

# 2023 BASEBALL LEAGUE RULES

## T-BALL & MITES



### A. FIELDS

- Games will be played at the Johnson Teen Center in Corvallis, which is attached to the Boys & Girls Club, and Philomath Middle School in Philomath.
- T-Ball plays Monday/Wednesday, Mites play Tuesday/Thursday. Game time will be 6:00 pm for both.
- The bases shall be placed at 50 feet with a 15-foot foul line which the ball must pass to be considered in fair territory.
- A pitching marker shall be at 30 feet for both leagues.

### B. PLAYERS

#### **BOTH:**

- Assistant coaches and parents may stand with defensive players on the field to help manage kids and playing action as needed. We work during the season to get the kids out there by themselves, but since kids develop at different rates, this may last longer for some teams than others.

#### **T-BALL:**

- All of the players are on the field at the same time.

#### **MITES:**

- Ten players shall be allowed on the field (four in the outfield). We can be flexible with this requirement. For example, if a team has only eleven players, a coach may want to add the last player into the outfield on defense.
- Teams with less than ten may still play.
- If a team has 6 players or less, the teams should “share” players to make the numbers more even.
- Players should hold a relative fielding position until after the ball has been hit, and not over shift for certain players as teams do at upper levels.

### C. GAME LENGTH

#### **BOTH:**

- The game length in all leagues will be one hour and fifteen minutes. Please do not begin an inning if it will cause the game to go past this limit. This will typically mean that T-Ball games will go two innings, and Mites games will go three innings.

### D. DEFENSE

#### **BOTH:**

- No player should sit out from defensive play more than one inning at a time.
- Coaches should work with all players to play various positions during the season. Players should switch defensive positions every inning.

### E. RUNNERS

#### **BOTH:**

- Runners may not advance on an overthrown ball into foul territory.
- There is no leading off, stealing, or sliding in any league.

#### **T-BALL:**

- As the result of a ball hit in play, runners may advance one base only. The reasoning behind this is to stop a runner from scoring on every hit, which is very possible. There are no doubles, triples, or home runs. The exception to this would be the last hitter of the inning, who will typically hit a “home run” and complete the run around the bases.

**MITES:**

- Outs will be enforced at this level in order to teach the kids more of the overall game.
- Play may continue (runners can run) until a “dead ball” situation occurs, such as the ones listed below:
  - An out is made (this includes all catches, tags, and forces – all those common to baseball);
  - The ball is thrown into foul territory;
  - An outfield hit ball is returned to the infield and a fielder has possession.

**F. BATTERS AND PITCHERS****BOTH:**

- All players in all leagues should be instructed in batting safety protocol.
- Teams will hit one full time through the line up even if 3 outs occur – every player will bat every inning.
- Outs are not officially kept to change innings.
- No player will strike out in any league.

**T-BALL:**

- A tee is used for all batters.

**MITES:**

- One of the team’s coaches will pitch to their own players.
- If a player is having trouble hitting the ball, a tee may be used after a “few” pitches (give players a chance, but do not delay the game; throwing 8 pitches is a good limit to bring in the tee).

**G. CATCHERS****BOTH:**

- Catchers will be used for all leagues.

**T-BALL:**

- A coach or designated parent shall stand with the catcher to ensure no injury occurs to the player, as they are not experienced enough in the game. Catchers will wear a catcher’s mask only.

**MITES:**

- Catchers may stand alone, but at least four to five feet behind all batters. Catcher’s will wear full gear – mask, chest protector, and shin guards.

**H. OTHER****BOTH:**

- The batting order is rotated every inning such that, the batter who batted first in the preceding inning shall bat last in the next inning. This allows everyone a chance to run the bases, since the last batter will always become an out.
- A safety soft baseball is used for both leagues.
- No official score or standings are kept for any leagues.
- All coaches, parents, and spectators are asked to use excellent sportsmanship at all times. Positive encouragement and cheering are a great way to support the kids and coaches.
- Players, coaches, and parents who do not exhibit positive characteristics will be asked to leave the area immediately and must meet with the Club’s Athletic Director before being re-admitted.
- Parents and coaches of the offensive team (at bat) shall provide a “base coach” at first and third base. They shall also function as umpires and shall call out and safe at bases and in the field.

*If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to give the Club offices a call.  
The Boys & Girls Club of Corvallis number is 541-757-1909.  
The Philomath Youth Activities Club number is 541-929-4040.*

**Thanks, and have a great season!**