

# HELENA FAMILY YMCA YOUTH T-BALL

## Ages 3-4 and 5-6: T-Ball Rules

YMCA Youth Sports is unique, emphasizing skill-development, sportsmanship, and teamwork. We de-emphasize competition and instead focus on the fun and learning that sports can provide for players of all ages, backgrounds, and economic levels. The YMCA also promotes equal playing time for all its participants. **All players must play an equal amount of playing time in each game.**

### **NUMBER OF PLAYERS:**

- Team maximum: 16
- Fill 8 positions (no catcher)
  - Pitcher – must be rotated every inning!
    - The ball is not pitched, but a player should still field from the pitching position
    - Practice understanding the role and positioning of the pitcher
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Base
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Base
  - Shortstop
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Base
  - Outfield: right, center, and left
- Place extra players in the outfield so every child can play
- Rotate so every player can play in an 'official' position
- Players may also 'double up' on more challenging infield positions

### **DURATION OF GAME:**

- Ages 3-4 Division:
  - Minimum 2 innings, maximum 4 innings
  - Maximum 45-minute playing time
- Ages 5-6 Division:
  - Minimum 2 innings, maximum 4 innings
  - Maximum 60-minutes playing time
- Once the 45/60-minute limit is reached, the game will be called regardless of inning or batting order.
- Remember, there are no winners at the end of the game! We don't keep score.

### **GAME RULES:**

- Standard baseball rules apply with age-appropriate modifications.
- Batters (wearing a helmet) may swing at the ball after the coach has placed it on the tee.
- Batters are allowed 5 attempts to hit the ball once placed on the tee.
- If a batter is not successful after 5 swings, they will be awarded 1<sup>st</sup> Base.

- Batters are not allowed to bunt.
- Offensive players cannot steal or lead off a base. Players can only leave their base once the ball is hit (or if they need to rotate once a player is awarded 1<sup>st</sup> Base).
- No Infield Fly Rule can be called or used.
- Defensive players cannot obstruct a base runner's path or fake a tag.
- No substitutes are allowed. All players should play the field.
- Batting orders are set at the beginning of the game. These can be changed between innings so everyone gets a chance to bat in the "clean-up" position.
- All players advance only one base on each hit ball.
- If a player is called "out," they remain on base and continue to play.
- The ENTIRE team has a turn at-bat each inning, with the final batter in the line-up hitting "clean-up" – a homerun.
- **Score is not kept!**
- All infielders must remain in the infield.
- Balls must be hit in "fair ground" to be playable.
  - Anything in front of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Baselines.
- Tee must be standing in a vertical position without slanting or leaning.
- 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.

### **UMPIRING GAMES:**

- Games are umpired by coaches (or an assistant coach or volunteer parent).
- Coaches are in charge of overseeing all game activities and making sure each team abides by the rules of the game.
- The philosophy of sports at the Y is to show leniency – allow the kids to learn during play, without harsh penalties or strict umpiring.