

2017

LAKES ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

T-BALL (6U) DIVISION

Rules and Regulations

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The rules and regulation printed on these pages are for T-ball (6U) Division use only and shall supersede any statement listed in the official baseball rules of the Michigan High School Athletic Association.

1.00 OBJECTIVES OF THE GAME

1.04 The Playing Field

A. The field shall be laid out according to the instructions below.

- The infield shall be laid out in a 50 foot square.
- The distances from the rear of home plate to the front of the pitching rubber shall be 36 feet.
- Distance from the first base and third base shall be 70 feet 7 inches. (All measurements from home plate shall be taken from the point where the first and third base lines intersect).
- The foul ball circle shall be a 23 foot radius circle from the rear of home plate and is to extend from foul line to foul line.
 - The pitchers rubber does not need to be elevated.
- Batters boxes and foul lines shall be chalked for each game. Out-of-play restraining lines shall also be chalked starting at the end of the backstop running parallel with the foul lines.

1.08 Rules not applicable

1.10 Bats

- A. Bats manufactured of solid wood, aluminum, magnesium, or plastic may be used.
- B. The bat shall be no more than 2-3/4 inches in diameter and no more than 30 inches in length. C. Bats of any color acceptable
- D. All bat handles shall be taped or bound properly with adhesive friction tape. No smooth electrical tape shall be allowed.

1.11 Uniforms

- A. Uniforms and caps will be given to the players only after they have returned their signed registration form and produced either a birth certificate or Baptismal record to their coach, and have paid their registration fee.
- B. Uniforms must be worn for all games. PENALTY: Any player not in uniform cannot participate in the game.
- C. The players may keep their shirts, pants and caps after the season ends.
- D. Baseball shoes with rubber cleats or tennis shoes may be worn; hard sole or shoes with metal cleats will be prohibited.

E. Jackets, sweatshirts, etc. shall be allowed or required in unusual weather. F. Catchers shall be required to wear a supporter and a protective cup.

1.14 Fielder's Glove and Mitts

A. Each fielder shall be allowed to use any mitt or glove available to him regardless of the weight or color.

1.16 Protective Headgear

A. All players shall use a protective helmet while at bat.

B. All base runners are required to wear protective headgear. C. Catchers must wear protective headgear.

2.00 DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

2.0 A. A half inning is constituted of all players from one team batting one occurrence.

B. A game is constituted of 3 full innings of play.

C. Definitions not applicable: Balk, Bunt, Infield Fly. The batter will be called out if he attempts to bunt. No balks or infield fly rule will be called.

3.00 GAME PRELIMINARIES

3.0 A. The home team shall furnish one new baseball for each game. The second ball will be furnished by the visiting team and will be either new or one that was used in a previous game. These balls shall be furnished to the team manager by the League Director.

B. The home team shall be responsible for field setup prior to each game.

C. The home team manager is in charge prior to every game. The home team manager is responsible for putting the field in the best possible playing condition and shall determine if the game is to proceed, weather or time permitting (League time limits withstanding). The home team manager calls for a meeting with the opposing manager at home plate where they will state what the ground rules are for that day. At that point, the game may begin. Any disputes will be resolved by the League Director or Chief Umpire.

3.02 Visitor Team

A. The visitor team shall be responsible for installing base caps, returning the bases and pitchers rubber to the field lock box after each game.

3.03 A. The batting order shall be composed of all players available at the start of the game. Each player shall take his / her turn at bat weather played in the field or not. Any player arriving after the start of the game shall be added to the bottom of the batting roster.

B. A player once removed from a fielding position is eligible to re-enter the game at the manager's discretion.

C. Each player must play a minimum of three (3) innings in the field (defensive position) unless he / she are ill, injured, or being disciplined.

“Disciplinary Action” must be reported to the opposing manager as it occurs during the game. The manager must report such action to the League Director within 24 hours after the game. Example: Discipline might be the result of unexcused and continual absences from practices and / or games.

D. A player removed from a game for reason of injury or illness may not return to that game.

E. All managers will have their full roster on all score sheets and lineup cards with reasons for absences noted on score sheets and lineup cards for any player missing.

F. A player removed from a game for reason of injury or illness will not be an automatic out each time his / her position in the batting order comes to the plate. But the batting order is moved up one position. The final decision on illness or injury will rest with the two managers.

G. A manager / coach will be allowed to be on the field to coach the team while they are in the field.

3.04 Substitutions

A. The manager may substitute any player on the bench for a runner only if the runner is injured and must notify the opposing manager prior to the move.

3.09 Rules not applicable

4.00 STARTING & ENDING THE GAME

4.01 Each manager shall submit his batting roster to the opposing manager not later than five (5) minutes before the start of the game.

Starting time for games shall be 6:15pm on weekdays and 9:00am, 11:30am, 2:00pm or 4:30pm on Saturdays.

4.04 The batting order, once submitted, shall not be altered except to add a late player or remove one for disciplinary reasons.

4.10 A. A regulation game consists of three (3) innings or if another game follows, the game shall end exactly two (2) hours from the scheduled starting time (not the actual starting time).

B. If a game is called by the League Director or Chief Umpire, it is a regulation game if two (2) innings have been completed.

C. There are NO EXTRA INNINGS

D. Cancelled games may be rescheduled by the home team manager. However, the date and field must be approved by the League Director.

E. There are no forfeits. A team is allowed to start a game with any amount of players.

Example: A team has only 8 players at game time, they will be allowed to start the game and add players as they arrive. The opposing manager must be notified when the player is added.

4.19 Protesting Games

There is NO PROTESTING A GAME.

6.0 THE BATTER

- A. The batter shall be allowed three (3) attempts to hit the ball off the Batting "T" into the field of play. If a batter fails to hit the ball in play after three (3) swings, the batter is out. A foul ball on the third strike is an out.
- B. A ball hit off the "T", which lands in the circle in front of home plate, is a foul ball. The batter shall be allowed to replace it on the "T" and try again. Unless, it is the third attempt, then the batter is out.
- C. A batter throwing his / her bat is an automatic out. D. There are no walks.

7.0 THE RUNNER

- A. NO STEALING shall be allowed. The runner must remain in contact with the base until the ball has been hit by the batter. The runner shall be called out if a violation occurs.
- B. An overthrow shall be defined as any ball thrown to the base, in an attempt to put out the runner, which is not cleanly fielded or passes by the fielder untouched. A runner shall be awarded one (1) additional base when an overthrow passes over out-of-play restraining line. (The ball is dead upon entering the out-of-play area). In the case of an overthrown ball, an additional base may be awarded to the runner over and above the base to which he / she is proceeding if the runner had the initial base "made" prior to the overthrow. Any thrown ball from the infield passing the out-of-play line will permit the runners to advance one base only.
- C. A runner shall be called out if he / she INTENTIONALLY removes the protective headgear while advancing to a base.

8.0 THE PITCHER

- A. The pitcher must have one foot in contact with the rubber until the ball is hit off the "T".
 - B. NO BALKS shall be committed or called.
- C. A player shall not be allowed on the mound for more than two (2) innings per game.