

# HELENA FAMILY YMCA T-BALL PROGRAM

## \* RULES \*

### Mission Statement:

The Helena Family YMCA is a non-profit organization dedicated to building self-esteem and enriching spirit, mind, and body for persons of all ages and economic levels.

### Program Philosophy:

YMCA Youth Sports is unique emphasizing skill-development, sportsmanship, and teamwork. In YMCA Youth Sports, players are guaranteed equal playing time, regardless of skill level. Although competition can be a healthy tool, in **YMCA Youth Sports we de-emphasize winning and losing, and concentrate on fun and learning.**

### Number of Players:

Teams will fill all eight positions, and extra players can be placed in the outfield and infield so every child can play. This season we had a record number of kids sign-up, and a limited number of fields, therefore you can put all 16 kids on the field at one time.

### Positions:

Players in all Grade Divisions should be placed in traditional baseball positions, which include the following.

*Pitcher*

*1<sup>st</sup> Baseman*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Baseman*

*3<sup>rd</sup> Baseman*

*Shortstop*

*3 Outfielders*

Players should rotate positions every inning or at least every game. Although, the ball is not pitched, a player should field in the pitching position. **THE PITCHER MUST BE ROTATED EVERY INNING.**

### Rules:

1. The ball is not pitched but hit off a tee located behind home plate. The coach of the offensive team (team hitting) will place the ball on the tee and ensure that the defensive team is ready.
2. The batter may swing at the ball after the coach has placed it and ensured that the defense is set.
3. Batters will be allowed five attempts to hit the ball once placed on the tee. If after five swings, the batter is not successful, he/she will be awarded 1<sup>st</sup> base.
4. Batters are not permitted to bunt or swing easy at the ball. If such an incident occurs, the batter will be made to bat again.
5. Games will be officiated by the coaches or parent volunteers.
6. Players are not permitted to steal or lead off base and can only leave the base once the ball is hit.
7. Standard baseball rules will apply to all grade levels with age-appropriate changes.
8. The Infield Fly Rule will not be called.
9. Base runners can not advance on overthrows at any time the ball leaves the infield.
10. Defensive players should not obstruct a base runner's path or fake a tag at any time. The base runner will be granted an extra base in this situation.

11. No substitutes will be allowed. All players should play the field.
12. Batting orders are set at the beginning of the game and cannot be changed unless agreed upon by the opposing coach. Every kid must bat during a game.
13. **No score book or score will be officially kept.**
14. All infielders must remain in the infield and cannot move or be placed behind the designated pitcher's circle until the ball is struck.
15. The ball must be hit in fair ground to be playable. Fair ground will be defined as anything in front of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> baselines, even if struck over the 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> base.
16. The tee must be standing in a vertical position without slanting or leaning.
17. If a hit ball hits home plate first then advances forward into fair play, it will be called a dead ball and must be re-teed and hit by the same player. This will count as a swing.
18. Players must wear their YMCA T-shirt to be eligible to play.

### **Coaches Positions:**

**Defense** - Coaches of the defensive team can be stationed in the field of play, with a maximum of two coaches at one time. At no time can the coaches physically participate in a play or touch a player while the ball is in play. If this occurs, the player is called safe and awarded the advancing base. If a ball is struck and hits a coach while he/she is standing in fair ground, the batter will be awarded 1<sup>st</sup> base only.

**Offense** – Coaches will stand behind the batter and offer instruction. Coaches on offense may not enter the field of play at any time when the ball is in play. If this occurs, the batter is out. Coaches on offense will help tee the ball up and adjust the tee accordingly.

### **Length of Game:**

All games will be four innings or one hour only, whichever comes first. After an hour, the game will be called no matter the batting order or inning. Each team will be given three outs per inning when batting. Home team will be determined by a coin flip at the beginning of the game.

### **Coaches Responsibility:**

YMCA Youth Sports Coaches should be role models for their teams and should conduct themselves in a proper manner. No swearing, alcoholic beverages, or berating the opposing team will be allowed. **Competitiveness should be always de-emphasized, and sportsmanship should be overly emphasized.** Coaches will also be responsible for the conduct of their team and the parents of their players. Remember, we are here to teach and have fun. Coaches can be removed from their position if it is determined by the director of the program that he/she has exhibited behavior detrimental to the philosophy.