

HFLMYB T-Ball Coaches Meeting Agenda

4/22/19 Justin Smith and Bob Swan – T-Ball League Coordinators

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AGENDA:

- 1) Contact Information
 - 2) Key Dates / Game Schedule / Practice Schedule
 - 3) Rules & Safety
 - 4) Assistant Coaches / Team Parent / Snack Policy
 - 5) Field Locations and Equipment
 - 6) Pre-Game Practice/Drills
 - 7) Handouts (keys, uniforms, picture packets, Red Wings Tix)
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1) Contact Information – T-Ball League Reps

- **Justin Smith (Uniforms, equipment issues):** justinnaa@gmail.com / 585-472-1715
- **Bob Swan (Schedule, rainouts):** rdswan@gmail.com / 617-417-8258
- **Dave Donatello (Issues, Fields):** dave.hflmendonbaseball@gmail.com / 585-329-3175
- **Eric Nelson (Website, Schedules, Background checks):** Email: ericbb@rochester.rr.com
- **League website - www.hfmbaseball.org**
 - Please encourage your parents to use the league website...schedules, rosters, etc.
 - You can send messages from your team page on the website...a very handy tool that I use for my teams. Means you do not have to maintain email lists.
- **Twitter and Facebook:** [@HFLMYB](#) / [HFLM Youth Baseball](#) League-wide announcements

2) Dates & Season Schedule

- Practice Schedule – See schedule emailed previously. Please try to have at least one practice.
- 4/22 (MON) 7PM - T-Ball Coach Meeting at Mendon Fields Pavilion
- 4/27 (SAT) - Opening day and team pictures
- 5/25 (SAT) – No Games – Memorial Day Weekend
- 6/2 (SUN) – HFLMYB at Rochester Redwings Day
- 6/8 (SAT) - Final Saturday for T-ball games
- 6/13 (THUR) – Final Scheduled T-ball game
- 6/15 (SAT) - Awards picnic (trophies)

Game Schedule (each team 13 “games” total)

- Game schedule is finalized...updated on the website. www.hfmbaseball.org
- Every Saturday morning (6 weeks). Times vary between 9AM to 12:30PM.
- Weekdays. 5 weekday games per team...never on Fridays). 6PM

3) Rules and Safety

T BALL Overview (also located on the Website):

Five and six year olds play in the T Ball league. Practices are held in April, once the weather breaks. Teams play every Saturday morning and one night per week (Monday through Thursday) from early May until mid-June. You can expect to play 10 to 12 games. Players are divided into teams of 7 or 8 and receive a uniform shirt and hat. T Ball players can ask to play on teams with their friends. No records or team standings are kept. As in all leagues, parents of the players provide coaching.

T Ball allows young players to continue to develop their skills. We provide structured pre-game drills for skill development. Batters all start by swinging at a soft baseball placed on a tee. Fielders play normal positions with no catchers. The team at bat continues to hit until all players have hit. Coaches are allowed in the field as well as along the baselines. Pre-game is 30 minutes followed by a 3 inning "games." Total time should not exceed 1 ½ hours. As the season progresses and player skills develop, coaches may pitch underhand to the players.

INCLEMENT WEATHER (League Policy)

- A. All players are to arrive at the field ready to play as scheduled unless emailed or telephoned and directed otherwise.
- B. In the case of inclement weather, the coaches will determine whether conditions are safe. THE FINAL DECISION ABOUT WHETHER AN INDIVIDUAL PLAYER CONTINUES TO PLAY IS ALWAYS DEFERRED TO THE PLAYER'S PARENT.
- C. Coaches are to leave no child alone at the field.
- D. All games will be stopped at the first sighting of lightning (by anyone at the field) and all players must leave the field of play. Play may resume 15 minutes after the most recent sighting at the umpire's discretion.

(* For T-ball...use your judgment. If it looks like there will be a long wait, then probably best to send everyone home. Decision is up to the coaches. If unsure, check the other fields to see what they are doing. If weather is especially bad during the day and the fields are unplayable, the league will cancel all games.**

T-BALL LEAGUE - LOCAL GROUND RULES

- A. Pre-game drills for 30 minutes (see recommended drills)
- B. Games consist of 3 innings or a maximum of 1 hour
- C. Batters may hit the ball off the tee or have a coach pitch to them. If the coach pitches and the count reaches 3 strikes, the batter must then hit off the tee. There are no strikeouts.
- D. All players must wear a batting helmet with face-shield when hitting and running. All players must wear long pants and sneakers or approved baseball shoes.
- E. All players must play in the field each inning to be eligible to bat each inning (use judgement). If a coach is pitching, the player in the pitching position must be no closer than the coach/pitcher. (this is for safety reasons)
- F. A ½ inning consists of each eligible team member getting one at-bat.
- G. Runners may only advance one base per hit unless the ball is hit to the outfield. There will be no advancement on an overthrow.
- H. No bunting is allowed. The infield fly rule is not in effect. Base runners may not leave the base occupied until the ball is hit. Base stealing is not allowed.

- I. Any player who throws the bat shall be given a warning. Subsequent bat throwing will result in the player missing his/her next at bat (no out).
- J. There may be no running with the ball unless within 10 feet of the base.
- K. Practices may be no longer than one hour per day, one practice per week.
- L. The only ball to be used shall be the "Incrediball" (or Safe-T-Ball) distributed by the league. (somewhat squishy...not as hard as a real baseball)

***** Comments: Innings end with everyone batting...not with 3 outs. With only 7-9 players per team, a 3 inning T-ball game will only take about 30 minutes or so. Therefore, please DO NOT skip the pre-game practice time to get to the "game."**

Safety Concerns

- 1) Helmets / Hitting:
 - It is very important to make sure all batters and "on deck" batters wear the batting helmets.
 - Some helmets are big for the little players...have them wear their hat underneath – it may fit better.
 - It is a good idea to assign a parent to be on helmet duty for on deck batters...it also helps the game move faster having a parent get the next batter ready to hit.
- 2) Fielding
 - DO NOT USE A CATCHER...too easy to get hit with a bat. Also, a coach back there moves the action along much faster
 - Do not position fielders too close to the hitter
 - Position only one player as a 1st baseman. Check 1st base often...kids like to gather there
 - At the end of an inning the last batter typically rounds the bases (home run). Keep fielders in positions until the batter makes his/her way all the way to home. (Fielder/runner collisions often occur if fielders are running to the sideline while runners are rounding the bases.)
- 3) Allergies / Medical Info
 - Parents entered this information at time of registration
 - You should have that information sent to you by the league. Let me know if you don't receive it
- 4) Field D Equipment Box Lid
 - The lid of the Field D equipment box is heavy and will hurt fingers and heads
 - Please limit the times players are going into the box
 - Please carefully lower the lid when you are done. **Do not leave the lid propped open...the wind will slam it shut and we don't want anyone getting hurt.**

4) Assistant Coaches / Team Parent / Snack Policy

- League will conduct background check on all coaches. Please return the requested info to Eric Nelson
- Team Parent – if you would like, assign one and let me know. Typical duties...snack schedule, picture day coordination, end of year awards picnic coordination.

- Snack Policy - no policy. Recommendation...if someone has a passion for it, let them take charge... have that person make a schedule. Let everyone participate; know who has allergies (from registration info).

5) Game Locations

- Field D – Mendon (Near St. Catherine’s church)
 - Most T-ball games are held on Field D (northeast corner of the complex)
 - Park in St. Catherine’s lower parking lot and walk across the footbridge. Field D is immediately to your right.
 - Equipment will be in the Field D box. Your coach’s key will open the box.
- Field #1 and Field #2 - Mendon
 - These are the Majors fields (12U)
 - Grab equipment from the Field D equipment box before your game.
 - There are empty equipment bags in the Field D equipment box (make a “to go” bag)
 - Replace the equipment after your game
 - Since the bases are further apart, throw down temporary bases at an appropriate distance
- Fields A, B, and C – Mendon
 - These are the minors (A/B) and intermediate (C) fields
 - Grab equipment from the Field D equipment box before your game.
 - There are empty equipment bags in the Field D equipment box (make a “to go” bag)
 - Replace the equipment after your game
 - No need to throw down bases, these fields are same dimensions as Field D

6) Pre-Game Practice/Drills

Practice for 30 minutes before games.

We will provide pre-game practice plans. These are drills and activities covered in the coach’s clinic handbook. You are free to adjust and add your own ideas, but please do not skip this important part of the program. We have intentionally adjusted our T-Ball teams to have less players per team. This is to make the games shorter which are 1) more fun for everyone and 2) give you more time for pre-game drills.

Feel free to include as many parents as possible in the pre-game drills. Most of the activities can be done as small-group activities which means the more parents you have helping, the smaller the groups and the more action for each player.

7) Handouts

- Equipment Box/Rake shed key
- Uniforms
- Picture Order Forms
- Red Wings Tickets