

# T-Ball Rules –Spring (Updated 3/5/18)

1. Time Limit/Game Length – The official scorer (home team scorer) shall record the official start time in the scorebook according to the umpire’s watch or game clock. No new inning shall begin after the time limit has passed. If an inning starts within the time limit, it must be finished to the extent the outcome of the game may be affected.

- The time limit is 1 hour 15 minutes.
- If time permits, games will be 6 innings per game.

2. Cal Ripken / Babe Ruth Rules shall be used at all times, except in any circumstances when said rules are in direct conflict with posted Palm Beach Gardens Baseball Rules. In such case, Gardens Rules shall supersede Cal Ripken / Babe Ruth Rules. Any protest situation must be resolved before continuation of play. Umpire shall be informed of nature of protest and Board Member on Duty (BMOD) shall be sought to rule on protest. BMOD is permitted to seek advice of other board members or officials as he or she determines is necessary to resolve protest, including by telephone conference. Only Rules Questions may be protested. Judgment calls can never be protested. Game time will be suspended during protest.

3. Mercy Rule - The game will end via 10 run mercy rule when one team leads by 10 or more runs at the end of 4 innings or later, or 3 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead. The team that is behind must complete at least 4 full innings at bat. If the visiting team takes a 10+ run lead in the top of the 4th, 5th, or 6th inning the home team shall have the opportunity to finish the inning in an attempt to catch up. The game will end immediately if the home team takes a 10 run lead in the 4th. There is 6 run mercy rule after 5 innings (can’t score more than 5 runs per inning).

4. Weather decisions on field condition, practice / games being played, halting a game or completion of a game shall be made by the following people in order of availability:

- City of Palm Beach Gardens
- Baseball President
- Board Member on Duty
- Head Umpire
- Manager – May pull players from field only if both managers agree; however, managers MAY NOT postpone, reschedule or cancel a game. NOTE: Manager may cancel their practice at any time

5. Games halted by weather will be considered complete regulation games if at least:

- 3 1/2 innings complete if home team ahead (Visitors must bat 4 times)
- 4 innings complete if home team behind (Both team have batted 4 times).
- All halted regular season games shall be considered suspended games unless they are

considered completed games per above.

- All halted playoff games shall be considered suspended games and shall be played out until time limit or inning limit has been reached.
- Rules for Suspended Games shall apply

6. The "T" will be used throughout the entire season. No coach pitch will be permitted.
7. The batting order shall be the entire roster in attendance at the game. (i.e. the entire team must be in order with no substitutions). Late arrivals shall be added to the end of the batting order.
8. All players must have a mask on their batting helmets.
9. A team's at bat will end when the 3rd out is made or when the fifth (5th) run has crossed the plate, whichever occurs first. Runners are removed from the bases, if they are called out.
10. The batter is allowed three strikes.
11. A "fair" ball is one that has been hit between the base lines and goes at least 25 feet or so. If the batter knocks over the tee during the swing, the ball is considered "foul" no matter where or how far it goes.
12. If a batter throws the bat during his swing, the umpire must immediately give the player a warning. If the bat is thrown with malicious intent, the batter will be called out. Otherwise, the umpire will continue to warn the player and the team.
13. If the batter hits the ball into the outfield grass, the batter may take more than one base. The ball must return to the infield and the umpire must grant "time" for the play to end.
14. Teams will have seven infielders as follows: 1B, 2B, SS, 3B, P, C, and a rover. These players must play on the clay not on the infield grass. The pitcher must be on the pitcher's rubber. All other players must be on the outfield grass. Everyone plays the field every inning.
15. Catchers must wear a helmet. They should stand near the backstop until the ball is hit. They should not be in the catcher's regular position behind the plate.
16. Throws to 1B and Home are highly encouraged. The pitcher must make a throw to 1B to get the batter out. The pitcher must make a throw to the catcher to get a runner going Home out. The pitcher cannot "run down" or race the batter going to 1B or Home.
17. Force plays at all bases are highly encouraged. If no force is available, then the defensive players are encouraged to throw the ball to 1B.
18. An overthrow to a base, the runner may advance one base at their own risk until the umpire grants "time".
19. Teams may have two coaches on the field during defensive play - two must be in the outfield area while a play is underway.
20. Managers and coaches are highly encouraged to rotate players to different positions during the game, and to delay play in order to explain/teach during games.

21. Only 4 Babe Ruth certified coaches are allowed on the field at one time. All coaches must be Babe Ruth certified, complete background checks with the city of PBG and complete coaching applications with the baseball league.

23. Rules are subject to modification by order of the PBG Baseball board of directors.

24. Things each player should learn when finished playing t-ball:

- Throw
- Field grounders
- Bat
- Run through the bag at 1B
- Catch a thrown ball
- Slide
- Catch a pop

- Basic rules of the game : 1. Where each position plays 2. How to run the bases 3. Force out

22. Approved Bats - Cal Ripken Division - All non-wood bats must have the USA Bat Marking. The Barrel Maximum is  $2\frac{5}{8}$ ". No BBCOR Bats are permitted in the Cal Ripken Division. For the T-Ball Division, bats must be marked with the USA Bat T-Ball Stamp. If they use  $2\frac{1}{4}$  " bats from last year, they must have "t-ball approved" on the bat.