

Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry

Tee-Ball and Coach-Pitch Rules 2009

Players entering kindergarten or first (1st) grade in the fall of 2009 will participate in the tee-ball program on Monday or Thursday evenings and players entering first (1st) or second (2nd) grade will play coach-pitch on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday evenings. All games will be played on the Blue or Red Fields in the sports complex in North Jefferson City.

The enclosed schedule provides game dates, locations and. Each team has practice, with parent volunteers assisting, ½ hour prior to each scheduled game. We will have two practice areas adjacent to the game field and will provide the necessary equipment for two teams to practice while another two are playing their game. Our staff will stay at the game field and be responsible for those activities. Any managers wanting to have outside practices may do so but they may not penalize kids for not attending.

Your child's coach should conduct a parent informational meeting. You should meet your coach and fellow players and discuss rules and regulations.

Coaches will be contacted when uniform t-shirts arrive. Shirts were ordered based on information given to us when you registered. Your receipt should list the size selected for your child.

This is a **Fun/skill Development Program**. The score of these games is not kept and our staff is instructed to always tell the kids that the game is tied. We believe very strongly that an emphasis on winning for young children detracts from the enjoyment of the experience by placing unnecessary adult pressures on kids. Please assist us in making this a positive program for all of the children.

In Tee-Ball and 1st grade Coach-Pitch: Each player will bat every inning. The number of batters a team may bat in a half inning is determined by the team with the largest numbers of players in their line-up (i.e. if team "A" has 11 players in their line-up and team "B" has 9 players, both will be allowed to bat 11 participants. Team "A" will only be allowed to bat each player once per inning. Both teams must also announce "last batter" to the umpire on their 11th batter.)

In 2nd grade Coach-Pitch: Each player will bat every inning unless three outs are made. However, if three outs are not recorded, the number of batters a team may bat in a half inning is determined by the team with the largest numbers of players in their line-up (i.e. if team "A" has 11 players in their line-up and team "B" has 9 players, both will be allowed to bat 11 participants. Team "A" will only be allowed to bat each player once per inning. Both teams must also announce "last batter" to the umpire on their 11th batter).

- All players play defensively. All normal positions are filled, a player may play at second base, and all others are additional outfielders (outfielders must be positioned in the grass).
- All games are 50 minutes in length.
- Our staff will also administer and umpire the games. **THEIR CALLS ARE CORRECT!**
- Adult volunteers who have organized the practices are then asked to assist at the games with such tasks as helping players with defensive advice and positioning, keeping offensive players safely away from the action when they are not involved, establishing a batting order, controlling the bench area, etc. We appreciate your involvement! **Only 4 parents, including the manager, are allowed to help with tee-ball and 1st**

grade coach-pitch and 3 parents, including the manager, are allowed to help with 2nd grade coach-pitch.

- The player at the pitcher's defensive position and the catcher must stay in the designated areas until the ball is hit.
- There will be an arc connecting the baselines between home plate and the pitcher's mound. A batted ball must cross this line to be in play. A fly ball caught inside the line is an out, but a ground ball that is not caught or a ball that stops before crossing the line is a foul ball. Bunting is not allowed.
- **In tee-ball** the umpire will judge whether the batter has contacted the ball or the tee and will call a strike if he/she feels that the tee, rather than the ball, was hit.
- When the last batter of an inning has batted and is a base runner, he/she may be put out by a fielder in possession of the ball tagging any base ahead of the batter/runner. Base runners may not leave the base until the ball is hit.
- Our staff is instructed to call timeout to end plays when any defensive player has control of the ball in the area of the infield. Base runners can continue to the base they were approaching when such control was gained, but must then stop.
- **In coach-pitch** if a player is unable to hit the pitched ball within the first five swings, it will be put on a tee. This is meant to be a program which enhances each child's self-perception and self-esteem. The pitching distance is 30 feet.
- For these programs we will be using a baseball and/or softball Incrediball and **aluminum or wooden bats**. Participants are allowed to use their own tee-ball bat if desired. The ball looks like a baseball/softball but is much softer and lighter. You can get a tee-ball for your child at local sporting goods outlets. [Children starting this young should always use a soft, light ball. They don't need the trauma of having been hit with a "real" baseball.]

"Please remember that the CHILDREN count, not the score!"

PARENTS

There are little eyes upon you,
And they're watching night and day;
There are little ears that quickly
Take in every word you say;
There are little hands all eager
To do anything you do;
And a little boy who's dreaming
Of the day he'll be like you.

You're the little fellow's idol;
You're the wisest of the wise;
In his little mind about you
No suspicions ever rise;
He believes in you devoutly,
Holds that all you say and do,
He will say and do in your way
When he's grown up like you.

There's a wide-eyed little fellow
Who believes you're always right,
And his ears are always open,
And he watches day and night;
You're setting an example
Every day in all you do,
For the little boy who's waiting
To grow up to be like you.

reprinted from "Joy and Sadness in Children's Sports" by Rainer Martens

