

ONSLOW COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

6 & UNDER YOUTH T-BALL RULES

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Section 1 Eligibility & Participation

Section 1.1 A player must be five (5) years of age on or before August 1 of the current season, but must not be seven (7) years of age on or before January 1 (male); January 1 (female)

Section 1.2 A coach must play each player in the field for at least one (1) complete turn at bat by the opposing team. Every player present must bat during each of their team's at bats

Penalty: 1st offense – Game head coach is suspended for the next 2 games
2nd offense – Game head coach is suspended for the remainder of the season

1.2a: It is the District's responsibility to enforce this rule and documentation must be made within 24 hours after the offense to the District President.

If the team's next game is a traveling game, the District President must contact his / her counterpart from the other district

1.2b: If a game is ended before each team completes 3 turns at bat due to the time limit expiring, inclement weather, darkness, etc. and all players present have not played as required, the coach must start those players on defense for two (2) full turns at bat by the opposing team for the next game.

If the coach does not play those players as required, the above penalty will be invoked. A coach will not be suspended because of a shortened game

Section 1.3 A player must play as required above provided they have attended at least 50% of the practices the week prior to the game

1.3a: Mandatory attendance records are to be maintained by coaches at all scheduled practice sessions

1.3b: It will be up to the coach's discretion as to whether the player will play if the player has not attended 50 % of the practices

1.3c: Practice violations must be noted in the official scorebook before the start of the game. Once noted, the player will not play.

If practice violations are not noted, the player must play as required

Section 1.4 When a coach plans on not playing a player for any reason not stated in Section 1.3 (illness, injury, etc.), they MUST notify both the official scorekeeper and opposing coach prior to the start of the game

1.4a: If a player becomes ill or injured and it becomes apparent that prevents the player from further participation, the coach should notify the official scorekeeper and opposing coach of the situation immediately

Penalty: Failure to comply with this rule will result in Section 1.2 going into effect

Section 1.5 Each team will consist of a maximum of 13 players. The minimum number of players per team will be determined by local district enrollment

Section 2 Playing Field & Field Equipment

Section 2.1 The distance between all bases shall be 60 feet. The distance from the rear tip of home plate to the nearer edge of the pitcher's plate shall be 46 feet

Section 2.2 There will be a circle with a 8-foot diameter (4-foot radius) around the pitcher's plate

Section 2.3 Home plate, the bases, the batter's box, the coaches' boxes, etc. shall be in accordance with the current National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) regulations. The pitchers' plate may be either regulation baseball size or official Little League size

Section 2.4 There will be an arc marked on the field intersecting 1st and 3rd baselines at 25 ft. measuring from the rear tip of home plate. The ball must be hit on or beyond the arc to be a legal hit

Section 3 Equipment

Section 3.1 The ball shall be marked "Safe T-ball"

Section 3.2 The bat shall be any official Little League baseball bat or T-ball bat

Section 3.3 Catchers must wear a mask, helmet, and chest protector.

3.3a: Chest protectors must fit the child and not be bulky and hinder movement. Male catchers must wear an athletic supporter with protective cup

Section 3.4 Tennis shoes or molded rubber cleats must be worn

Section 3.5 Batting head protectors (helmets covering both ears) must be worn in accordance with NFHS regulations (including youth coaches)

Rule 4 Coaching & Substituting

Section 4.1 The responsibility of following all rules lies with the coaches of each team.

4.1a: Defensive substitutions may be done so freely, as long as all players get their required playing time

4.1b: Late arriving players will be added to the bottom of the batting order

Section 4.2 Coaches on the field: There may be an offensive coach to assist batters and a defensive coach to assist fielders

4.2a: The defensive coach must be positioned behind 2nd base and may only give verbal assistance

4.2b: No additional offensive or defensive coaches will be allowed on the field

Section 5 Starting & Ending a Game

Section 5.1 Games will be 3 innings in length or 1 hour

5.1a: No new innings will start after 55 minutes

5.1b: Time will be kept by the home plate umpire's watch

5.1c: No official score will be kept

5.1d: All team members present will come to bat each inning

5.1e: As batters and base runners are put out, they will be removed from the bases

5.1f: Total outs will not matter, as the inning will not end until all team members have batted

Section 5.2 Line-ups will consist of all players present

NOTE: All players must still play in the field in accordance with Section 1.2

Section 5.3 Each team must start a game with 10 eligible players on defense if 10 are present (A team may start with as few as 8 players)

5.3a: If either team fails to field at least 8 eligible players after 5 minutes past scheduled game time, a game may be played with the team lacking enough players, by borrowing additional players from the opposing team

Section 5.4 There will be no protests

Section 5.5 Double headers may be played in extenuating circumstances

Section 5.6 In case of inclement weather, each team must have completed its turn at bat, or the game will be rescheduled

Section 5.7 The playing of ineligible players will result in the suspension of the head coach

Penalty: 1st offense – one game suspension
2nd offense – suspension for the remainder of the season

Section 6 Pitching

Section 6.1 The player occupying the pitcher position must stay in contact with the pitcher's plate until the ball is hit or swung at

Penalty: 1st offense – Warning is given to youth pitcher and coach
2nd offense – Player is removed from the pitcher's position for the remainder of the game

Section 6.2 The ball will not be pitched.

6.2a: The ball will be hit off a batting tee.

6.2b: The tee will be placed on home plate

6.2c: The coach will remove the batting tee after the ball is hit

Section 6.3 Time will be called any time the ball is thrown into the pitcher's circle and the youth pitcher makes an attempt to catch the incoming ball (See Section 8.2 & 8.3)

6.3a: Once time has been called, the pitcher may choose to make a play on the lead base runner only

6.3b: If the pitcher attempts a play on the lead base runner, no other base runners may advance once time has been called

6.3c: Once the pitcher attempts a play on the lead base runner, the lead base runner may advance at his / her own risk until he / she stops forward motion (breaks stride)

Section 7 Batting

Section 7.1 The ball will be hit off a batting tee (See Section 6.2)

7.1a: The tee will be placed on home plate

7.2b: The coach will remove the batting tee after the ball is hit

Section 7.2 The batter is allowed 3 strikes

7.2a: In the coach's judgment, if a swing contacts the batting tee rather than the ball or contacts the batting tee and ball simultaneously, a strike will be called

7.2b: If the batter misses his / her ball on the 3rd swing, the batter will be called out on strikes

Section 7.3 The ball must be hit on or beyond the 25 foot arc to be a legal hit (see Section 2.4). If this does not occur, a strike will be assessed

Section 7.4 The batter will not bunt or half swing

Section 7.5 No infield fly rule

Section 7.4 No designated hitter (DH) is allowed

Section 7.6 The offensive team will end its turn at bat when all team members present have had their turn at bat

Section 7.7 No designated hitter (DH) is allowed

Section 7.8 A batter will not throw or sling his / her bat in a way that could potentially injure someone

Penalty: 1st offense – Warning
2nd offense – Batter will be expelled from participating for the remainder of the game

Section 8 Base Running

Section 8.1 A base runner must stay in contact with the base until the ball has been hit or swung at

Penalty: Base runner is out

Section 8.2 When the base runner has advanced as far as possible, has stopped forward motion (breaks his/her stride), and the ball is in possession of an infielder, time will be called and the next batter will take his turn.

8.2a: When a base runner stops his forward motion and time is called, the runner must return to the base last touched

Section 8.3 As stated in Section 6.3 time will be called when the ball is thrown into the pitcher's circle and the youth pitcher makes an attempt to catch the incoming ball.

8.3a: Once time has been called, the pitcher may choose to make a play on the lead base runner only

8.3b: If the pitcher attempts a play on the lead base runner, no other base runners may advance once time has been called

8.3c: Once the pitcher attempts a play on the lead base runner, the lead base runner may advance at his own risk until he stops his forward motion (breaks his stride).

Section 9 Governing Bodies

Section 9.1 The current National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) rules govern play in all districts, except where superseded by Onslow County rules. The playing rules governing the youth baseball / softball / t-ball districts, as co-sponsored by Onslow County Parks & Recreation, are supplements to the official high school rules

Section 9.2 Onslow County Parks & Recreation has authority in interpreting all rules