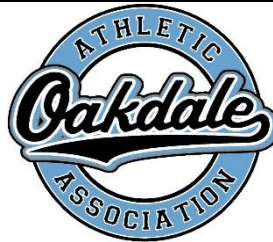


South East Metro League



TBall PreK/K Grade

This TBall (PreK and K grade) division is a part of the South East Metro League and is a joint venture of CGAA, ERAA, OAA, Como and WAA to promote the ideals of sportsmanship and spirit of competition across the four sporting communities.

The league will be governed by officials from all Associations.

Teams will be comprised of players PreK and K grades with a minimum age of 4 years old.

The league has been created to provide girls playing Rec/In-House softball a positive and fun, yet competitive environment. The teams from the Associations are created in that spirit.

Teams will be created by the following means:

CGAA, ERAA, OAA, Como and WAA teams will be formed by their respective league director.

Softball Rules – PreK and K

Official USA Softball rules governs all play except as noted in these South East Metro SOFTBALL RULES.

Safety

Injuries

Safe play is the most important consideration. If a player is injured, the play in progress shall be completed and time-out called immediately. Bleeding wounds must be bandaged before the player may re-enter the game. Report serious injuries to the league's commissioner.

Shoes

Players must wear tennis shoes or rubber cleats. No sandals or metal cleats.

Helmets

Batters, all base runners, and the on-deck batter must wear helmets. All helmets must have a proper fit with a face mask attached. It is highly encouraged that the helmets also have a chin strap and are used by the players.

Fielders Masks

For TBall it is encouraged but is not required for players in WAA to wear fielders' masks, however in **CGAA and ERAA fielders masks are required.**

**Note that levels beyond TBall they are required in all Associations.*

Catchers Equipment

Catchers equipment is optional for the Tball division, however the player must wear a batting helmet at minimum.

Thrown Bats

Throwing bats is not allowed. First thrown bat results in a warning. Second thrown bat by the same player at any time during the game results in an out.

Lightning

If lightning is observed by a coach or umpire, the game will be halted for at least 30 minutes from the last observed flash before resuming play.

Umpires

The Tball league is strictly developmental. No umpires are needed, coaches will act as such in the event of a legal out being made.

Coaches

Coaches are allowed in the field with the players to instruct and shift players as needed.

Season Rules

Rescheduling Games

Coaches are responsible for coordinating with the league commissioner to reschedule games called for weather or any other reason. All games should be attempted to be rescheduled.

Game Times and Time Limit

Teams shall be at the fields at least 15 minutes before game start time.

All games shall start at 6:00 p.m. and will last for one (1) hour **or** until the home team has batted through their final at bat. In the event of a later start, the game shall be completed no later than 8:00 p.m. and there is no danger to the players as a result of darkness.

Home Team

The home team is determined by the schedule for all regular season games. Each team supplies game balls for their own team to hit. Can use a bucket of balls to keep game moving however be sure that no extra balls are in the field of play or pose a safety risk to the kids.

It is the responsibility of the coaches to know who is home and away.

Substitution

Free defensive substitution and all players bat. Late arriving players must be inserted at the end on the batting order.

Playing Time

During the course of the season coaches must move players throughout the field, both infield and outfield to provide an opportunity to play as many positions as possible. *Players are not allowed to play the same position twice in the same game.* Players should be allowed to play every position during the season. No players are allowed to sit on the bench for consecutive innings unless in the case of injury or illness. No player should sit on the bench twice in a game prior to all players sitting on the bench once.

Minimum Players

As wins and losses are not tracked at this level, there is no minimum of players required. Coaches should use their judgment, and the teams may scrimmage sharing players to balance as necessary.

Maximum Players

Tball Division does not play by the customary rules of 10 players in the field for defense. All players may play in the field at the same time. Spacing the players evenly is required.

Out of Play

The field of play includes foul territory up to an imaginary line drawn parallel to the foul line from the edge of the backstop. Balls beyond this imaginary line are out of play.

Ball

A baseball "softie" will be used.

Base Distances

The base distance is 60 feet.

Winning and Losing

TBall is a non-competitive division, no score will be kept.

Sportsmanship

No protests are allowed. There should be no arguments between coaches. Coaches should meet before the game starts to review the rules and agree on gray areas. No taunting of the opposition either from the field of play or from the bench, including hurtful cheers. No taunting includes coaches and spectators. Any un-sportsman like conduct should be reported to the respective team's Association League Directors.

Game Rules

Hitting

1. Teams must bat all players on the team. It is suggested to have the team bat entire lineup and then switch sides however coaches can agree on an alternative approach before the game. Last batter up can be declared "home run hitter" to clear the bases. Please notify other coach when this batter is up.
2. The tee shall be placed directly in front of home plate, close enough to home plate as to not hinder runners coming home to score.
3. The batter must stand in the designated batter's box when at bat. The batter's box shall be positioned in relationship to the tee and not home plate.
4. Players will bat off a tee. If a player is capable of hitting a pitched ball, you may do so from 10 feet away with a maximum of three (3) pitches. After three (3) pitches the player should hit off the tee until the ball is put into play. It is encouraged to start shifting to coach pitch halfway as the season progresses, but coach discretion based on the player's ability.
5. The batter is allowed as many swings as needed to hit the ball.
6. No intentional bunting will be allowed. An intentional bunt will be called a foul ball. A player must take a natural swing at the ball.
7. Tracking and enforcing outs will be left at coach discretion (agreed upon prior to game start) Batting full lineup each half inning is encouraged to ensure all kids have equal opportunity.

Base Running

1. The base runner may not lead off the base or steal while the ball is still on the tee or being returned to the catcher to be placed on the tee.
2. It is encouraged to have the players run one base at a time with the exception of the last batter up, designated as a "home run hitter" to clear the bases and allow the players to all run the full set of bases.
3. No advancement of running on an overthrow (this is to encourage teaching players to make the throw).

Fielding

1. Defense will have players on the field spread evenly.
2. Infielders shall play in traditional positions, remaining player spaced out behind the infielders.
3. Infielders may not stand in the baseline and interfere with base runners.
4. Players should be taught to make a throw to the base the runner is advancing, whether outs are enforced will be based on coach agreement prior to the game start.

Conduct

Any player, parent or coach that is belligerent towards any child, coach or umpire will be warned first by their coach or umpire. If actions continue, the game will be called, and the offending team will forfeit the game.

- a. Refer to the Parent/Coaches Code of Conduct that was signed at registration for belligerent acts.

These rules are subject to change by the League Directors only to create clarification and/or to preserve the integrity of the game. Changes will only be made with proper communication to all coaches.

Any proposed rule changes by a coach or parent can only be addressed by them at the Rule Committee meeting. Any rule not covered here or in the general rules shall be covered by the Official USA Fastpitch Rule Book.