

## Small Fry T-Ball Rules

### 1. Player Age

- a. Ages 3 and 4 years old
- b. Players must be at least 3 at the start of the season and/or must be 4 at the start of the season, but can turn 5 during the season.

### 2. Team Formation

- a. Teams will have between 8 – 12 players.
- b. All teams will be divided using the following criteria:
  - i. Coach request
  - ii. Friend request
  - iii. Address

### 3. Manager Requirements

- a. All coaches must submit a **YMCA** Volunteer Application.
- b. Background checks are performed on all coaches.
- c. Any coach, who fails the background check, will not be permitted to coach. Coaches may appeal.

### 4. Game Information

- a. Each session will last 45 minutes.
- b. Sessions will consist of 20 minutes of practice and 25 minutes of games.
- c. Weeks 1-3 are 45 minutes of practice or inner team games only. Games begin week 4.
- d. In the case of inclement weather, please call the YMCA at 972-231-3424 or check our webpage.
- e. The first postponement will be replayed at the end of the season. Subsequent cancellations will not be made up.

### 5. Umpires

- a. No umpires are assigned for small fry t-ball.
- b. Coaches and parents will act as umpires and enforce all league **rules**, assist in positioning players and aid base runners.

### 6. Equipment

- a. All players must provide their own glove and water.
- b. YMCA will provide the following: Game ball; helmets and bats.

### 7. Participation

- a. All players will play the entire game
- b. Each player should have the opportunity to play a variety of positions
- c. Players should be placed in a batting order and should hit in turn. If there are more than 9 players on your roster and are all present, the team will play with extra outfielders.
- d. ½ of the players will bat in first at bat and the second ½ of players will bat at next at bat.
- e. Coaches will work with batter “on deck” to keep as little down-time as possible. Our is to keep the game moving therefore keeping the players attention.
- f. Players arriving late will be placed at the bottom of the batting order.

### 8. Field Dimensions

- a. Pitchers Mound – 39'

- b. Bases – 45'

#### 9. **Uniform**

- a. All players must wear their Small Fry T-Shirt to each game. Wearing their t-shirt shows teamwork, respect and caring.
- b. Players may wear either rubber cleats or sneakers. (NO METAL CLEATS)
- c. No jewelry is permitted

#### 10. **Defense**

- a. Players should play a variety of positions
- b. Pitcher, catcher, 1<sup>st</sup> base, 2<sup>nd</sup> base, 3<sup>rd</sup> base, shortstop, right field, left field, centerfield.
- c. Players should be placed in a batting order and should hit in turn.
- d. If there are more than 9 players on your roster and are all present, the team will play with extra outfielders.
- e. Fielders should not be positioned in the base paths as to impede the runner's progress.
- f. Fielders should not be positioned on the base before the ball is hit.
- g. Fielders are encouraged to make a play at a base.
- h. Time is called when the ball has been thrown from the outfield to the infield.

#### 11. **Hitting**

- a. ½ of players will bat at “first at bat” and the second ½ of players will bat at “next at bat.”
- b. The hitter will wait until the ball has been placed on the tee and is given permission to swing.
- c. The ball must travel at least 5' from the tee in order to be in play.
- d. After any hit the batter can advance.
- e. The final hitter of the inning will advance until tagged out or reaches home safely.
- f. Throwing the bat after the swing is strictly forbidden
- g. There are no strikeouts
- h. All hitters will advance to 1<sup>st</sup> base regardless if safe or out.

#### 12. **Base Running**

- a. A runner may advance only when the ball is hit
- b. Base runners may not advance on an overthrow.
- c. No base stealing is allowed.

#### 13. **Coaches**

- a. While your team is hitting you are responsible for sending the batters up to the plate in order. Make sure that your on deck batter is ready in order to keep the flow of the game moving.
- b. While your team is in the field, you are responsible for keeping your players in position, alert and focused on the ball.
- c. Remember that the **YMCA** does not keep score in order to emphasize learning and fun.

**HAVE A GREAT SEASON!!!!**

