

T-Ball Rules

- **Field / Equipment / General**
- **Field:**
 - Bases will be 60 feet apart with a safety bag at first base.
- **Equipment:**
 - All games shall be played with a foam ball.
 - Cleats or tennis shoes are acceptable footwear. (Metal spikes are not allowed)
 - City of Destin will provide a bat, players can bring their own bat if they please to do so.
- **General:**
- **II. Number Of Participants**
 - A maximum of 9 players can be on the field for the fielding team.
 - Teams must have at least 3 players of each gender and must also have a minimum of 8 players to consider the game legal.
 - There is no boy/girl batting order rule. Batting lineups must have 9 batters with an option for a designated hitter (DH) to make 10. No more than 2 men can bat in a row. Players can bat in any order, provided the order is consistent throughout the game
 - Subs may be used at any time, so long as the opposing team is not opposed.
- **III. Regulation Games**
 - A regulation game shall consist of 9 innings or a time limit of 60 minutes. The game clock will start 5 minutes after the original starting time.
 - A game is considered official once 5 full innings have been completed.
 - In the occurrence of a tie, a throw off will determine the winning team. Throw off: 1 player will stand at the pitching mound and attempt to knock a ball off the tee by throwing another ball at it.
 - Home and Away will be determined by a coin flip
 - Team captains are responsible for lineups / innings / and keeping their own score book.
- **IV. Pitching / Fielding / Outs / Foul Balls / Overthrows**
- **B) Fielding:**
 - No player may advance past the 'pitch line' until the ball has been hit.
 - Lateral movement by the pitcher is tolerated, as long as there is no encroachment.
 - Players may play any formation they like as long as nobody crosses the 'pitch line' before the ball is hit.
 - 4 players must be in the outfield until the ball is hit
 - **THERE IS NO CATCHERS ALLOWED BEFORE THE BALL IS HIT**
- **C) Outs:**
 - The batting team gets 3 outs per inning. An out results due to the following
 - A ball caught on the fly
 - Base runner is forced out

- Base runner is hit with ball while not on base.
- 3 foul balls
- As even the most innocent looking pop ups are potential hits, there is NO infield fly rule. Only in force out situations will runs not count in third out situations (see next bullet).
- A force out constitutes a defensive player touching the base where forced player is running to, either with ball in hand or by throwing to a fellow teammate that is covering the base. Tagging or throwing at the player does not constitute a force play.
- There will be a 5 home run limit per team. This means you are allowed as a team to hit 5 Home Runs OVER the fence. Every Home Run after 5 will be an out. Your team can hit as many INSIDE the park home runs as you want.
- **D) Foul Balls:**
 - 3 foul balls will be called an out.
 - A foul ball that is caught counts as an out. Runners may advance as long as they tag up.
 - If a ball is touched in fair territory it is fair, regardless of other factors, i.e. foot placement of the fielder.
 - Fair vs. foul- If a ball is hit on the ground and touches fair territory first, then it MUST touch foul territory before 1st or 3rd base to be foul. No matter if it appears to go foul, the ball is not considered foul UNTIL it touches foul territory.
 - A ball may start foul on the ground and roll/bounce fair BEFORE 1st or 3rd BASE and be fair. A ball must be touched by defensive team in foul territory before 1st or 3rd base to be considered foul.
- **V. Batting / Running**
 - Batting:**
 - The batter must make contact with the ball while still in the batter's box.
 - Bunting is allowed, by female players only. The ball must go past the designated bunt line drawn on the field.
 - Each team may have base coaches at first and third bases.
 - If a batter lets go of the bat while swinging to hit the ball, the player will be out. After making contact with the ball the batter must drop the bat to the side, not throw or run with the bat down the base paths.
 - Batters may use whatever bat they would like. City of Destin will provide bats for games and if players choose to bring their own bat, City of Destin will not be held responsible if anything were to happen to the equipment.
 - Batting lineups must have 9 batters with an option for a designated hitter (DH) to make 10. No more than 2 men can bat in a row.
 - Running:**
 - There will be a 'safety' bag next to 1st base which every base runner must use to avoid collisions at 1st base. IF BASE RUNNER DOES NOT USE SAFETY BAG ON A FORCE OUT TO 1ST BASE

THEY WILL BE CALLED OUT. NO MATER WHAT. If there is no force at 1st base the runner does not have to use safety bag.

- Runners must stay in the base path at the umpires' discretion or they will automatically be called out.
- Infield base runners cannot advance until the ball is hit.
- Defensive fielders impeding with the offensive runners' path to the base, shall result in the runner being awarded the base they are attempting to run to.
- Leading off and stealing are not allowed. Leading off/leaving early will result in an out.
- Sliding is legal. But, please do so with caution, keeping fielders and your safety in mind.
- Runners can tag-up, at their own risk, once defensive player has control of the ball.
- After a ball is caught, the runner must tag up before advancing to the next base. Failure to tag up before advancing results in an out if the runner is tagged or the ball is thrown to the previous base prior to runner getting back.
- If any offensive runner passes a teammate that is running the bases ahead of them, the "passing" offensive player, will be called out.
- Balls thrown at the base runner must be below the head. Any head shot incurred while the runner is in an upright running position results in advancement to the base they were running to.
- Any intentional hitting of the ball with the head by a runner will result in an out.
- If runner slides, jumps or ducts to avoid a ball, this does not count as a head shot and runner will be "safe" or "out" depending on umpires call of the play.
- After a ball is hit, if the ball hits the batter or any base runner that is not on a base and is in fair territory, the batter or said base runner is out.
- If the batter or base runner is in foul territory, when struck by the ball, it is a foul ball.
- Pinch runners are allowed for injured players only, but the batter must make it to 1st base before said pinch runner can run for them. The runner will be the player that made the last out, of the same sex, on the offensive team.
- Injured batters that cannot bat in their respective place in the line-up are not allowed a pinch batter and are not allowed back into the game once they miss their turn due to an injury. Meaning they cannot play in any defensive position on the field.

- **VI. Mercy Rule**

- If down 12 runs or more after 6 innings of play.
- Games are 9 innings or an hour, unless the run rule comes into effect. In case of inclement weather, a game is considered to be a complete game when 5 innings have been completed.
- There is a maximum of 10 runs per inning allowed, except in the last inning, when it is unlimited.