



2010

BETHEL BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

TEE BALL LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS

I. Player Draft

1. Players eligible for the annual draft will be those players who:
 - a. Are residents of the Municipality of Bethel Park or who pay taxes to the Bethel Park School District at the beginning of the regular season.
 - b. Who complete an official registration form.
 - c. Who register prior to the deadline date for players registration. Extenuating circumstances of late registration may be ruled on by the BBA Board of Directors (Board).
2. The league commissioner will assign players to teams.
3. It is expected that a manager's child will be assigned to his team.
4. Brothers or sisters will be placed together. If the parents desire that the players play on different teams. This must be made known prior to the team selections.
5. When requested, friends and neighbors will be placed on the same team where practical.

II. The Official Team Roster

1. The official team roster shall be determined as follows:
 - a. Eligible players who have completed an official registration form.
 - b. The maximum and/or minimum total number of players permitted to be carried on each team's roster will be determined by the Board.
2. The official roster for each team will consist of a maximum and/or minimum number of players for each age group as determined by the league commissioner.
3. The league commissioner shall equalize the number of each eligible age group on each team as much as possible.
4. The Bethel Baseball Association will try to maintain rosters at eleven (11) or twelve (12) players per team. If necessary, more teams will be added to achieve these roster numbers.
5. No manager or coach is permitted to dismiss any player on his team roster without just cause and the approval of the Board of Director's Grievance Committee. Under no circumstances (except permanent injury) shall an "apparent" lack of satisfactory athletic skills (in the manager's opinion) be considered as a just cause for removal of a player from the team roster.

6. There shall be no exchange of players on official team rosters permitted. If a parent has an extenuating situation and wants to have the player change teams, he/she must submit the request in writing to the Board. The Board will rule on each situation individually.
7. Each manager is responsible to see that all members of his team are residents of Bethel Park. Each manager is also responsible for ensuring that all members of his team are not members of another baseball league. Any exceptions should be reported to the league commissioner.

III. Player Participation

All members of each official Tee Ball team roster will play the field the entire game. Managers **must** rotate players to enhance the child's learning experience. The manager has the right to remove a player from the game for unresolved disciplinary reasons as well as to protect the health of a child in the case of injuries. Managers must continue batting order where the last game left off. All eligible roster players will bat in order for the entire game.

IV. Playing Rules and Regulations

1. All Tee Ball League contests shall be conducted and played according to the latest playing rules and regulations set forth in the Little League Baseball Rule Book except as follows:
 - a. No player is allowed in the coaching boxes. Occupants of the coaching boxes may be a manager, coach, or any representative as designated by the team manager other than a player.
 - b. In the event a game is terminated for any reason before it is an official game, it will not be made up or counted.
 - c. Before June 1st all players will hit off the tee. Starting on June 1st each player may elect to be pitched to or to hit off the tee. Each manager or a representative designated by each manager will pitch to their own team. A strike will be counted only when the batter swings and misses or fouls the ball. Each batter will be allowed three (3) strikes with the last strike being a clean miss and not a foul ball. There will be no pitched strike outs. Upon the third strike players will hit off the tee. The number of pitches players may receive during an at bat is limited to seven. After the seventh pitch players will hit off the tee.
 - d. Weekend games will consist of a maximum of five (5) innings. Each team may score a maximum of five (5) runs per inning. No new inning will start after one and one half hours has elapsed from the start of the game. Each team will practice for one half hour prior to the start of the game. Weekday games shall consist of one hour of instruction and a three inning game. Note: Instruction can be shared and or combined, with each team receiving equal field time.
 - e. There shall be no stealing of bases.
 - f. The defensive team shall consist of the following positions: Pitcher, first base, second base, shortstop, third base. All additional defensive team members play the outfield. There shall be no short fielders or rovers. The offensive team shall supply an adult catcher. However, on any play at home plate, the position must be covered by a defensive player.
 - g. The defensive team may have two (2) coaches on the field beyond the perimeter of the infield and beyond the deepest outfielder.

- h. The play is considered dead when the ball is returned to the infield. The umpire shall make the "Dead Ball" call immediately when:
 - 1. The ball crosses the imaginary straight line that begins at second base and passes through first base and continues to the out of play area on the first base side ground rules of the field.
 - 2. The ball crosses the imaginary straight line that begins at second base and passes through third base and continues to the out of play area of the third base side ground rules of the field.

When the umpire has made a "Dead Ball" call in this situation any runner that is half way or more to a base will be awarded that base, including home, by the umpire. The umpire will instruct all other runners to return to their last earned base.

Under the "Dead Ball" rule a runner may only be thrown out from the outfield on a force play when the runner must run to the next base and has not yet reached it.
 - i. There shall be no bunting.
 - j. Any ball stopping in the six (6) foot arc in front of home plate shall be considered a foul/dead ball.
 - k. Free substitution will be permitted on defense. However, a player may play a maximum of only three (3) innings in the infield. The infield consists of the positions: pitcher, first base, second base, third base, and shortstop. The remaining two (2) innings will be played in the outfield. If less than 10 players are present, all players will be rotated through the infield equally, such that no player plays four (4) innings of infield before all players have played three (3) innings of infield.
 - l. There will be no "ball" call during the pitching portion of the league.
 - m. A strike will be called only when the batter swings and misses or fouls the ball. Players will hit off the tee after three (3) strikes.
 - n. Distances between the bases will be forty-five (45) feet.
 - o. An official game will be three (3) innings or two and one-half (2 1/2) innings.
 - p. The first time a player throws a bat or batting helmet, he/she will receive a warning. The next player and all subsequent players who throw a bat or batting helmet will be called out.
2. During any game in which an objection to an umpire's decision arises, **only the manager shall discuss the issue with the umpire.** Any violation of this rule will result in the ejection of the offending person.
 3. Any manager or coach who is ejected by an umpire during a game will sit out the next game. The incident surrounding the ejection must be reviewed by the Grievance Committee. The Grievance Committee will make a recommendation to the full Board concerning any action taken. Further disciplinary action will be at the Board's discretion. A minimum of a one (1) year suspension is required for contact made with an umpire. Additionally, the suspended person must petition the Board for reinstatement after the suspension is completed.

V. Championship Rules

There will be no championship playoffs at the conclusion of the season.

VI. Age Requirements

Any player who attains the age of five (5) before August 1st or who will not attain the age of seven (7) before August 1st of the year in question shall be eligible to compete in the Tee Ball Instructional League.

VII. Ground Rules

1. A hit ball bouncing over, going under, or sticking in the outfield fence is an automatic two bases.
2. A fly ball over the fence is a homerun, even if touched by an outfielder.
3. A runner shall not advance on an overthrown ball at any base. An overthrown ball is a ball thrown by an infielder beyond the player being thrown to, whether in play or out. Outfielder throws are covered in Section IV.1.h.
4. No one, spectator, player or coach, is allowed to view the game from the area behind the backstop.
5. An umpire, usually a parent from the stands, will be chosen upon agreement of both managers.

VIII. Grievance Procedures

1. From time to time incidents may occur wherein disputes within the Association will require resolution to restore harmony and well being to the organization. Accordingly, the Board of Directors has established "Grievance Committees" who will bear the responsibility of resolving disputes pertaining to players, managers, coaches, umpires, and parents that in the opinion of the affected league commissioner warrants committee action.
2. Any grievance will be submitted in writing, **within 72 hours**, to the league commissioner who in turn will take the grievance to the Grievance Committee.

IX. All-Star Game

There will be no all-star games.

X. Awards

Player participation medals shall be awarded to all players.

XI. Managers and Coaches Guidelines

1. Managers must abide by the BBA Coaching Guidelines.

2. Managers are encouraged to hold one practice per week utilizing the sanctioned BBA Coaching Guidelines.
3. An individual may manage or be a designated coach in only one league in the BBA. Any exceptions must be approved by the Board.
4. The home team manager and coaches are responsible for properly lining the field (including baselines and six (6) foot arc in front of home plate) prior to game. All fields should have necessary equipment in field storage boxes.
5. No smoking, drinking, or swearing on or near the field.
6. The home field manager should ensure all trash is picked up and disposed of properly, particularly at church fields and private organization fields.