



## **Dracut Baseball Association T-Ball Format & Guidelines**

### **6 Year Old Division**

#### **Season Format**

The T-Ball season is 10 games structured into 3 segments.

#### **Band 1 (First 3 games of the season)**

- All players MUST use Tee when batting.
- Outs are not recognized, players stay on base.
- Base-runners are limited to one base advancement, except for the last batter of the inning when the bases are cleared.
- An offensive inning will consist of 5 batters.
- A game is complete at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> inning or after 1½ hours of play.
- All players play defense.
- Score is not kept.

#### **Band 2 (Second 3 games of the season)**

- Players must use the Tee in their first at bat. After the first at bat, coaches will pitch a maximum of 5 pitches. After the 5<sup>th</sup> pitch the Tee is then used.
- Outs are not recognized, players stay on base.
- Base-runners are limited to one base advancement, except for the last batter of the inning when the bases are cleared.
- An offensive inning will consist of 5 batters.
- A game is complete at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> inning or after 1½ hours of play.
- All players play defense.
- Score is not kept.

### **Band 3 (Final 4 games of the season)**

- Coaches pitch to batters, maximum of 5 pitches. After the 5<sup>th</sup> pitch the Tee is used.
- Outs are recognized, players stay on base
- Base-runners are limited to one base advancement, except for the last batter of the inning when the bases are cleared.
- An offensive inning will consist of 5 batters.
- A game is complete at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> inning or after 1½ hours of play.
- All players play defense.
- Score is not kept.

### **Skill & Knowledge Development**

At the end of the season, our goal is to have instructed the children on the fundamentals of baseball. Development in the 6 year old division should be focused on the following:

Throwing Skills: Aim-Step-Throw.

Catching Skills: Correct positioning of the glove. Stopping the ball (grounders).

Batting Skills: Level swing and contact. Batting stance, bat grip and body balance.

Game Skills: Location of bases (Where's first base...?) positions.  
Position names and location (Where does the second baseman play?)  
How to run the bases  
Force plays vs tag outs.  
Where to throw the ball and when.

### **General Coaching Information**

Be prepared! Have line-ups and player rotations set before the game. This will give you more time to work with the kids at the field as well as allowing for more baseball to be played.

All weekday games should start at 5:30. If you want to warm-up your team, encourage them to arrive earlier.

When pitching, set a distance that is adequate for the player. Not all kids will develop at the same rate. Don't hesitate to move around. **Remember to throw all pitches overhand.**

When setting up the field, bases should be set at 60 feet.

Try to encourage as much parental support as YOU can manage. The more help you can get the easier your job will be. The more coaches you have will allow you to provide special instruction to those who need it.

Always have a coach behind the catcher when coach is pitching, this will allow you to get more than one inning completed.

It is recommended that you rotate your batting order each game. Remember your 5<sup>th</sup> batter will be allowed to circle the bases, ALL players will want to bat 5<sup>th</sup>.

Rainouts are determined between the coaches. Typically rained-out games are not made up. **WHEN IN DOUBT, RAIN IT OUT!**

**Finally, we should all keep in mind why we are here: to teach these kids the basic fundamentals of baseball and more importantly for all to have a fun and safe time.**