

**CITY OF ROCKVILLE**  
**Department of Recreation and Parks**  
**PLAYING RULES FOR T-BALL LEAGUE**

---

**LEAGUE SUPERVISOR**

- A. The League shall operate under the rules that will be administered by the League Supervisor: **Phyllicia Williams** (240-314-8643, **pwilliams@rockvillemd.gov**).
  
- B. Duties of the League Supervisor will include the following:
  - 1. Consider T-Ball league rule changes.
  - 2. Make decisions concerning protests.
  - 3. Approve requests for player transfers.
  - 4. Determine player eligibility.
  - 5. General league administration.
  - 6. Enforcing all covid-19 guidelines set by the city.
  - 7. Serve as a voting member on conduct review board; to suspend any coach(es), player(s), or spectator(s) with reasonable cause.

**I. THE GAME**

- A. The official rules of baseball shall govern all play except as amended in these rules and regulations.
- B. Each game will be five (5) innings or 60 minutes of playing time. Team manager must have team line-up ready upon arrival at the field.
- C. In case of inclement weather or suspension of game, an official game will be two (2) complete innings.
- D. The field supervisor/umpire will have complete authority at the field.
- E. Scores and standings will not be kept.
- F. Protests are not allowed.
- G. Umpires must remain 6 feet apart from any player as a starting position when rotated and/or counter rotated
- H. All coaches and players must complete a self-check in process before all games and practices.
- I. **All teams must follow all Covid-19 Guidelines set in our Return to Play Guidelines.**

**II. FIELD DIMENSIONS**

- A. The distance between bases will be 40 feet.
- B. The pitcher's defensive position must be assumed at a minimum distance of 30 feet from home plate.

**III. EQUIPMENT**

- A. The City of Rockville, Department of Recreation and Parks will provide equipment.
- B. Shoes must be worn at all times. No player shall wear shoes with metal spikes or metal cleats.
- C. Only official T-ball bats will be used. Wooden bats are not permitted.
- D. Players at bat and on base are required to wear a helmet.

- E. Communal helmets will not be provided by the City of Rockville. All coaches and/or players are encouraged to bring their own helmets for games and practices.
- F. All players who chose to use the coach's 'communal' helmets are strongly encouraged to wear a cap under the helmet for health reasons.
- G. **Covid – 19 Guidelines:**
  - a) Balls should be switched out every inning for sanitizing.
  - b) Multiple balls should be used during game play.
  - c) All balls must be disinfected and sanitized down before going into game play.
  - d) No helmets will be supplied this year. All players must provide their own helmet for each game.
  - e) No sharing of personal equipment is allowed (Catcher's glove, bats, water, masks, helmets, etc.)

#### IV. **PLAYERS, BATTERS, RUNNERS, FIELDERS**

##### A. Players:

1. A minimum of seven (7) players to start the game. Maximum of ten (10) players on the field to play (4 outfielders or 3 outfielders and short fielder). All outfielders must assume their defensive positions out of the infield, or beyond a designated area, defined by the umpire.
2. Each player must play at least two (2) innings in the field during the game.
3. A player may enter or leave the field or position at any time (free substitution).
4. The pitchers, catchers, and first baseman's position must be changed every inning. Once a player has played either of these positions, he or she cannot return to the same position for the remainder of the game. However, a player may play all three positions in the game.
5. **Covid – 19 Guidelines:**
  - a) Players must wear mask at all games, practices and in between games.
  - b) Catcher must be 6 feet from the plate when needing to dust off plate.
  - c) Players must remain 6 feet during team practices and warm-ups.
  - d) Players must use own equipment. No sharing of any kind is allowed.
  - e) No huddles. Gather players at the circle and have them stay outside the circle maintaining social distancing.
  - f) No pre-game and post-game handshakes and high fives. Teams may line up on their respective foul lines and wave

##### B. General Rules:

1. An inning will end after eight (8) batters or five (5) outs. The manager of the team must notify the umpire when the eighth batter comes to the plate. The sides change regardless of the number of outs at this time. An 'out' consists of all

conventional outs except runouts at home plate, or being tagged between 3rd and home plate.

2. Play stops in the following situations: 1) when the ball reaches the first baseman prior to the batter; 2) when a batted ball is caught in the air by any defensive player; 3) on a force out at 1st, 2nd or 3rd base.; 4) when the pitcher has the ball in the 8-foot radius of the pitching plate or the ball is overthrown and goes out of play.

C. **Batting**

1. Teams will have a fixed batting order prepared before each game with all present team members on it. Latecomers shall be added to the end of the order.
2. Each player will take his/her turn at bat with no regard to whether or not he/she played in the field the previous inning or whether or not he/she played in the field when the team retired from the inning at bat.
3. Bunting will not be allowed. A ball must go at least ten feet to be considered a hit (if not, the batter will need hit the ball again).
4. Every batter will have the chance to hit the ball off the tee. Strikes will not be counted.
5. A batter who throws a bat in an unsportsmanlike manner so as to endanger players or spectators will be called out (not allowed to run bases) and may be ejected from the game. It is recommended that the umpire gives a warning for the first offense; however, this is not required.
6. **Covid -19 Guidelines:**
  - a) Hand sanitizer should be available to players after touching the bats
  - b) All bats should be wiped down with a disinfecting wipe and/or liquid before and the game and practices.

D. **Base Running**

1. Sliding at the discretion of the umpire will result in that player being out. The runner is out if a defensive player has the ball and the runner remains on his feet and deliberately, with force, crashes into the defensive player.
2. Overthrows, beyond the field of play, will result in the batter/runner scoring a run.
3. Sliding, leading off bases, and base stealing are not permitted; violating this rule will result in an automatic out.
4. A runner who is at least halfway toward the next base when the pitcher recovers the ball shall advance to that base.

5. Base runners must touch all bases; a runner missing any bases, as called by the umpire, shall be declared out.

E. **Fielding**

1. The designated pitcher must stay within his/her required position until the ball is hit.
2. Coaches should emphasize to throw the ball to the pitcher in order to stop play before the next batter hits.
3. There is no infield fly rule.
4. The catcher may not block the plate when the runner is com
5. An 'out' consists of all conventional outs except runouts at home plate, or being tagged between 3rd and home plate.
6. **Covid – 19 Guidelines:**
  - a) Teams should not enter dugout until the other teams exit and staff has sanitized the area.
  - b) Teams waiting for games outside of the field are encouraged to follow 6 feet social distancing guidelines.
  - c) Only assigned teams should be on the field at scheduled time.
  - d) Only designated adult be assigned to pick up each bat after use. This person should wear gloves and wipe down bats after each use.
  - e) All players are required to wear masks in dugout and all throughout the field during games.
  - f) Players should be spaced out and maintain 6 feet social distancing while in the dugout.
  - g) Coaches should stay outside of the width of the batter's box at the Homeplate conference
  - h) Only one coach allowed during conference
  - i) Huddles off the field with Coaches and players need to maintain 6 feet social distancing

V. **SCORING**

Score will not be kept. No more than eight (8) batters may hit in a single inning. The sides change regardless of the number of outs at the time.

VI. **VIOLATIONS OF MODIFICATIONS**

- A. Any violations of these rules should immediately be corrected before the game continues.
- B. Continued violation of these rules may result in the coach being removed from the game.

## **VII. MANAGER/SPECTATOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Managers must have team line-up ready upon arrival at the field.
2. All managers are responsible for their teams taking the field promptly before games and vacating the field and dugout area promptly after games.
3. Each manager shall designate a “dugout dad” or “dugout mom” to be responsible for bench conduct by the players.
4. All players must remain in the dugout area during the game and remain 6 feet apart.
5. Managers are responsible for the behavior of their team players and parents. Sportsmanship is mandatory in all aspects of the game. Chanting (yelling in unison) or heckling of the other team or its players is not permitted.
6. Smoking is not allowed in the field or dugout area.
7. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted on the premises.

## **VIII. CONCUSSION AWARENESS**

To help keep kids in the game for life, we ask that all coaches, parents, and participants become aware of concussion signs, symptoms, and prevention. The City of Rockville Sports Division has provided concussion awareness information on our website at [www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation/sports](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation/sports), please review and become familiar.

Any participant who may appear to have or has a concussion may not return to play until the Sports Division has received a note from the participants’ doctor that states the participant has been approved to continue sport activity. The note must be received prior to the next league activity. This includes all practices and games. City of Rockville staff has the authority to sit a participant out of sport activity if any signs/symptoms of concussion are noticed. The purpose of this policy to keep all participants safe and healthy.



Department of Recreation and Parks  
Youth Sports Division  
League Expectations, Policies/Disciplinary Measures

### **MISSION**

The City of Rockville's Youth Sports Division mission is to promote participation in a safe, recreational setting to encourage fun, physical activity, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Programs are designed to meet participant needs for physical activity, social interaction, mentorship through positive coaching, fundamental skill development, and instill lifelong values in each participant.

### **EXPECTATIONS**

The City of Rockville provides league rules that dictate how the program is operated and governed. In addition to these rules, coaches are requirement to get fingerprinted by the City of Rockville, become NYSCA (National Youth Sports Coaches Association) certified and sign a *Coaches Code of Ethics Pledge*. Parents/Guardians are strongly encouraged to read and sign the *Parents Code of Ethics Pledge* and return to your coach for the season. Both of these pledges represent the requirements that coaches and parents must embrace and use to serve as a role model to all participants.

The City of Rockville requires participants, coaches, spectators, and parents to exhibit good conduct and sportsmanship before, during, and after games and practices. Examples of good sportsmanship and conduct include but are not limited to:

- Fairness
- Ethics
- Respect
- Sense of fellowship
- Teamwork
- Positively encourage and congratulate all players and opponents as well as officials, city staff
- Understanding and promoting that this is a recreational league

### **POLICIES/DISCIPLINARY MEASURES**

*City of Rockville Sports Supervisors reserve the right to amend disciplinary measures below if investigation deems it necessary*

THE TERM "INDIVIDUAL" INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING: MANAGER, CAPTAIN, PLAYER, OR SPECTATOR. A TEAM IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONDUCT OF ITS INDIVIDUAL PLAYERS AND SPECTATORS. MISCONDUCT MAY RESULT IN PENALIZING AN INDIVIDUAL OR TEAM FROM ALL CITY OF ROCKVILLE LEAGUES.

- Coach/Player/Spectator/Parent/Guardian Ejection

- If ejected from a league game, that individual will be suspended from the team's next played league game or for a period of time deemed fair by the league. If an individual is disqualified a second time during the season, he/she shall be suspended for the remainder of the season, or longer if deemed fair by the league.
- Ineligible Players
  - A coach who knowingly uses a suspended or ineligible player shall forfeit his/her coaching position, and the team shall forfeit all games in which the player participated.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct:
  - If ejected from a league game, that individual will be suspended from the team's next played league game or for a period of time deemed fair by the league. If an individual is disqualified a second time during the season, he/she shall be suspended for the remainder of the season, or longer if deemed fair by the league.
    - Unsportsmanlike conduct includes, but is not limited to:
      - Disrespectfully addressing an official or City Staff
      - Using profanity
      - Attempting to influence an official's decision
      - Baiting an opponent or obstructing his vision by waving hands near his eyes
      - Disrespectfully addressing or baiting an opponent and/or own team
      - Objecting to an official's decision by rising from the bench or using gestures or raising voice
      - Inciting undesirable crowd reactions.
- Before, during or after a game, anyone who strikes, shoves, pushes, bumps or otherwise molests, harasses, or threatens anyone shall be suspended for at least 1 year from the date of the incident or longer if deemed necessary by the league. After the suspension is served, the individual can return to programs on a probationary period for a minimum of 1 year.