

## 2014 Roanoke Youth Sports T-ball Rules

1. The league is open to boys and girls ages 4-5. Unless approved by a Roanoke Youth Sports (RYS) representative, players must reach four (4) years old on or before May 1<sup>st</sup>. A player cannot participate if their sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) birthday occurs before May 1<sup>st</sup>.
2. All coaches shall remember that the RYS T-ball is a developmental league with an emphasis being placed on fun and learning the fundamentals of the game.
3. Coaches should emphasize basic fundamentals such as throwing, hitting, catching, and basic baseball principals. The identification of bases, positions, and good sportsmanship should be emphasized.
4. Although RYS strongly discourages rescheduling games for personal reasons, we understand that occasionally it is necessary. It is the responsibility of the coaches to address an upcoming scheduling conflict with RYS personnel early enough so that all parties can be notified of the rescheduled game. It is the coach's responsibility to notify their team of the re-scheduled game date and time.
5. A regulation game is comprised of at least three (3) complete innings or 60 minutes, whichever comes first. No inning may start after the 60-minute window has passed. In the event of inclement weather, the game shall be considered a regulation game if two (2) complete innings have been played. If two (2) complete innings have not been played, the game shall be replayed in its entirety as if the game had not been started.
  - a. In the event that a game is suspended, postponed, or cancelled due to weather or unsafe playing conditions, RYS will reschedule the games and notify the coaches. It is the coach's responsibility to notify their team of the re-scheduled game date and time.
  - b. A delay of no more than twenty (20) minutes can occur while waiting on weather conditions to improve. If after twenty (20) minutes the conditions do not improve, the game shall either be considered complete or rescheduled as outlined above.
  - c. Unsafe weather conditions can be determined by either coach or any RYS representative. Examples include high winds, lightning, thunder, rain, etc.
  - d. Without exception, games will not be played if a severe weather warning has been issued for either Huntington County or Roanoke.
  - e. A game will be halted immediately if lightning is witnessed by any coach, player, or RYS representative. A weather delay will then ensue with steps identified above followed to determine if the game is complete or needs to be rescheduled.
  - f. If a player is removed from a game by their parent due to weather conditions, that player shall not be penalized in any way by the coach or their staff.

6. An inning shall be considered complete if both halves of the inning have been played and three outs or the maximum number of players have batted for each team.
7. Each team shall have at least eight (8) players on the field. If a team has fewer than eight players, the game must be forfeited unless both coaches agree to play as such. Teams can play with a maximum of ten (10) players on the field.
8. The entire roster is eligible to bat in an inning. A player may only bat once per inning. A player need not play in the field in order to bat. The team at bat must notify the opposing coach when their last batter comes to the plate.
9. All players shall be eligible to play the entire game unless the child is injured, being disciplined, or has lost interest. Coaches have the right to discipline players by removing them from the game if the player's behavior disrupts the game. Disruptive players should be given a warning prior to being removed from the game. The player's parents/guardians should be notified at the time of the warning. A player cannot be suspended from a team without the approval of RYS.
10. If the defensive team registers three outs prior to the offensive team going through their entire batting order, the batting order should be resumed in the next inning at the point where the last out was registered.
11. All batters and runners must wear protective headgear (helmets).
12. If any batter throws the bat, the batter's coach and the batter shall receive a warning. If that same batter throws the bat during the game in which they received a warning, their at-bat shall be considered an out.
13. Coaches shall make all calls on the field. A coach from both teams must agree on the call. If there is a discrepancy, then a conference must be held between the coaches until a final determination can be made. If a final determination can't be made, the play shall be replayed with all base runners returning to their original positions.
14. Coaches are allowed on the field.
  - a. If the batted ball hits the coach who is pitching, the play shall be replayed.
  - b. Base coaches can be stationed at first and third bases to assist the baserunners.
  - c. The defensive team may have two coaches on the field. The coaches shall remain out of the base paths.
  - d. If an offensive (base) coach interferes, it shall be considered an out.
  - e. If a defensive coach interferes with the ball when it is play, all players shall be allowed to advance one base. No players will be considered out after the interference occurred. If a player was out before the interference, they shall remain out.
  - f. A coach cannot physically interfere with a runner in an effort to advance their position. In such cases, the runner shall be considered out.

g. Coaches should position their own players on the field in the appropriate locations.

15. If a base is overthrown, a player may advance one base. Good sportsmanship shall be maintained.
16. If a ball is hit into the outfield, the batter and base runners may advance as many bases as possible. Once the ball reaches the infield, the player may only proceed to the base to which he/she was advancing.
17. It is the offensive coach's responsibility to notify the defensive coach when the last batter in their order approaches the plate. When the last batter places the ball in play, the defensive team can stop all scoring by having a player touch home plate while in possession of the ball. The batters can continue around the bases until the defensive team has touched home plate.
18. A player will have the opportunity to bat until they make contact with the ball and it is put in play.
19. The ball must travel at least three (3) feet to be considered a hit. If the ball travels less than three (3) feet, it shall be considered a foul.
20. Outs will be counted. A half-inning ends when either three outs have been recorded or the entire roster has batted.
21. Scores shall not be kept.
22. No leading off or stealing is allowed.
23. No bunting is allowed.
24. A batter/base runner who intentionally runs into a fielder is considered out and a warning shall be made. In the event of a second infraction during the same game, the offending player shall be ejected.
25. The home team is responsible for promptly starting the game at the designated time and shall supply the tee and the bases. The bases shall be placed approximately thirty (30) feet apart.
26. Team treats and drinks can be offered after the game at the discretion and the responsibility of the coaches.
27. Coaches shall have at least one organized practice each week with the exception of weeks in which they have two games (if that circumstance ever occurs).

28. Coaches and team personnel shall refrain from smoking, using foul language, and displaying negative behavior in the presence of any players, parents, or RYS personnel. RYS reserves the right to review any incidents and enforce disciplinary actions up to and including ejection from the league.
29. RYS reserves the right to modify the rules as deemed necessary. The rule changes will not take place until all coaches have been notified.

**If you have any questions, please  
contact RYS at 437-8210.**

