



**APPLETON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**  
**Official Rules for T-Ball**  
**2021**

**RAINOUT INFORMATION - (920) 832-3900 (Option 1)**

Program Coordinator: Jeff Brazzale (920) 832-3917  
[jeff.brazzale@appleton.org](mailto:jeff.brazzale@appleton.org)

The following rules and regulations have been established to allow participants to compete in a safe and fair environment. Coaches are to be familiar with these rules. These rules may be subject to change if during the season a team gains an unfair advantage over other teams due to a given rule in the league. All coaches will be notified of any rule changes made during the season.

**A. General League Rules**

1. T-ball is designed for boys and girls who just completed either 4 Year Old Pre School or Kindergarten in the preceding school year. Eligible players will be at least 5 years old by September 1, 2020. All teams will be co-ed.
2. Scores are not kept at the games, and no standings are recorded. All players will receive a participation ribbon at the end of the season.

**B. Players, Field, & Equipment**

1. Ten players will assume the regular fielding positions. Additional players are placed as back-up fielders in the outfield. A maximum of six players must be in the infield area. The rest are positioned in outfield positions on the grass. Players should be moved into different positions each inning to experience several different spots on the field.
2. Teams need a minimum of six players to begin the game. Games will start on time; there is no grace period. If necessary to get a game started / played, teams may "borrow" players from the opposing team, but these players shall be replaced if/when additional team players arrive. All "borrowed" players must bat at the bottom of the batting order.
3. All players must wear protective headgear up to bat and on base. Do not exchange batting helmets between teams, as each team has been issued, and is responsible for their own helmets.
4. Participants must remove any jewelry, watches or other potentially dangerous items prior to the start of the game for the safety of all participants. No metal spikes are allowed.
5. The participant in the 'pitcher' position must stay behind the pitching rubber until the ball is hit.
6. The infield fly rule is not used.
7. Base distance will be 60 feet for games played on the primary ball diamonds. This distance may be adjusted for games played in alternate locations (open field areas).
8. All t-ball leagues will use a 9" RIF U8 baseball (Easton Incrediball or similar).

**C. Game Length**

1. All T-Ball games will start with 15 minutes of skill review & prep time followed by a 45 minute game.
  - a. ***Weekly team practices are an important part of the league experience and the most effective way to introduce new skills and strategies to our young players. We expect all coaches to schedule and regularly use weekly practice time. The 15 minutes of pregame time is meant as an opportunity to review the skills learned at practice, and is not designed to replace regular practice time.***
2. Games will typically last a total of 3-4 innings, or a maximum of 45 minutes. Teams are encouraged to use a bench coach / parent to keep the lineup moving, introducing terms like "on deck" and "in the hole" to keep kids ready to hit.

**D. Batting**

1. Each player will hit off of the tee provided to the team.
2. A batted ball that does not advance past the designated circle should be re-done.
3. All players will bat once per inning during the first 4 weeks of the season. A team's turn at bat will consist of batting once through the roster. Batters **cannot** strike out. Player shall remain at bat until a fair ball is hit.
4. Any time the last batter hits; that batter will run all the way around the bases to complete the inning.
5. During the final 3 weeks of the season, if the defending team is able to accomplish 3 "outs" before the offensive team completes their batting order, the teams will immediately switch sides. (Baserunners will not be forced to leave the bases on an out... they may continue to run the bases in order as before)
  - a. This will help reinforce the base running and defensive skills being taught at this point in the season.

#### **E. Base Running**

1. Base runners may not lead off their base, and may only advance to the next base after the ball has been hit off of the tee by the current batter.
2. All base runners may advance only one base at a time (except for the final batter in the order, at which all runners will advance to home plate, to complete the inning).
3. **Runners may not advance on overthrows.**
4. During the final 3 weeks of the season, players will be allowed to advance a second base on balls hit into the outfield (at their own risk).

#### **F. Coaching Staff**

1. Only one offensive coach is allowed in each coaching box in foul territory. Two defensive coaches will be allowed out on the field to help their players, but must not interfere with play or offensive coaches. All other coaches and parent assistants will remain in the team bench area.
2. Only coaches and players are allowed in the dugout, unless permitted by the coach.

#### **G. Weather Cancellations & Early Game Completion**

1. In the event of inclement or dangerous weather, the league may cancel and/or reschedule games. If a game is canceled, information will be posted immediately to the Appleton Parks & Recreation Facebook page, and to our APRD weather line at 920-832-3900 (Select Option 1). If weather is questionable, but no cancellation has been posted, teams should report to their field. While we may play in conditions that are less than ideal, we will never play in conditions that put the health and safety of our participants at risk.
2. If there is a visible lightning strike/audible thunder during a game, the game will be suspended immediately.
3. All games called due to weather by the site supervisor shall be considered completed if two or more complete innings have been played.
4. Teams unable to play a scheduled game should contact the APRD at 920-832-5905 (preferred 48 hour notice) as a courtesy to their opponent and the staff. Games will not be rescheduled by the APRD for any reason except for inclement weather.

#### **H. Sportsmanship**

1. The goal of the APRD youth t-ball program is to introduce and help children develop the skills that will allow them to fully enjoy the game of baseball. We strive to create a safe a fun, inclusive, stress free atmosphere for children to learn, and sportsmanship and fair play is emphasized. Parents and spectators are EXPECTED to enthusiastically uphold and endorse our core beliefs of skill development, sportsmanship and fun through both their words and behavior.
2. Our coaches receive training that communicates the beliefs and goals of the Appleton Parks & Recreation department youth sports program, and are provided with tools, materials, and support to help them deliver quality baseball instruction to our young players. We expect our coaches to be shining examples of good sportsmanship and ethical behavior, as well as enthusiastic ambassadors of our program beliefs and goals. Coaches should openly discuss proper sportsmanship with their players and parents.
3. The program coordinator and site supervisor will not tolerate abuse, foul language, and inappropriate behavior from coaches, players, parents, or fans, and for the good of the program, this behavior will be dealt with promptly and decisively.
4. Appleton Parks and Recreation reserves the right to assign penalties for unsportsmanlike conduct upon review. Appleton Parks and Recreation also reserves the right to further the penalty upon assessment of the situation.

#### **J. Appleton Parks and Recreation Staff**

1. **There will be no umpires for the T-Ball games. Coaches are encouraged to get parents assistance during the scrimmages to help keep the flow of the game moving.**
2. The site supervisor will be present if issues arise.
3. Please report any concerns, questions, or problems to the site supervisor or program coordinator.

#### **K. Lost & Found**

1. If you find any lost equipment, please turn it in to the site supervisor.