is followed for the benefit of the players.
9. Coaches will ensure that all players will play at least half of each game.
10. The batting order must be changed every game. All players should get the opportunity to bat leadoff, cleanup, etc. at some point in the season.
11. Substitution Rule: Open Substitution. No courtesy runners.

## Coaches and Assistants

1. Coaches or assistants will be at the batting tee instructing the children while their team is at bat.
2. The 1st and 3rd base coaches are restricted to the area of the coach's boxes. Coaches are not allowed to physically assist base runners; e.g. pushing the runner or helping the runner off the ground, while the ball is in play.
3. A maximum of 3 coaches from the defensive (fielding) team are allowed on the playing field. These coaches should be situated behind 1st 2nd and 3rd bases. These coaches are on the field for instructional purposes only, such as re-positioning the fielders and relaying information.

## Play of the Game

1. Regulation game is 5 innings or 4 ½ if home team is ahead. No new inning will be started after 1 hour. If the score is tied at the end of regulation it will end in a tie.
2. The game will be counted as a complete game if interrupted by darkness or weather at 4 innings completed, or 3 ½ innings if home team is ahead.
3. Make the game fun.
4. This is a non-competitive league.
5. During the game, all players must remain in the designated team areas and on benches, except the batter at the plate.
6. Base Distance: 50 feet.
7. The next batter will not approach the plate until called by the batting coach.
8. The batting coach will place the ball on the tee and verify that the tee is adjusted within the strike zone (between the knees and the armpits of the batter). The batting coach may adjust and reposition the batter at any time as long as the ball is not in play.

9. At the discretion of the batting coach, the batter then hits the ball off the tee after the defensive coach calls "ball in play" and thereafter.
10. Batters will have no more than 4 attempts to successfully strike the ball.
11. All batters will hit off the Tee. No pitching to more advanced players. When you have a stronger batter up, please notify the other coach so he can protect his smaller players.
12. The batting coach will remove the tee from the playing field after the ball is hit.
13. A 10-foot circle will be drawn around the home plate. A hit ball must go outside the line. A foul ball is one hit inside the 10-foot arc line. Official baseball rules apply to a ball that stops on the line, i.e., foul ball rule. If a ball leaves the tee as a result of the tee being struck rather than the ball, then the ball shall be declared DEAD and another attempt shall be made to hit the ball.
14. In T-Ball the play is considered 'over' when the ball is returned to a player at the mound or any base.
15. At the time the ball is declared DEAD, the umpire shall award a runner the next base only if the runner is half the distance or more to that base. If the runner is not half the distance to the next base, he shall be returned to the base he had safely reached.
16. When the coach calls the ball dead, it stays dead until the coach calls the ball in play again.
17. Runners may advance to the next base on an overthrow out-of-bounds. Runners cannot advance on any foul ball.
18. The runner may not leave the base until the batter strikes the ball.
19. Leading off is not permitted.
20. Base stealing is not permitted.
21. No bunts are allowed.
22. Inning: Complete ½ inning is 3 outs or 13 batters (if both teams do not have 13 batters then the team with the most number of players will make up the batter count for the game).
23. Force-out: A legal force-out is made when a base runner must advance to allow the batter to achieve 1st base and the ball reaches the next base in the possession of a fielder, and the fielder while in possession of the ball, touches that base before the runner touches it.
24. Runners Overrunning a Base: First base and home plate are the only bases a runner may touch and run past. If a runner should overrun 2nd and 3rd base, and an alert fielder who is in possession of the ball touches the runner while off the base, the runner shall be declared out. A fielder may not push or force a runner off the base that a runner has gained in an attempt to tag him out. First base is treated like second and third bases when a runner makes a turn toward second base after touching 1st base. Should a runner make a turn around 1st base toward 2nd base and then tagged by the fielder, while in possession of the ball, prior to returning to 1st base, the runner shall be declared out.
25. The double bag will be used at the 1<sup>st</sup> base. On a force play, a fielder may only put a runner out by touching the white bag. On the initial play at first, the batter-runner should touch the orange bag, but may touch the white bag and remain safe if it is in an attempt to avoid contact with the fielder. On plays following the initial play at first, the runner shall utilize the white bag. NOTE: A batter-runner may initially touch the white bag on an extra base hit.
26. Tagging-Up: A base runner will be allowed to tag-up after a fly ball out (base runner leaves base after fly ball is caught) only if the ball is caught in the outfield grass. Tagging-Up is not allowed on infield fly outs.
27. Infield fly rule is not in affect for this age group.

## **Behavior and Discipline**

1. Arguments between coaches will not be permitted. Only head coaches can dispute a call. Judgment calls are not disputable.
2. Sportsmanship is encouraged in all areas of the game. "Chanting" positively for your team is a good way to show your support and approval.
3. The following are not permitted by players, coaches, parents, or spectators:
  - A. Yelling at or taunting the opposing team
  - B. Obscene language or gestures.
  - C. Abusive language.
  - D. Throwing any equipment in anger.
  - E. Arguing judgment calls.

NOTE: Any player or spectator who is ejected from a game for unsportsmanlike behavior, at minimum will be suspended for the remainder of that game and the next game their team plays.