

2019 Coed Little Hitter T-Ball and Coach Pitch

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Brandon Township Parks & Recreation Little Hitters Coed T-Ball and Coach Pitch are **RECREATIONAL** in nature, not competitive. This program stresses respect and basic rules above all else. Wins, losses, and scores are **NOT** recorded for T-ball or Coach Pitch games. We recommend that coaches rotate players through all positions. This is the only opportunity to play league baseball or softball for many of our local youths, so praise each player regularly and sincerely. They will remember this experience for the rest of their lives!

MUST-READ for ALL COACHES...

We expect all coaches, parents and spectators to model respect and good sportsmanship under ALL CIRCUMSTANCES. Coaches should address parents or spectators exhibiting poor conduct. The site director reserves the right to reprimand or evict any coach, parent or spectator exhibiting unsportsmanlike conduct or disrespectful behavior. Issues regarding rule interpretations, coaches, or parents should be directed to Brandon Township Parks & Recreation.

OFFICIAL HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL RULES SHALL GOVERN ALL LEAGUE PLAY, WITH THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS AND RESTATEMENTS:

1. The home team will sit on the third base side of the field. The home team is listed first on the schedule.
2. The only persons permitted to sit on the bench are eligible players, coaches, and assistant coaches/parent helpers.
3. Batting teams may have one first and one third base coach in their respective coaching boxes.
4. Only one “on deck” player is permitted in the “on deck” circle. Coaches and Assistant Coaches may only instruct their own team members.
5. Weather cancellations are rescheduled by Brandon Township Parks & Recreation whenever possible. It is each coach’s responsibility to check with the office for rescheduled game times.
6. Failure to show for rescheduled games results in forfeiture. Forfeited games are not rescheduled.

Player Eligibility

Coed Little Hitter Leagues	Ages
Coed T-ball	4 and 5 years
Coed Coach Pitch	6 and 7 years

Uniforms and Equipment

A team warning may be issued for noncompliance with the following rules. The absence of a warning does not allow teams to disregard any rules.

1. All players must wear league-issued uniforms.
2. All players must wear long pants or baseball pants. **NO SHORTS.**
3. All players must wear socks and shoes. Tennis shoes or other all-purpose shoes with rubber cleats are allowed. Steel-cleats and hard-soled shoes are not allowed.
4. All male catchers must wear a protective cup.
5. It is strongly recommended that players wear mouth protection.
6. All catchers must wear approved catcher’s helmet with face mask while playing in the catcher position.

7. Batters and base runners must wear protective helmets properly positioned to cover the head, ears, and temples. Chinstraps shall be used and kept snug on the player's chin. Refusal to wear a helmet by a batter or deliberate removal of the helmet by a base runner while ball is in play will result in the player being declared out.
8. There is no mitt size or type restriction.
9. Uniforms must be tucked in at all times.
10. Metal Jewelry is not allowed. This does not include rope, rubber or friendship type bracelets.
11. Intentional throwing of helmets, bats, catching equipment or general equipment abuse will not be tolerated. Violators will be immediately ejected from the game.
12. Equipment must be kept off the playing field.

Balls: Coed T-ball and Coach Pitch Leagues use a 9" safety ball.

Player Requirements

1. Coed T-ball teams may field all players present; Coach Pitch may field ten players. There is a maximum of six infield players.
2. Each player that is present and physically able to play shall appear in the batting order. Players arriving late for a game will be placed at the bottom of the batting order. In case of injury, the next batter in order shall replace the injured player and the order resumes from that point.
3. No player may sit out for two consecutive innings. Violation of this rule will result in forfeiture. The only exception may be an injury sustained during play of current game. Coaches must play the injured player at the top of the first inning that the player is ready to be admitted.
4. Any player exhibiting unsportsmanlike conduct may be removed from the game at the coach's or site director's discretion. This player is not subject to minimum playing requirements for that game.
5. Free substitution will be permitted for all positions as needed.

Official Game Parameters

1. Each game shall consist of up to three innings unless the game is stopped for:
 - a. Thunder, lightning, significant rain: The Brandon Township Weather Policy states that all games are stopped for any thunder or lightning, however distant, and all players must take cover in a building or vehicle, NOT in the DUGOUT (metal fencing). If conditions have not cleared after 15 minutes, the site director officially calls the game per Brandon Township Recreation's current weather policy.
 - b. Unsafe playing conditions
 - c. Darkness
2. All games will start at the designated start time. Any team that does not have a full roster present as of the scheduled start time will be allowed to play short.
3. An official game should consist of a minimum of two innings.
4. Games cancelled by coaches for any reason will NOT be rescheduled. Games considered forfeits would not be rescheduled.
5. Game start times are listed on the league schedule. Teams must clear the field promptly if any game is scheduled after them on the same field. **SEE YOUR SCHEDULE**
Lights will be extinguished on both Community Fields by 10:15 p.m.

Playing Field Dimensions

- **Coed Little Hitter Leagues**

Playing field consists of 55-foot baselines.

A four-foot batting circle will be drawn on the field using home plate as the center.

The area inside the batting circle but outside the base lines is considered a foul ball.

Player Injuries

WHEN IN DOUBT, CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY.

The safety and well being of players take precedence over all other issues.

1. In the event a player is injured, the following minimum actions shall be taken:
 - a. Play will be stopped and the coach or his assignee shall immediately go to the aid of the player.
 - b. The player will not be removed from the playing field until it can be determined that it will not jeopardize the player's health or well being.
 - c. If the injured player cannot immediately leave the field, all players on the field shall return to their respective benches and remain there until the situation is over.
2. Play may be resumed under the following conditions:
 - a. A substitute for the injured player will be inserted and play immediately resumes.
 - b. The injured player may not return to the game until all bleeding is stopped. All blood on the player, clothing or equipment must be completely cleaned or exchanged.

Base Running Safety: If a player deliberately or maliciously runs into a fielder, that player may immediately be ejected from the game. Such situations will be reviewed by Brandon Township Recreation and further action taken if necessary.

Special Rules for Coed Little Hitter Leagues

Base Running

1. Base runners cannot leave the base until the ball has been hit. Violators will be declared out.
2. A player may only advance one base on any infield hit (with the exception of the final hit for the half inning which clears the bases).
3. Runners may attempt to advance extra base on balls hit into the outfield only after the ball has crossed the grass edge of the infield (ground ball or fly ball).

Pitching/Catching

The fielding player who is in the pitcher's position must remain in the pitcher's circle until the batter hits the ball. Violation of this rule will result in the play begin declared dead. All base runners advance one base.

Batting

1. To be considered a fair ball, the bat must strike the ball.
2. Bunting is not permitted. The batter must take a full swing.
3. Non-intentional bat throwing will result in the player not advancing to first base, as determined by the coaches. A second incident by the same player within a single game will result in ejection for the remainder of that game. Players may carry bat halfway down the baseline to help control bat throwing.
4. Coaches will be allowed to position a batter in the correct batting stance before the first swing.

Coed T-ball League Special Rules

1. A half-inning consists of the team's entire line-up.
2. Runners may continue to rotate through the bases even if they are thrown out on base.
3. The last batter will hit a home run to clear the bases.
4. The batting line-up must be rotated to give each child the chance to clear the bases.
5. The catcher stands against the backstop directly behind the batter until the ball is hit. The catcher is required to wear a protective helmet with a facemask.

Coed Coach Pitch League Special Rules

1. A half-inning consists of the team's entire line-up.
2. Each coach will assign an adult to pitch to his or her own team. The adult pitcher MAY pitch from outside the pitcher's circle if they prefer. The fielding team will have a player in the pitcher's position for fielding purposes.
3. Each batter receives up to four pitches to hit the ball and then will be allowed to hit off a batting tee.
4. Catchers are required to wear full gear for protection from foul balls pitches. Catchers should be taught the proper catcher's stance.
5. Runners MUST return to the bench if they are called out on base.