

# PELHAM MINOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

## T- BALL DIVISION

### T-BALL RULE HIGHLIGHTS

#### T-Ball Helmet Policy

In accordance with Ontario Baseball Association playing rules and regulations: Each player must use an ear-flapped protective helmet with chinstrap. They must be worn when the players are at bat, while running the bases, and while in the batters circle. Chinstraps must be worn as designed by the manufacturer.

We require that the player in the pitching position also wear their helmet for safety reasons.

1. All players are up to bat and or on the field for the whole game.
2. In the event of a player's sickness or injury that player will have the opportunity to return to the game. When sick or injured players turn to bat occurs, he/she will be recorded as an out unless they fulfill their duties at bat.
3. Late arriving players may be added to the batting order at any time providing that the number of batters per team is always the same or equal. Should the game have started, he/she will be added to the bottom of the batting order.
4. Opposition coaches must be immediately notified of any alterations to the official batting order before the game starts and or additions to the official batting order during the game.
5. A complete game consists of three (3) full innings.
6. The distance from the rear corner of home plate and the first and third bases will be measured to 60 feet.
7. If one team has more players than the other, the deficient team shall overlap its batting order (as they are listed) until an equal number of batters has been obtained. The first batter of the next inning will be the player following the last batter of the preceding inning. This applies to each successive inning during the overlap procedure.
8. If a batter's turn comes up, while he is on base, a substitute runner will be put in to allow him to complete his turn at bat.
9. The number of runs, not the outs, will determine the winner.
10. Ground rules and other changes must be agreed to at home plate, prior to the start of the game.
11. A fair ball circle will be marked at an 8-foot radius from the back edge of home plate to intersect the first and third base lines. Any hit ball that does not, or in the judgment of the umpire could not have crossed the line (even if fielded) will be considered a dead ball and the batter will be awarded a strike. In the event of a foul ball on the third strike, the batter is still alive and in play. A hitter cannot strike out. Batters continue until contact with the ball is made.
12. A fair playing line will be marked between first and third base. No defending player, including the pitcher, will be allowed to cross this line, to field the ball, until the batter has hit it. For violation of this rule, the umpire will call "time" and award the batter another swing. He should also instruct the violating player, and upon repetition of violating this rule, will award the batter a free base to first base.
13. All players must hold their relative positions until the ball is hit.
  - A. Catcher: who shall play a position normally taken by catcher behind home plate, far enough back so he does not interfere with the batter while batting.
  - B. Pitcher: who shall play in the infield immediately and directly behind the pitcher's rubber and must assume a set position until the ball is hit.
  - C. 1<sup>st</sup>., 2<sup>nd</sup>., 3<sup>rd</sup>. baseman, and a shortstop: who shall play in positions regularly played by these infielders and they shall not cross the playing line until the ball is hit.
14. During the last batter sequence, only the pitcher and catcher are allowed inside the fair playing line, after the ball is hit. In the event any other player enters inside, all runs crossing the plate will count until this player removes himself outside this line, and the catcher legally terminates play (regardless of whether all runners have proceeded to home plate).
15. During the last batter sequence, only the catcher holding the ball and touching home plate can terminate the play. Any player may field the ball to home plate but the catcher must be the only one to terminate

play. All runners are free to advance to home plate without liability of being out under normal playing rules. The last batter is out when a fly ball is caught. In the event that the last batter of the offensive team who are base runners shall be permitted to score, provided they are on the base when the ball is caught or they retouch it after the ball is caught before touching the next base. These runners have to score prior to the ball being returned to home plate.

16. The pitcher must stand on the pitcher's mound until after the ball is hit. He is not allowed to roam.
17. The respective scorekeeper of each team must notify the umpire of last batter before he hits at bat. The umpire in turn must call out "LAST BATTER" to the defending team before last batter takes his turn at bat.
18. An offending player should be warned by the umpire for throwing his bat. Persistence in doing so can mean a "called out" by the umpire.

Umpires Note: Instruct both scorekeepers to mark an "X" beside the name of the warned and offending player for recall purposes. Upon verification, from the scorebooks, of the second violation call that play "OUT".

19. After completion of play sequence, the umpire must call clearly and loudly "TIME OUT". THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT TO THE PLAYERS. The ball should first be in the possession of an infielder. However, the umpire may call "TIME" if the ball is in the possession of an outfielder and no runners are advancing, or are suggesting a definite attempt to advance.
20. The catcher must wear full equipment including face mask at all times during his fielding assignment.
21. Coaches should recommend to parents that all players should wear adequate groin equipment.
22. A ball going out of the playing area, on an overthrow, automatically entitles each base runner to one extra base without liability of being put out. During last batter sequence only, all play continues without regard to this rule.
23. Both teams must line up to shake hands at the completion of the game.
24. All players involved in running, hitting and fielding, must wear at all times, adequate head protection supplied.
25. Running past first base, only, will be allowed without liability to a runner of being put out, unless a definite effort is made to advance towards second base.
26. It is the duty of the umpire, to remove and replace, when necessary to avoid injury and/or obstruction of play, the tee and/or bats after a batter has completed his turn at home plate.
27. Coaches must instruct players to touch home plate and not the base of the tee when attempting to score at home plate.
28. "A fair hit ball" is a legally batted ball that, in the plate umpire's opinion would have or could have crossed firmly the fair ball circle, in fair territory, even if it is fielded before crossing the line.
29. Coaches must instruct all players to throw the ball and discourage persistent and intentional rolling same.
30. Umpire's Note: Two runners may not occupy a base, but if, while the ball is alive, two runners are touching a base, the following runner shall be out when tagged. The preceding runner is entitled to the base. Any runner is out when he passes a preceding runner.
31. The playing area is defined as that area bounded by the backstop, fences running along the first and third base lines to separate the spectators from the playing field. Fair lines along first and third base do not constitute boundaries.
32. An overthrown ball is only considered to have left the playing area if it bounces over, rolls completely under, or becomes lodged in the above-specified fencing. A ball bouncing against and returning back freely from the fence is not considered to have gone out of play.
33. If the ball reaches the base before the batter, then the batter is called out and must return to the bench. The game will continue for the full batting order, it does not matter how many outs there are in the game as long as every child has a turn at bat for each inning.

Any Baseball that comes to rest in any area other than those described above is in play and must be retrieved by the fielder and play continues as in regular baseball rules. The only exception to this rule is during last batter sequence.