

HGRA T-Ball Family Guidelines

Welcome to HGRA T-Ball, where kids learn the basics of baseball and have fun doing it. Here's how to make it more fun for you and your kid:

Coaches: Coaches are volunteers, and are parents just like yourself. They always need help, both at games and practices. Teams usually have two coaches but at least three adults are needed to make sure all goes smoothly. Please help whenever possible - just yell out "hey coach, where do you need me?" It's fun, your kids like it when you help, and you'll discover that there's no great mystery to coaching - that's how next year's coaches are born!

Games: T-Ball games are played on Monday evenings at various fields in the neighborhood. Game times alternate between 6:00 pm and 7:15 pm. Check the schedule for game location and times and please arrive 10 minutes early

Practices: Practice times are assigned randomly by the league. We try to make them as convenient as possible, but with 50 teams and 700 players to distribute to a limited number of fields, we can't please everyone - please try to be a good sport if the time is not great for you.

Make every effort to attend practices. The kids who practice hone their skills and enjoy the experience more.

Also, league rules require an adult contact for each child at games and practices. Please be there for the coaches.

Parents are encouraged to help out at practice; these kids are beginners and need help with the fundamentals. You'll be there anyway, so bring your glove and join in - you'll see how much fun it can be.

Game Rules: Each player bats in each inning. Balls are hit off an adjustable tee. Players generally advance only one base on each hit ball, although a coach has discretion to reward an exceptional hit with more bases. The 'last batter' is always announced by the coach, and the last batter advances all the way around to clear the bases. Coaches will vary the batting order so that everyone has a chance to be the last batter and "hit a home run." Games can go for three innings but teams playing the 6:00 game must not make the teams playing at 7:15 wait for more than 5 minutes – games might have to be cut short.

Over the course of the season, players will have the opportunity to play all of the positions. All balls are fielded and thrown to an appropriate base, but the batter is not 'out' even if the ball beats the runner to first base.

There is no catcher in t-ball..

For safety reasons, there is no 'on deck' circle in t-ball. The only player who touches a bat is the player at the tee.

Other thing you can do to help:

- Supervise the players on the bench and announce the batting order for the kids during the games.
- Coach first or third base
- Develop, print & distribute a team roster with names, numbers, parents' names, treat schedule, etc.
- Bring a jug of water and paper cups on hot, humid days - those who forgot will appreciate you.
- Keep a first aid kit (or at least some bandaids) in the car, just in case someone skins a knee.
- Sign up for post-game treats – an HGRA tradition. Juice boxes, granola bars, cookies or popsicles are a few suggestions. Bring enough so brothers and sisters can have some too.
- Write your child's name on your child's cap and glove. This will help you get them back when they are left behind and picked up by a parent, coach or visitor.
- Remember that we are all trying our best - if your child has not batted first yet, or played 1st base, it is probably just an oversight. A quick, friendly word to the coach is all that is needed.

Good Sportsmanship: Following each game the players and coaches will line up to shake hands and say "good game" to the other team. Please always encourage good sportsmanship in your player, and role model it for them at all times.