

YOUTH BASEBALL RULES

Registration and Eligibility for 4U T-ball

Players are eligible to register and participate in Tee Ball if their "league age" is 3 or 4 as of September 1 of the previous year. If you would prefer your child to play up one age division this must be approved by SPARD staff.

SPARD staff will do their best to accommodate parents' requests for specific team set-up (i.e., children on teams with their friends, coaches, etc.).

All siblings will be placed on the same team unless specified otherwise during registration.

Offensive

At game time a supervisor will stand in the middle of the OYC complex and sound off a horn indicating the start of all games. (Clock starts) At the end of 50 minutes an additional horn will sound indicating the end of the game. (Clock stops)

Umpires will **not** be present at the games. Coaches from both teams are expected to respectfully monitor the game. The batting team may have a coach or parent volunteer at each base to help direct. All coaches **must** submit a background check prior to the first game.

Players will be given three attempts to hit off the tee. If unsuccessful after the third attempt, players will be permitted to run to first base, then proceed to the dugout.

Each team will go through the entire batting order each inning, with the last batter running all bases unless tagged/determined out, where they must return to the dugout. The batting order will be reversed during each inning. (i.e., First to Last, Last to First)

Defensive

A team consists of 5 infielders: a pitcher, shortstop, first, second & third baseman. Remaining team members will play as outfielders. Additionally, infielders must be stationed behind an imaginary line drawn between first base and third base until the ball is hit. Once the ball is hit, they may move to field the ball.

The defensive player will field the ball and throw to first base.

Three coaches will be permitted on the field for the defending team. If both coaches agree, more or less coaches may be present on the field.

Coaches are expected to rotate all players through all fielding positions each game (fill the field). Please only allow one participant for each position.

Practices/Games

Coaches will have the opportunity to host practice at our facilities at least once a week. Practice days and times will be determined by the volunteer coach. SPARD is not responsible in determining practice days and times. Practices are not mandatory for this age group.

Coaches will be the primary contact. Coaches will contact parents prior to the first practice and will continue to communicate throughout the season. Please make sure you download (if needed) any additional communication app(s) requested by the coaches.

Game locations are subject to change depending on weather and availability of fields throughout the season. Games will be available for view prior to the first game on the Stephenville website at:

<https://recpro.stephenvilletx.gov/LeagueSchedulesAndStandings.aspx?id=11>

SPARD will not be recording score for this age group. Please always encourage teamwork, good sportsmanship, and most importantly - FUN!

4U T-Ball Participant Code of Conduct

- Please allow coaches to coach and participants to compete.
- During practices, parents are required to remain in the spectator area. Spectator areas include the dugout or outside the fenced area.
- Belongings and trash must be picked up after every practice. All equipment utilized must be put back to its original space.
- Please label all items. Coaches and SPARD are not responsible for stolen or lost items.
- Damage to SPARD property and others property is prohibited.
- Bullying or aggressive behavior will not be tolerated and could result in immediate suspension of the program. This applies to athletes, parents, volunteers, and coaches. We must support each other positively.

Violations to any Code of Conducts will be immediately addressed by the coaching and SPARD staff. If deemed appropriate this could result in, but not limited to, a suspension or a lifetime termination.

The City of Stephenville continues to promote programs, events and activities, within the Parks and Recreation system. We emphasize a positive, safe, and rewarding environment for the youth of the Stephenville community. We ask that all participants please support SPARD in this mission by being respectful of facilities, coaches, and to one another.