

2016 KIYBSC T-Ball (4-6) Rules of Play

Sportsmanship

Each manager is responsible for their team and parents. It is important to everyone at KIYBSC and our community that we all show sportsmanship at all times. Sportsmanship consists of positive coaching, attitudes, and encouragement at all times when representing KIYBSC and Kent Island.

1. On the Field:

- a. The actions of players, managers, coaches and league officials must be above reproach.
- b. It is the Manager's responsibility to ensure that the actions of their parents are also above reproach.
- c. Batboys and/or Batgirls are not permitted.
- d. The use of tobacco and alcoholic beverages in any form is prohibited on the playing field, benches and dugouts.

2. Field Dimensions:

- a. Distance between bases: 50 feet
- b. Home plate to center of second base: 70 feet, 8 ½ inches.

3. Safety:

- a. The batter, players in the on-deck batting area and base runners must wear a protective helmet that gives protection to the top of the head, temples, ears and base of the skull.
- b. Players should dress in the same manner (Caps and T-Shirts/Uniforms).
- c. Players may not wear jewelry, except for medical identification.
- d. It is recommended that all male players should wear cup-type athletic supporters.

4. Game Length:

Full Game	Innings Required to be Official	Game Time Limit
3 innings	2 innings	1 hour 15 minutes

5. Participation:

Official Game (2 Innings)	Full Game (3 Innings)
All players must play defensively	All players must play defensively

6. Base Running:

Leading Off	Stealing	Stealing Home	Courtesy Runner	Sliding
No	No	No	No	No

7. Run Limits and Mercy Rules:

Maximum Runs Per Inning	Mercy Rule
Everyone bats	No mercy rule

8. Batter:

Bunting	Infield Fly Rule	Dropped 3rd Strike
No	No	No

9. Bats, Balls, and Cleats:

Bats	Cleats	Balls
2 ¼	Rubber Cleats or Tennis Shoes	Any ball stamped T-Ball

10. Playing Rules:

- a. There is no keeping score for the purposes of winning the game in T-Ball. Please remember that the primary objective of T-Ball is to allow our children to have fun participating in organized baseball while learning basic baseball skills.
- b. Outs should not be recorded and each player should have a chance to bat each inning. If the defensive team makes a play that would result in an out under normal circumstances they should be commended.

- c. All players participate defensively in the field each inning. To encourage rotation of players, no player is permitted to play the same position for more than one inning. It is permitted to play up to seven infield positions, e.g., one player at each base, one player in the hole between first and second base, one player in the hole between second and third base, and one player on either side of the pitcher's mound. The rest of the team will play in the outfield.
- d. Batters are not permitted to bunt or swing easy at the ball. A fair ball must be hit past an imaginary 10-foot arc in front of home plate from the first base line to the third base line. If the ball is not hit past the imaginary 10-foot arc, the batter shall be called back to the plate, the swing shall count as a foul-strike, the ball is dead and no runner's advance.
- e. When coach-pitchers are used, then the coach that is instructing the batter shall also be the catcher.
- f. Runners may advance only one base on an infield hit. Runners may advance more than one base on an outfield hit. To encourage the children to throw the ball to a base, runners may not advance on overthrows to a base. We should focus on teaching the children to throw the ball to a base -- let them learn that they have to field/throw and catch.
- g. Base runners are not permitted to steal or lead off a base. Base runners must remain in contact with the base until the ball is hit.
- h. Play stops when a hit ball is returned to the infield. If a runner has not reached a base when the ball is returned to the infield, the runner must return to the nearest base.
- i. There is no infield fly rule.

11. Recommended Playing Rules and Objectives:

- a. T-Ball is a game between two teams of nine or more players, where participants hit a ball off a prescribed batting tee situated on home plate. Participants may also hit a ball thrown by a coach-pitcher.
- b. The T-Ball playing field should be identical in dimensions to a Little League field; however, it is recommended that base paths be 50 feet in length.
- c. When all defensive players are in the proper position, the defensive manager will indicate to the opposing coach his team is ready. The opposing coach will then place the ball on the tee and say, "Play ball."
- d. A foul ball in T-Ball is:
 - a. A ball that is hit and travels less than 10 feet in fair territory from home plate.
 - b. A ball that falls from the tee because the batter hits the tee.

- c. A ball that is hit by the batter outside the playing field.

12. Umpires:

- a. There are no official umpires in T-Ball. The coaches from both teams will serve as umpires. In the event teams want an umpire, then a parent (agreed to by both team coaches prior to the game) may serve as the umpire. The parent should be familiar with the T-Ball League rules of play and officiate the game accordingly. The responsible adults/coaches/parents are expected to set an appropriate example for their players on the way to fairly resolve a conflict. Remember, we are forming young people at this age and the primary focus is on sportsmanship + teamwork + learning the fundamental skills of baseball = FUN. Any concerns regarding this issue are to be directed to the commissioner who will make the final decision.

******Changes to any rules during the season will be communicated via the KIYBSC Board of Directors. Any rule changes that may occur will be made in the interest of competitive spirit, safety and sportsmanship.******