

URBANA PARK DISTRICT



YOUTH T-BALL

Program Objectives:

The main objectives of the Urbana Park District's T-Ball program, as with all other Urbana Park District youth programs, are learning and fun.

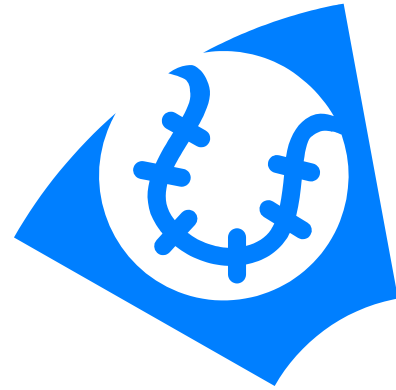
The T-Ball program is structured to allow each child the opportunity to learn the basic skills of baseball, while stressing the fun aspect of the game. Because fun and learning are stressed in T-Ball, the competitive mentality is minimized, and the children are free to build up their levels of self-esteem necessary to be successful in life.

This is our goal.

Program Structure:

As mentioned earlier, the Urbana Park District's T-Ball program is structured to allow each child the opportunity to learn the basic skills of the baseball, while stressing the fun aspect of the game. But one must question, how is this achieved?

Basically, it is achieved by placing a limited number of players on each team, playing noncompetitive games only after two weeks of practice, and instruction by volunteer coaches with basic knowledge of the game. By combining these aspects, and by stressing the idea of kids first, winning second, the coaches, and the Urbana Park District can then achieve their goal.



T-Ball Rules:

A. The Team

Teams will consist of ten to fifteen players each.

No games will be forfeited due to lack of players. Instead, members of one team will play for the opposing team. If necessary, both teams will play the game short, but with an equal amount of players.

Each player will play the entire game.

No player will play the same position for more than two innings.

B. Offense

All players will bat off of the batting tee provided by the park district.

All players will bat in a predefined order.

Players will be allowed unlimited swings to put the ball in play.

Players will switch from offense to defense after one time through the batting order.

C. Defense

ALL players will play defense at a time. Their positions will be as follows:

Pitcher (right side of mound)

Pitcher (left side of mound)

First Baseman

Second Baseman (between 1B and 2B)

Second Baseman (standing near or on 2B)

Third Baseman

Shortstop

Center Fielder

Right Fielder

Left Fielder

Right Center Fielder

Left Center Fielder

D. Equipment

Soft Core T-Balls will be used for all practices and games.

All players with glasses must wear protective eyeglass guards, or use safety glasses.

All players must have a baseball mitt.

All other equipment shall be allowed only by the discretion of the coaches.

E. The Games

Distance between bases should be approximately fifty (50) feet. The pitcher's mound will be thirty (30) feet from the plate.

Games will consist of three innings with no new inning beginning after one hour has passed.

F. Officials and Fans

Coaches will also act as umpires, but all hitters will reach base and run the bases each time they bat. This is true regardless of the actual outcome from their time at bat.

Any person arguing with an official or park district representative on or nearby the field of play will be asked to leave the premises. Following the incident, the Program Supervisor will take appropriate action.