



# T-ball, Baseball and Coach Pitch Softball Rules

## **PHILOSOPHY**

Novi Parks sponsored leagues and activities are formed and operated on the principles of good sportsmanship, fair play, courtesy to others, healthy activity and other policies pertaining to all-around community understanding and development. Novi Parks programs are strictly recreational; therefore, all players are to receive equal playing time in games.

Note: Any child who is not registered is NOT allowed to participate in any practice or competition for reasons of liability both for you and the Novi Parks.

## **PURPOSE**

- Baseball and Softball will teach players the basic instruction and fundamentals of baseball/softball.
- Coaches should equalize playing time in the infield and outfield for all players throughout the season. Players should be given the opportunity to play a variety of positions.

## **UNIFORMS**

- Uniforms will be provided (includes shirt and cap).
- Names or other alterations are not allowed to be made to the uniforms.
- Shoes are not allowed to have metal spikes.
- Jewelry is not allowed.
- Batters must wear batting helmets.

## **COACHES**

- Coaches are required to be registered through Novi Parks and complete a background consent form.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct by coaches, players, or spectators will not be tolerated at any time.

# T-ball Division Rules

## GAME FORMAT

- Games may include as many innings as time allows, but once the game has hit the 1-hour mark a new inning will not be started.
- Every player will bat every inning, regardless if 3 outs are recorded.
- After a team bats through the order, the opposing team will then bat.
- Coaches will act as umpires.
- Away team bats first and with their bench down the 1<sup>st</sup> base line
- Home team bats second and with their bench down the 3<sup>rd</sup> base line
- Defensive plays will be rewarded by calling outs. When the batter or baserunner is out, congratulate the player on effort and explain that they are out and why. This will accomplish numerous items; teaching the game of baseball, encourages effort when running, gives them a goal to achieve, and rewards good play by the defense. Being on base is something earned.
- Standard size soft baseballs are used.
- Scores and standings will not be kept.

## BATTING

- All batters must hit off a tee.
- Batting orders stay the same through the game, but should vary from game-to-game, allowing players to hit at different parts of the lineup.
- The last batter for each team in each inning will round all the bases to home plate after hitting the ball. The baserunners will also run home.
- Players who arrive to the game late will be added to the end of the batting order.
- No bunting.
- Ball must be hit beyond arc near home plate or it's a foul ball.
- Players will get as many attempts as needed to put the ball in play.

## PITCHING

- The baseball will only be hit off the tee. The "pitcher" will stand where a pitcher would normally stand and will be a fielder.
- Pitchers should not stand too close home plate for safety from hard hit balls.

## DEFENSIVE POSITIONING

- All players will play defense while their team is "pitching".
- No catchers. A volunteer coach can act as the catcher.

## BASE RUNNING

- No stealing or leadoffs.
- Cannot leave base until batter makes contact.
- Tie between the defense and runner goes to the runner.
- If a ball is hit into the outfield, the runner can advance until the ball is returned to the infield.

# Coach Pitch Division Rules

## GAME FORMAT

- Games may include as many innings as time allows, but once the game has hit the 1-hour mark a new inning will not be started.
- Each half inning will consist of 3 outs or 7 batters, whichever one comes first.
- Scores and standings will **not** be kept.
- Coaches will act as umpires.
- Away team bats first and with their bench down the 1<sup>st</sup> base line
- Home team bats second and with their bench down the 3<sup>rd</sup> base line
- Defensive plays will be rewarded by calling outs. When the batter or baserunner is out, congratulate the player on effort and explain that they are out and why. This will accomplish numerous items; teaching the game of baseball, encourages effort when running, gives them a goal to achieve, and rewards good play by the defense. Being on base is something earned.
- Softball uses 11-inch balls.
- Baseball standard baseballs.

## BATTING

- Batters will be pitched to by coaches only, not players.
- Each player will get a maximum of 6 pitches each at-bat. If the player doesn't get a hit within those pitches, or they swing three times and miss, the hitter is out.
- The last batter for each team in each inning will round all the bases to home plate after hitting the ball. The baserunners will also run home.
- Players who arrive to the game late will be added to the end of the batting order.
- No bunting.
- Batters must wear batting helmets.

## PITCHING

- Coaches will pitch to their team's batters.
- The ball can be pitched overhand **OR** underhand. This allows coaches to be more comfortable and accurate, giving players the best chance to hit the ball.
- To keep game pace, the coach pitchers should have a multiple balls with them at the mound, allowing the coach to continuously pitch without having to wait for the previous thrown ball to be thrown back to them.

## **DEFENSE/FIELDING**

- All players will play defense.
- A player on the defense stands next to the pitching coach and plays the pitchers defensive position as a fielder.
- Having a catcher is optional. A parent/coach can also play catcher.
  - If a player is catcher, he/she will toss caught balls behind him/her instead of throwing them back to the pitcher to keep the game moving.

## **BASE RUNNING**

- No stealing or leadoffs.
- Cannot leave base until batter makes contact.
- Tie between the defense and runner goes to the runner.
- If a ball is hit into the outfield, the runner can advance until the ball is returned to the infield.

## **DOUBLE PLAYS**

- Because baserunners are taught to run on contact, double plays on fly balls that are caught will not be counted as a double play if the runner doesn't retrieve their base and the base or player is tagged out. Runners will have the opportunity to retrieve to their base. Though, double plays will count on ground balls.

| **City of Novi**  
**Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services**  
Phone 248.347.0400 / Fax 248.347.3286 |