

HAMPTON ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

2009 T-BALL RULES

T-Ball introduces the 5 and 6-year-old player to the basic skills and rules of the game of baseball or softball in an instructional setting. Player development, not scores, are emphasized. **Team standings are not kept.** All players receive a trophy at the end of the season. We use a RIF-1 (reduced injury factor) ball for all practices and games.

Teams are made up of 10-11 players from requests by parents, as well as the player “draft” procedure. After players are assigned to a team from the requests, the remaining players are selected by the coaches so as to allow each team to have 6-year-old players as well as 5-year-old players. Each player receives a team t-shirt and cap (visor).

All players are rotated after each inning so that they play both infield and outfield. No player may play the same position twice in a game.

All players play the field at one time. One player at each infield position except that there is **NO CATCHER**. All remaining players are spread out in the outfield.

All players bat each inning. You can change the batting order after each inning if you like. Please have a lineup card ready so that a coach or parent can assist you with organizing the players on the bench prior to batting. **HELMETS WITH FACEMASKS MUST BE WORN WHEN BATTING AND BASERUNNING.**

Games are 3 innings long. If time permits, you may play a 4th inning as long as you are off the field for the next time slot to play their game.

All players must hit off the TEE the first inning. NO EXCEPTIONS. In the 2nd and 3rd innings you may pitch five (5) balls to each batter. If a pitched ball is not put into play, you must immediately have the batter hit off the TEE in order to keep the game moving.

There are “outs”. If the team in the field makes a defensive out, the batter must leave the field and sit on the bench. Please teach your players this from the first practice, and emphasize how important it is to make an “out”. If the players are aware of this from the first day, it minimizes the upset feelings if they do get “out”. All players bat through the lineup no matter how many outs are recorded. The last batter is the “home run hitter”. This is announced to the team in the field. Regardless of whether they are put “out” at their at-bat, they, and all the remaining players on the bases run all the way home.

Do not keep track of the score. Emphasize how many outs your team can get.

There is **NO ADVANCEMENT** on an overthrow in the field. We want the players to learn how to throw the ball to the proper base.

THIS LEAGUE IS ABOUT TEACHING