

T-BALL GAME PLAY

WAA OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Webster Athletic Association Baseball program are to:

1. Foster and maintain high standards in the field of athletics.
2. Teach those participating the fundamentals and skills of baseball.
3. Instill and maintain good sportsmanship at all times.
4. Always work in the best interest of those youth participating.
5. Insure that all youth that register get to participate.
6. Structure leagues to avoid dominance by any one team.
7. Expose every player to all aspects of the sport of baseball.
8. Provide training information necessary to meet the program objectives to all volunteers.
9. Inform all parents of the program objectives and rules.
10. As appropriate, use WAA resources to provide visible community support to Webster youth through socially responsible community actions.

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After a practice session with your team, you should have time for a 3-inning game. Here are some ground rules to follow:

- All batters will hit every inning. There are no strikeouts or walks. The team on the field should attempt to make outs at the various bases, but in the event 3 outs are made, the hitting team will continue through their line-up. Scores are not kept, and wins and losses are not tracked in this league.
- The coach may pitch to the batters **during the last inning only**. In this situation, the coach is to pitch no more than 3 pitches to each batter. After 3 pitches, if the ball has not been hit, the assistant coach or helper should bring out the tee and let the batter hit. The reason for this rule is to keep the game moving. Constantly throwing extra pitches will bore the team on the field! Pitches should be thrown overhand.
- Playing field dimensions (depending on the available field space, the listed distances may have to be decreased):
 - a. The distance between bases shall be sixty (60) feet. This equals 20 paces.
 - b. The distance between home plate and second base shall be eighty-four feet (84'). This equals 28 paces.
 - c. The distance between first base and third base shall be eighty-four feet (84'). This equals 28 paces.
 - d. The pitching distance for the adult pitching shall be thirty (30) feet from home plate in line with second base. This equals approximately 10.
- Coaches should ensure that the fielding positions are rotated each inning, and per game. Give each child the chance to play all positions when appropriate. **There is no catcher in t-ball**. Ask a parent or older sibling to assist when the coach is pitching, but this helper **MUST** be well behind the batter to protect themselves from foul balls.
- One child per position, please do not place 2 or more children at the pitcher's mound when fielding. The hitting team's coach should notify the opposing coach when a strong hitter is batting so that the fielding team's coach can prepare and adjust his fielders (move pitcher back, get fielders ready). Beware of line drives back at the pitcher!
- All batters **must** wear helmets when hitting, and all baserunners must wear helmets when on the bases. If necessary, borrow the other team's helmets while batting.

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- **Only 1 child may be holding a bat at any time. There is absolutely NO ON DECK AREA!**
- No stealing, no leading, and no advancing on overthrows. The general rule is that if the batted ball makes it to the outfield, the batter and baserunners can take 1 extra base. When the final batter of the inning hits, you may have the runners touch all bases. Note that there will not be a player covering home.
- If a batter throws the bat after hitting, he/she will not be called out. The player will be instructed as to the proper technique. If a batter continues to throw the bat, the coach may elect to skip that batter's next turn at the plate. Some of our coaches have successfully used this technique.
- Coaches and helpers are allowed on the field. The hitting team should have a first and third base coach. A third base-running coach can be located near second base. When the coach is pitching, an assistant or helper should be prepared to bring out the tee in the event the ball is not hit within 3 pitches. Defensive teams are allowed to have 1 or 2 coaches in the field. Remember that the batting team needs a set of eyes around the bench to seat the players in order of line-up, and to watch for horseplay and anyone but the batter touching a bat. A parent helper works well here.
- There should be no need for sliding during a game. Runners must attempt to avoid contact with fielders.
- At the end of the game, have each team meet at home plate and each player and the coaches should shake hands. The players should help the coaches collect the equipment and put it away, and clean up any trash around the field.