

**OKEEHOLEE YOUTH BASEBALL, INC.**  
**T-BALL DIVISION RULES**  
**(5-6)**

**1. AGE OF PLAYER**

Players must be four (4) years old by April 30 of current season. Players must not be seven (7) before May 1 of current season.

**2. TEAM PARENT**

Each team will have a Team Parent who is allowed in the dugout but not on the field during games. He or she may also have an Assistant Team Parent assist in the dugout. Team parents must be certified by NYSCA.

**3. REGULATION GAME**

Regulation game is five innings. Game will be official if four (4) full innings are completed (3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead). There are no ten (10) run rules. NOTE: Monday through Thursday, no new inning will start after 9pm. If the game is still tied after the time limit has expired, will go to the Kansas City Tiebreaker format. Last out of the previous inning is placed on 2<sup>nd</sup> base, and the inning will begin with the batting team already having 1 out. This format will be used until a winner is determined.

**4. TIME LIMIT**

No inning shall start more than ninety (90) minutes after the official starting time, unless game is tied. Time will be kept by the umpire.

**5. MUST PLAY RULE**

All players must play at least three (3) innings of every game in the field. One of at least three (3) innings played by each player must be played in the infield excluding catcher. The position of short fielder is considered an infield position. Violation of this rule will result in forfeiting that game. Violations need to be brought to the Board's attention within 2 weeks of the violation in writing from any manager, coach, parent, or other association member in order to be acted upon. All team members will be in the batting order. No fielding changes need to be reported.

**6. BATTING**

Players must take a full swing at the ball. On the first two (2) offenses, the umpire will call a strike on the batter; on the third offense for the same batter in a game, the batter will be out. A strike is a missed swing at the ball or a foul ball. A foul ball is any ball that is knocked off the tee by the batter and either does not leave the circle or is called foul by the umpire for being outside the baseline. If the ball comes to rest on any part of the line in fair territory, it is a fair ball. If a batter has two (2) strikes he is allowed one (1) more foul; on the second foul, the batter is out. Each batter will be allowed three (3) approaches to the ball, with the 4<sup>th</sup> approach being called a strike.

**7. PER INNING RUNS/BATTER RULE**

Each team may score a maximum of five (5) runs per inning except the last inning in which each team may bat a maximum of ten (10) players, and score up to ten (10) runs.

**8. SLIDING**

Tball players may slide feet first into a base, not head first. If a player slides head first into a base, he will be called out. There is no must-slide rule in tball, sliding is optional.

## **9. EQUIPMENT**

Bat may not exceed 27 inches in length.

## **10. PLAY STOP**

A play stops when any defensive player with the ball steps on any base or home plate. Play does not stop by stepping on the pitcher's mound.

## **11. OVERTHROWS**

An overthrow of first base is an attempt to retire the batter at first base in which the ball is thrown past the first baseman. The ball may travel towards the sideline fence or into the outfield. On an overthrow of first base, the ball is "live," and runners may advance at their own risk. The batter/runner may be thrown out going to second base. However, on an overthrow of first base, once the batter/runner reaches second base, the play will end and the whistle will be blown to indicate the play is over.

- Should the batter/runner on an overthrow of first base, over run second base after touching the base he may not be tagged out because the ball is dead once he reaches second base safely.

## **12. PRACTICES**

Practice is limited to three (3) sessions per week until the season starts. Once the season starts, each team will be limited to 3 sessions (which includes practices and games) per week.

## **13. BASELINES**

Baselines are 60 feet in length.

## **14. OUTFIELD AND SHORT FIELD PLAYING POSITION**

Four outfielders will be used by each team and must play on the grass. The short fielder must be at least ten (10) feet behind the baseline.

## **15. DEFENSIVE COACHES PERMITTED ON FIELD**

Two (2) coaches are permitted on the field defensively in the outfield. The coaches must be on the outfield grass behind the players.

## **16. COACHES' ASSISTANCE TO BATTERS**

A coach may set a player squarely in the batters box, but cannot line the batter up to hit in a specific direction. However, a coach may verbally tell the batter where to stand as long as in the umpire's judgment it does not delay the game. The coach must NOT at any time touch the player. The coach may adjust the tee to speed up the game, as long as NO PORTION of the tee is off the plate.

## **17. PITCHER PLAYING POSITION**

The pitcher must remain completely in the pitcher's circle until the ball is hit and must wear a batter's helmet.

## **18. THROWING MOTION REQUIRED**

Defensive players must throw overhand, unless it is a natural movement.

## **19. PITCHER REQUIRED TO THROW TO FIRST**

Pitcher must throw the ball to first base as opposed to running it to the base if it is fielded on the third base side or within the pitcher's circle. An imaginary line from home to second base divides the field into a first base side and third base side.

## **20. CATCHER'S PLAYING POSITION**

Catchers must remain outside of the catcher's circle and behind home plate until the ball is hit and must wear a batter's helmet at all times. ALL teams must have a player in the catchers position. Catcher position is only considered an infield position for 4 year old players.

## **21. DEFENSIVE PLAYERS' POSITION**

Defensive players must stay behind the fifteen (15) foot line before the ball is hit. The fifteen foot line will be fifteen (15) feet in from first and third bases.