**SMBA 2021 T-Ball Rules**

These rules were established in keeping with the philosophy of the SMBA, that the principal aim for T-Ball baseball is to have fun and teach good sportsmanship, as well as try to further the basic skills of baseball. The score is not the focus of the game. All Baseball Ontario (OBA) rules and regulations will be followed, with the following exceptions as per the SMBA:

1. There are to be 45 feet between bases.
2. Every player bats and plays in the field. If a player shows up late, they should be added to the bottom of the order.
3. The ball is hit off a batting tee, there is no pitching.
4. Baseball Pants are required.
5. No Extra bases will be awarded on overthrows.
6. There may only be 5 infielders and up to 7 outfielders.
7. There will be no player at the pitching position.
8. The ball must travel 5 feet, or it is foul. Draw a semi-circle in front of the plate.
9. Fielders should stand still until the ball is hit.
10. No stealing. The players must stay on the bases until the ball is hit.
11. An inning is over when all the players have batted once.
12. Three outs do not end an inning. Each team bats its entire team.
13. Games are 3 innings, or 45 minutes. Games must end on, or before the 45 minutes mark, so the next game can start on time.
14. A player is out if thrown out, tagged, a force our, or caught fly, and the player must leave the field when out.
15. Catchers will wear their own batting helmet, or a batting helmet supplied by SMBA.
16. Score are not kept because these games are not official.
17. Helmets must be worn while a player is at bat, or on the base paths.
18. All players are to receive equal defensive playing time. Players should be moved around in defensive innings to different position. The goal is to have all players be able to learn and experience as much about the game of baseball as possible. This in turn leads to improvement and knowledge for all players, increasing the love of the game and keeping these kids as players in the future.

**COVID-19**

The following are rules put in place due to COVID-19 and MUST be followed:

1. All players, parents and guardians must Digitally Check in for all games and practices using the Sportsheadz App.
2. Each player should bring their own folding chair to all baseball events. We are not planning to use dugouts or benches.
3. Pylons or paint marks will be laid out for players. They will put their chair and all baseball equipment in this area.
4. Helmets and Bats are strongly recommended to be purchased for each player.
5. Hand sanitizer must be used by all participants every inning.
6. If equipment must be shared, it must be cleaned thoroughly before being used by another player.
7. Masks must be worn when players and coaches are NOT on the playing field.
8. Masks are recommended to be worn while on the playing field, due to their age, and the potential for lack of social distancing.
9. Team treats are not allowed at all.
10. Washrooms will be available but are to be used at your own risk.
11. Please do not show up more than 20 minutes early for any scheduled event.
12. Please limit the number of attendees (siblings etc.) If unable to limit attendees, spectators are asked to go near the pavilion, or splash pad.
13. If playing second game, players and parents cannot go to the diamond until everyone from the first game has left. Please wait in your vehicle.
14. Please leave the park ASAP after all games and practices are completed.
15. If benches are used, they must be thoroughly cleaned by the team that used them.