

2024
MADISON BASEBALL ASSOCIATION
(SUPPLEMENT TO OFFICIAL BASEBALL RULE BOOK)

T-BALL RULES

AGE RULE: Players born after January 1, 2017 through June 1, 2019 are eligible to play in the 5-6 year old T-Ball division.

REGISTRATION: Registrations submitted after the T-Ball registration deadline will not be accepted unless a player moves into the area. The MAB Board will place the new player(s) on a team at their discretion.

PRACTICES: Teams will be provided with scheduled practice times and locations. Try to keep practice times to 1 hour.

REGULATION GAME: A regulation game shall consist of 3 **innings**. may be fewer innings if there is a game on the field after them or if weather becomes a factor, i.e. Rain, lightning or excessive heat.

COACHING: Coaches whose team is in the field may be on the playing field between the foul lines while the game is under way to help players focus on the game being played.

NUMBER OF PLAYERS: Teams must have at least 7 players to begin a game.

LINE-UP: All available players must be in the batting lineup throughout the entire game unless removed due to injury.

LATE ARRIVALS: Players arriving late may begin at anytime. Their name will be placed at the bottom of the lineup.

BATTING: Each team will roster bat and all players will bat during an inning.

1st Inning each game, all players will hit off a tee.

2nd & 3rd Innings each game, the players will have the option to hit from a mechanical pitching machine or coach (If a mechanical pitching machine is not available.) Each player will receive up to 5 pitches per at bat. If the player has not put a ball in play after 5 pitches, the Tee will be brought out to complete the players at bat. If the 5th pitch in the at bat results in a foul ball, then the Tee will be brought out to complete the at bat, this is to keep the game moving.

If a batted ball strikes either the pitching machine or coach pitcher, the result will be a dead ball and the batter will be award 1st base and any base runners will advance one base.

RUN LIMITS: There is no run limit per inning. The inning will end once all players have had 1 at bat in the inning.

UMPIRES: The coaches and parents helpers from each team will serve as umpires for the game. If a batter or runner is called out, then that player **must** leave the field and return to the dugout. The T-Ball division is meant to develop player skills and teach players the rules of the game.

DEFENSIVE INNINGS: All players must participate during the course of the game but only 9 players may be allowed in the infield during any one defensive inning, the remaining players should start each at bat in the grass of the outfield. **Coaches must play every player at least 1 inning in the infield of each game.** Exceptions will only be made in case of injury.

CAPS: All defensive players must wear a cap while on the playing field.

SHOES: Shoes with metal cleats or spikes are not permitted by any player, coach, or manager.

PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR: Shall be worn on deck, at bat, and when base running during practices and all games. It is highly recommended, but not required, that players wear a helmet with face guard. **PENALTY** – Failure to wear this equipment will cause the player’s removal from the game.

CATCHER’S EQUIPMENT: The catcher is required to wear a helmet with protective facemask.

RUNNING: Runners may advance once the ball is hit. Once the ball is under control by an infielder (ball is in the glove or in the throwing hand and is above the infielder’s waist), the runner (s), if not on a base, can choose to either return to the last base touched, or continue to advance to the next base, with the infielder having the option of attempting a play on the runner(s) or not. If the infielder makes an attempt on the runner(s), the play continues as normal. If the infielder makes no attempt on the runner(s), or returns the ball to the pitcher/Coach, the play ends when the runner (s) reach base.

CONDITIONS FOR REMOVAL: Any player, coach, umpire or fan swearing or using foul language, consuming alcoholic beverages, or tobacco products will be removed from the game immediately. A player or coach removed from a game cannot remain in the dugout.