

## **T-Ball Rules (Fall and Spring)**

1. No score will be kept during games. This is an “instructional league” only.
2. An out is an out. Defensive outs are recognized and the player shall be removed from the base.
3. There is no “chanting” (*hey batter, hey batter*) ever allowed in Palm Beach Gardens Baseball. Catchers are not allowed to distract a batter during their at bat. Parents are not allowed to chant or have noise makers in the stands.
4. Non-registered players are not allowed on the field or in the dugout at any time or under any circumstances.
5. At the start of season, games will last for 3 innings or a 1 hour time limit.
6. The “T” will be used throughout the entire season. No coach pitch will be permitted.
7. Field dimensions: Bases are 60’ apart. Pitchers should be at least 25’ from the batter.
8. The batter is allowed seven attempts to hit a fair ball.
9. If the batter does not hit a “fair” ball during the seven attempts, the batter is out. (On the 7<sup>th</sup> try, a coach should assist the player to assure success.)
10. A “fair” ball is one that has been hit between the base lines and goes at least as far as the infield grass (~ 4 feet or so). If the batter knocks over the tee during the swing, the ball is considered “foul” no matter where or how far it goes.
11. If a batter throws the bat during his swing, the coach must immediately give the player a warning. If the same player throws a bat again during the same game, that player may no longer bat in that game.
12. If the batter hits the ball into the outfield grass, the batter may take more than one base. Once a defensive player stops the ball and either returns it to the infield dirt or steps on any base, the runners must stop advancing. (Aggressive base running is highly discouraged in T-Ball.)
13. The last batter will no longer automatically hit a “home run”. Once a defensive player stops the ball and either returns it to the infield dirt or steps on any base, the runners must stop advancing and the inning is over.
14. All batters will bat every inning. The coaches should change the batting order every inning. The lead off batter in the first inning is bottom of the order in the second.
15. Teams will have six infielders as follows: 1B, 2B, SS, 3B, P, and C. All other players must be on the outfield grass. Everyone plays the field every inning.

**T-Ball Rules** (*continued*)

16. Catchers will be in complete catcher's gear provided by the league. Catchers should be older players and should be taught how to play the position. (Do not let the catchers block runners from having access to home plate.)
17. Throws to 1B and Home are highly encouraged. The pitcher must make a throw to 1B to get the batter out. The pitcher must make a throw to the catcher to get a runner going Home out. The pitcher cannot "run down" or race the batter going to 1B or Home.
18. Force plays at all bases are highly encouraged. If no force is available, then the defensive players are encouraged to throw the ball to 1B.
19. An overthrow to 1B or 3B stops play, and each runner can proceed to the closest base. If the first baseman can recover the ball and beat the runner to 1B, then the runner is out. The same basic rule applies to 3B during a "force play".
20. Teams may have four coaches on the field during defensive play - two must be in the outfield area while a play is underway.
21. Managers and coaches are highly encouraged to rotate players to different positions during the game, and to delay play in order to explain/teach during games.

Things each player should learn this season:

- All players:
    1. Throw
    2. Field grounders
    3. Bat
    4. Basic rules of the game (where's 1B?)
  - Advanced players:
    1. Run through the bag at 1B
    2. Catch a thrown ball
    3. Slide
    4. Catch a pop fly
  - The coaches for each team have a comprehensive list of skills that will be taught this season.
22. Only 4 Babe Ruth certified coaches are allowed on the field at one time. All coaches must be Babe Ruth certified, complete background checks with the city of PBG and complete coaching applications with the baseball league.