

SUSQUEHANNA TOWNSHIP BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

T-BALL LEAGUE POLICY MANUAL

(as adopted January 12, 2004 and amended March 12, 2018)

Index

Section 1: Code of Conduct	Pg 1
Section 2: Official League Games	Pg 1
Section 3: Ground Rules	Pg 2
Section 4: Game Rules	Pg 2
Section 5: Composition of Teams	Pg 3
Section 6: General Dissatisfaction of Players/ Parents/Coaches	Pg 4
Section 7: Emergency Equipment Purchases- Equipment, Supplies	Pg 4
Section 8: Team Rules & Discipline	Pg 4
Section 9: Post Game Clean Up-Field Maintenance	Pg 5
Section 10: Practice Schedules	Pg 6
Section 11: Concession Stand Operation	Pg 6

Section 1: Code of Conduct

(a) The purpose of the code of conduct is to further amplify Article II of the Constitution of the Susquehanna Township Baseball Association.

(b) The following types of conduct will not be acceptable by coaches or players, and upon review by the President, T-Ball Coordinator, and one other board member (none of which may be T-Ball coaches) shall result in a one game suspension that is subject to adjustment by the review committee and appeal by the affected party:

- (1) Profane or vulgar language
- (2) Harassment of players or coaches
- (3) Gestures of bad taste
- (4) Fighting
- (5) Handling equipment in a manner that could cause physical harm to anyone or the damaging of equipment and league property

Section 2: Official League Games

(a) Starting times will be determined as set forth in the official league schedule.

(b) The coach of the home team, in cooperation with the coach of the away team, shall be responsible for postponing a game due to rain or wet grounds.

- (1) The coaches must determine that the field is not suitable for play as far ahead of game time as is possible under the circumstances.
- (2) In the event the game is postponed, the coordinator must be notified of the postponement.
- (3) The coaches, with the agreement of the coordinator, will reschedule the game at a

mutually agreed up date and time.

- (c) Postponed games are to be rescheduled and played within seven days, if possible.
- (d) The coaches will act as umpires for the games and will cooperate with each other in performing that function.
- (e) A board-approved official T-ball must be used in all games. The home team shall provide game balls.
- (f) Batting helmets or other appropriate head gear must be worn by base runners, player base coaches, and catchers at all times. Throat protectors and athletic supporters with cup are mandatory for all players used as catchers.
- (g) The T-Ball coordinator will provide the official League playing rules which shall prevail and be enforced unless otherwise superseded by this policy manual.

Section 3: Ground Rules

- (a) Avoiding contact or sliding by a base runner is absolutely necessary anytime a play is made on said player except at first base. If contact is made, player is out.
- (b) Head first slides are PROHIBITED.
- (c) All players must remain in the dugout/bench area during the game except:
 - (1) The defensive players;
 - (2) The batter and on-deck hitter
- (d) Only players and coaches are allowed in the in-play area during the game. All other persons shall be considered unauthorized and are subject to removal.

Section 4: Game Rules

- (a) Practices will be held at least once per week and one game will be played each week.
- (b) All games shall be a minimum of three innings (or longer if three innings are completed in less than one and one-half hours) but shall not last more than one and one-half hours.
- (c) An inning constitutes one at-bat for each player on each team.
- (d) All players must bat and play the field (unless being disciplined) in every inning.
- (e) 3 outs will not end an inning but will clear the bases.
- (f) No stealing is permitted.
- (g) All players on base and at bat must wear helmets.

(h) All players not on the playing field, on base, or at bat must remain in the dugout or on the bench.

(i) From Tee - players are allowed unlimited swings to hit.

(j) Pitched balls – players are allowed 5 swings to hit. If a pitched ball is not hit fair by the batter after 5 swings, the coach will be allowed to give 5 “soft toss” throws from a position adjacent to the batter. If a “soft toss” ball is not hit fair by the batter after 5 swings’ the Tee will be brought out to be used by the batter.

(k) Coaches are encouraged to cooperate on all calls and decisions and to make the game a fun learning experience for the players.

(l) The Tee will be used for all batters until the fourth week after the official opening day. After the fourth week, coaches will pitch to the batters of their team. No players will be permitted to pitch; however, the defensive team will place a player at the mound for defensive purposes.

(m) No scores of games will be kept.

Section 5: Composition of Teams

(a) Teams rosters shall be created with the goal of maintaining a roster size of 6 to 7 players, whose playing ages will be five and six, with playing age to be determined based upon the players age on August 31 of the year during which they seek to participate.

(b) If approved by the Board, the T-Ball coordinator shall have the authority to alter, by either increasing or decreasing, roster sizes, based upon the presence of exceptional circumstances. However, in doing so he must make every reasonable effort to ensure roster size parity.

(c) The coordinator will supply a team roster of players to each head coach after the Jr. Pony level selection meeting. This roster will include name, age, address, and telephone number.

(d) There will be no trading of players at any time.

(e) All five and six-year-old must participate in this program subject to the following exceptions: all players wishing to “play up” in the Junior Pony division must so request in writing to the T-Ball Coordinator at least 5 weeks before the opening day of the season. If the request is received after 5 weeks a separate evaluation must take place. The written request must specify the reason(s) for the request. If the player has previously played for an Association team, the request must be accompanied by a written or verbal concurrence by the player’s previous head or assistant coach. Failure to supply a coach’s concurrence may be considered grounds to deny the request. The requesting parent / guardian may present his / her request to the T-Ball Coordinator in person, via email, or at a regularly scheduled board meeting. If the request to play up is granted the player must attend and participate in the scheduled Junior Pony evaluations. If after participation in the Junior Pony evaluations (or the separate evaluation) the evaluating coaches deem the player not sufficiently ready to play in the junior Pony Division, the player will be placed on a T-Ball roster for the current season.

Section 6: General Dissatisfaction of Players/Parents/Coaches

(a) In the event that a dispute arises or general dissatisfaction develops during the season between any member of the coaching staff of a team and the parents or guardians of a team member (hereafter referred to as "Parent") the following procedure shall be followed:

- (1) The problem shall be thoroughly reviewed by the head coach and the coordinator as soon as possible. Every effort should be made to resolve the conflict.
- (2) If the conflict cannot be resolved to the mutual satisfaction of all parties, the head coach or parent may elect to remove the player from the team's active roster. When this occurs, the party taking action must forward a detailed written report within seven days of such action to the coordinator setting forth all reasons for removing the player from the active team roster.
- (3) Within seven days of receipt of said report, the coordinator shall confer with the coach and parents separately in an attempt to resolve the conflict. At the discretion of the coordinator, a meeting of all concerned parties may be convened. If these attempts at resolution are unsuccessful, the player shall be permanently removed from the roster and may re-enter the T-Ball program the following year.

Section 7: Emergency Equipment Purchases - Equipment, Supplies

(a) Article VII - Finances - Section 6 (STBA Constitution) prescribes the manner in which all necessary baseball equipment purchases shall be handled. However, when an emergency purchase is necessary, the head coach or designee shall inform the T-Ball coordinator or Association President of the need for equipment. The T-Ball coordinator may grant permission for the purchase as long as the cost does not exceed fifty dollars.

(b) At the beginning of each season each team shall be given one dozen baseballs.

Section 8: Team Rules and Discipline

(a) It shall be the inherent right of all head coaches to establish their own team rules and team discipline policy. The rules and discipline policy shall be consistent with the Constitution of the Association, its By-Laws and rules, and this manual.

(b) Each head coach shall explain the team discipline policy to the players and parents prior to the start of the season. It is strongly suggested that the policy be given to each player in written form along with a statement about the code of conduct set forth in Section 1 (a), and (b) of this manual.

(c) A copy of each team's disciplinary code must be provided to the T-Ball coordinator prior to the start of the season. This copy will be filed for reference in the event that a general dissatisfaction conflict should occur. Neither the T-Ball coordinator nor the Board of Directors have any right to pass judgment on the disciplinary code established unless there is a contradiction to the Constitution.

Section 9: Post Game Clean Up - Field Maintenance

(a) Prior to the first game of each day, the home team coaches of the first game shall rake, line,

and otherwise prepare the field for play, including setting out the bases.

(b) At the conclusion of each game, the head coaches will insure that team members for each team clean their dugout area. Also, the away team coaches should assign to their players areas around the field of play for general removal of paper, cans, and other litter.

(c) Following the final game of the day on each field and between games as necessary, the home team will be responsible for raking the dirt areas of the infield and for returning the bases and any other league equipment to the storage shed. The batter's boxes and pitching mound should be raked and leveled to eliminate holes caused by routine play. Additionally, the area around each base should be raked to return dirt to low spots. The visiting team will remove any litter from the areas surrounding the playing field and dispose of it properly.

(d) All team head coaches will be assigned by the league 1 or more week(s) of grass cutting responsibilities for Kaufman field. The head coach may split this responsibility with the assistants on the team if they are agreeable to it. No one under the age of 16 is permitted to use the field tractor or push mower for any purposes.

Section 10: Practice Schedules

(a) Pre-season practice may start the day following the date of the coaches' meeting. A schedule for field use shall be developed by the T-Ball coordinator in consultation with the coaches.

Section 11: Concession Stand Operation

(a) For STBA fields - The home team shall provide two responsible (16 years old or above) volunteers to operate the concession stand. The volunteers shall operate the concession stand starting 20 minutes prior to the official start time of the game, and finish 10 minutes after the completion of the game or when relieved by the following game's volunteers (whichever occurs first).
