

KYAP T-Ball

RULES OF PLAY

- Players' ages are four to six.
- 15 players per team is the maximum.
- Games will be four innings long.
- 50 feet between the bases.
- A real or imaginary playing line is between first base and third base or an arc 40 feet from home plate. Players are not allowed to cross the line until the ball is hit.
- Every player bats and plays in the field.
- The ball is hit off a batting tee; there is no pitching.
- There are no walks or strikeouts.
- There will be a ten foot arc line in front of home plate. The ball must travel 10 feet or it is a foul.
- No stealing. Player stays on the base until the ball is hit.
- An inning is over when all the players have batted once or the defense has made three outs.
- Standard game is four innings.
- Scores are not kept.
- Home team is the first team listed on the schedule and will occupy the dugout on the third base line.
- Safety helmets must be worn.
- Bats - 25"/26" long. 2¼" diameter, max. 17 to 20 ounces.
- Soft core baseballs will be used.
- Tee - adjustable, flexible tube on a moveable base.
- Athletic footwear: tennis shoes or baseball shoes (NO metal spikes).
- No jewelry is allowed (earrings may be taped).
- At the conclusion of every game teams must line up and shake hands. This is mandatory, no exclusions.

Coaches are expected to instill the rules of baseball along with good sportsmanship. T-Ball is the first step in learning baseball and the focus should not be on winning or losing, but in preparing for the next level of play. The following skills should be used as a guideline for what is expected at the next level:

- Ready position – players should learn how to field the ball in this position (knees bent, butt down, on the balls of their feet, glove forward, pinkie fingers together, EYES ON THE BALL).
- Catching – players are encouraged to use 2 hands at all times. Coaches are encouraged to challenge players by not throwing

grounders directly to them. Teach them that their eyes and feet are more important than their glove in fielding, encourage shuffle movement and EYES ON THE BALL!

- Throwing – show them to throw overhand, never underhand (point your toe where you are throwing, EYES ON WHO YOU ARE THROWING TO).
- Batting – teach position in batter's box, teach to hit through the ball using a complete swing and correct as necessary (toes point at the plate, back elbow up, EYES ON THE BALL). Teach players to carry the bat for 2 steps and drop it outside the first base line - never throw the bat.
- Base Running – players are expected to know all the bases and their locations as well as which one to run to first (player must run through first base, and listen for coach's direction- VERY IMPORTANT).
- Outs – players should know there are 3 outs per inning and that by making outs they are rewarded with being able to bat more quickly (this is the incentive to keep their attention while on defense).
Repeatedly ask your defensive squad "How many outs do we have?"

Coaches know their player's ability better than anyone; coach to their ability.

REPEAT, REPEAT, REPEAT!!

Participation and good sportsmanship are the emphasis of the summer baseball program. Coaches, parents and spectators are asked to be examples of good sportsmanship. Derogatory or obnoxious behavior at these youth events will not be tolerated. Offenders will be warned to refrain from such behavior and then will be asked to leave.

Have a great season and remember to make this fun for the kids! Coaches should be creative and share with the other coaches what works for them. Remember we are all CARDINALS!

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call
Rob St.George - (989)284-2649.