



Gompers Park
Athletic Association
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TEE-BALL DIVISION RULES FOR 2024

GENERAL RULES

1. The home team is listed second on the schedule and is responsible for the setup and takedown of the bases, screens, helmet racks and any other GPAA equipment. Home team will occupy the third base dugout.
2. Base lines are 55 feet from the back of home plate to the back of the base; pitching distance is 40 feet from the front of pitching rubber to rear point of home plate. A 10-foot radius shall be drawn from the back point of home plate for the foul line.
3. Home team supplies one game ball.
4. Length of game will be 4 innings or 1 ½ hour time limit from the scheduled start of the game. Opposing managers may agree in advance to shorten a regulation game. For example: in the case of extremely hot weather.
5. An inning shall consist of three outs or six runs, whichever occurs first. **EXCEPTION:** If the batter/runner drives in the sixth run of the inning, then his run and any preceding runs will score unless an out is made during the play or the coach calls time. Maximum number of runs scored in an inning is 9. All rostered players will play the field and bat the entire game. Including the battery (pitcher & catcher), the maximum number of infielders shall be seven.
6. Infielders may not position themselves closer than 5 feet from the base path to home plate, they may however be moved any distance back from the baseline away from home plate. **NOTE:** For this rule, base path is defined as a straight line from the innermost part of the base to the next base.
7. No one player shall occupy the same position for more than **1 inning**. All players must play a minimum of **2 innings** in an outfield position. If the manager fails to comply with this rule, the penalty shall be one out for the second inning that the player plays the same position.
8. Catcher must wear mask and helmet.
9. No game shall be forfeited for lack of players. If one team has less than 8 players at forfeit time as defined in the General Rules, the game shall be rescheduled for the first available open date, unless both managers agree to play the game.
10. Up to two coaches or parents from the fielding team will be allowed on the field for the purpose of instructing the fielding players.
11. A pitcher making a play within the pitching area must throw the ball to make a play.

BATTING AND BASERUNNING RULES

1. Bats must meet specifications listed in the Bat Rules. If a player is caught using an illegal bat they will automatically be called out. The play is dead and all runner(s) will return to their bases.
2. Once the batter is in the batter's box and the coach has instructed the pitcher to pitch and the pitcher has made his pitching motion, the batter must attempt to make contact on the first swing.
EXAMPLE: when the batter comes to the plate, a reasonable amount of practiced swings will be allowed. After this, the coach will put the ball on the tee and the batter will be allowed to measure the ball. After this the batter will assume a batting position. The coach will then instruct the pitcher to make a pitching motion. After the pitcher makes this motion, the batter must attempt to hit the ball on the tee. NOTE: This rule will not apply when the batter has two strikes. In that case, the coach will pick up the ball and reset the play, but no strike will be charged to the batter.
3. The ball must be cleanly hit from the tee and pass the 10-foot foul line, otherwise it is a foul ball. Foul balls caught on the fly will be counted as outs. If the batter hits the tee and the ball on a strike 2 count, the batter will be allowed another chance. If the ball stops in the 10-foot radius, it is a foul ball and a strike will be called on the batter. Any player (excluding the catcher) fielding the ball within the 10-foot radius the ball will be considered dead and no pitch will be called. If the catcher fields the ball within the 10-foot radius it will be considered a foul ball.
4. The coach, prior to all games, will explain the "Thrown Bat Rule". At the beginning of the season, the rule will be as follows: If the batter throws the bat after a swing, the coach will then warn the team, (each team gets one warning) the play will stand. The next batter who throws the bat on that team will be automatically out. The play will be dead; runners may not advance. As the season progresses, the first thrown bat will not be allowed. The coach will warn both teams before the game and any player who throws the bat will be automatically out. The play will be dead; runners may not advance. The board will decide when to change the rule.
5. No stealing or lead-offs are allowed.

PITCHING/FIELDING RULES

1. Play for each pitch will begin when the pitcher makes a pitching motion toward home plate.
2. Pitcher must remain on the rubber until the ball is hit.
3. Only the catcher can make the first play at the plate. If any other player makes the first play the run will score. Outfielders cannot make an out in the infield.

LIGHTNING POLICY

When thunder is heard or a lightning bolt is seen, the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play and remove all players from the field and park. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or flash of lightning is seen prior to resuming play. For any subsequent thunder or lightning after the beginning of the 30-minute count, reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.

INJURIES

When a player is injured, time out will be called immediately.

UNIFORMS

1. Uniforms are to be worn in regular season games only, not for practice. Uniform is hat/visor, shirt, socks & pants/shorts approved by the Association. Athletic shoes must be worn. No other head apparel will be allowed.
2. All players are required to wear a helmet when at bat or on the bases, during the games and practices. Intentional removal of a helmet by a batter or base runner, while the play is in progress, will result in that player being called "OUT."
3. A team warning should be made during "ground rules" regarding jewelry. **Absolutely NO jewelry is to be worn by any player during practice or games. Any player caught wearing jewelry during the game while on the playing field or in the dugout will be ejected from the game. This rule is for the safety of all players on the field and will be strictly enforced. Band-Aids or other forms of concealment will not be allowed.**

FIELD REGULATIONS

1. No smoking and ABSOLUTELY NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES will be allowed on the field or in the dugouts at any time. This applies to all spectators as well as managers, coaches, and parents. Failure to comply with the alcohol regulation can result in forfeiture of the game, suspensions from the league, or at worst, arrest. (Alcohol is prohibited by the law on Park District Property.)
2. No one except rostered players, managers and coaches are allowed in the dugout during the game.
3. Players are required to be at the field 30 minutes before game time. This allows proper time for warm-up.
4. No one will be permitted to stand or sit behind the backstop during the game. Only the on-deck batter is allowed behind the backstop in the on-deck cage.
5. Each team's spectators will be responsible for keeping their area cleaned of empty cans, food wrappers, etc., following the game.
6. A contact avoidance rule will be enforced. Any deliberate, forceful or intentional contact with a fielder will result in the runner being called "out" regardless of the location of the ball. REMEMBER: it is the responsibility of the runner to avoid the fielder whether the fielder is fielding a batted ball, receiving a thrown ball or tagging a runner. If the fielder impedes the runner, interference will be called on the fielder and the appropriate base or bases will be awarded to the runner, but under NO circumstances should the fielder be considered "fair game" to the runner.
7. An overthrow is a dead ball. An overthrow is defined as a ball thrown beyond the boundaries of the field. The runner is entitled to the base he is facing and advancing towards plus one.
8. A pitcher is allowed 5 pitches between innings. Any new pitcher will be allowed 8.

MANAGERS AND COACHES FIELD DECORUM

1. The manager or acting manager will be the only people to have rules discussions once the game is underway. This applies to players, spectators, parents and other coaches. Failure to comply with this rule may result in forfeiture of the game.
2. Managers are responsible for the behavior of all their players, coaches, and fans.
3. Managers and coaches should wear team shirt and hat at all games.
4. Only the team on offense may have a coach in each coach's box at first and third bases. All other coaches, offensive and defensive, must remain in the dugout.
5. No verbal abuse of any kind should be allowed by one team toward the other. (Opposing team should not say "swing" when opponents are at bat.) Derogatory remarks about a specific batter to the pitcher should be strongly discouraged. (He can't hit! or "Easy Out!" for example) **IN THE INTEREST OF SPORTSMANSHIP, ONLY POSITIVE ENCOURAGEMENT TO ONE'S OWN TEAMMATES SHOULD BE ALLOWED.**
6. At the conclusion of the game, teams should line up behind their managers and, in a sportsmanlike manner, shake hands at the center of the field.

7. Managers will instruct their players not to spit in their hands before shaking hands with the opposing team. Any players found guilty of spitting in his hand may be subject to suspension of one or more games. (Per board approval)
8. No cell phones allowed on while on the playing field.

SPECTATORS

1. Only the on deck batter is allowed behind the backstops.
2. Any problems or questions regarding the interpretation of rules should be directed to the Division Vice President or the President.
3. Any problems or questions regarding the calls should be directed to the Division Commissioner or the President.

WEATHER

1. Unless notified by their manager or the league, all players must report to the playing field as scheduled. In the event the field is determined to be playable by the coaches, the forfeit rule goes into effect automatically.
2. Some games may be played on the grass if approved by the GPAA Board.
3. The decision to cancel a game will be delayed as long as possible, right up to game time, if necessary.
4. If managers of both teams do not agree on playing conditions, the game will be canceled and rescheduled.
5. All canceled games will be scheduled for the next available open date.
6. Canceled games must be reported to the Division Vice-President and the Division Commissioner immediately by the manager of the Home Team.
7. Once the game has begun, stopping, or cancelling the game becomes the responsibility of both Managers.

STATE LAW (720 ILCS 5/12 – 4 FROM CH.38 PAR. 17)

Knows the individual assaulted to be a sports official or coach at any level of competition and the act causing the assault to the sports official or coach occurred within an athletic facility or an indoor or outdoor playing field or within the immediate vicinity of the athletic facility or an indoor or outdoor playing field at which the sports official or coach was an active participant in the athletic contest held at the athletic facility. For the purposes of this paragraph “sports official” means a person at an athletic contest who enforces the rules of the contest, such as an umpire or referee, and coach means a person recognized as a coach by the sanctioning authority that conducted the athletic contest.

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

ANY CONDUCT DETRIMENTAL TO THE LEAGUE WILL BE GROUNDS FOR IMMEDIATE DISMISAL FROM THE GOMPERS PARK ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION