

Burford Optimist T ball 2022

Thank you for volunteering your time to coach Tball this year!! The focus is on players having fun and learning baseball fundamentals. Equipment provided for each team is the responsibility of the coach and should be returned at the end of the season.

This division is for players ages 4 through 6. They play on a smaller field with a base length of 50 ft. A reduced injury factor (RIF) ball is used. This is a developmental league, and no scores are kept. Coaches should teach fundamentals, rules, and object of the game.

A team should have 6 players to field a team; they may borrow players from the opposing team to complete the infield. Borrowed players will still bat for their own team.

- All players play defensively and hit.
- Each team will bat their full lineup every inning for three innings or 45 minutes.
- In general, players should have the opportunity to play multiple positions in order to learn to play and enjoy the games.
- No player shall play the same position for more than two innings per game.
- All players play positions on the field with no player sitting on the bench.
- Maximum of 6 fielders in infield positions: Pitcher, First base, Second Base, Short Stop, Third Base and an extra Short Stop is between 1st and 2nd base.
- Infielders are not to be positioned nearer to the plate than 3 feet from the base paths between 1st & 2nd and 2nd & 3rd.
- All other defensive players must be in the outfield.
- A coach or parent volunteer will catch. The Catcher must be positioned near the backstop fence while the opposing players are hitting.
- Fielders may throw or roll the ball based on ability at the discretion of their coaches. There is no requirement to roll the ball.
- Fielders are not to block the base runner's progress by standing on the base paths.
- When on defense, up to 2 coaches may be on the field to help their players with instructions.
- Each batter must bat each inning and the last batter hits everyone home.
- All Hitters and base runners must wear helmets.
- There is NO on deck circle in T ball due to safety reasons. No players other than the batter should be swinging bats during the game.
- The on deck hitter is to remain on the bench waiting for their turn to hit.
- All equipment should be kept in the bench area away from the field of play.
- Coaches are to place the ball on the Tee only.
- Coaches should call "defense ready" before instructing their Batter to swing. Batters should not swing until instructed to do so by the Coach.
- Batted Balls must travel beyond 10 feet. Balls hit under 10 feet are considered foul and the batter is still up and re-hits.
- Scores and standings are not kept and there are no playoffs. No umpires.

Game Cancellations/Postponements

Game cancellations/postponements are the responsibility of the County and the Conveners.

Coaches may not reschedule games on their own. Coaches who know they cannot field a team should contact the Convener no later than 72 hours prior to the scheduled game time. Games will only be rescheduled for valid reasons such as important school functions or other emergency circumstances and only if time permits to reschedule the game. A final call will be made at 4pm on which fields, if any, are playable. Field status can be found on the youth baseball page of the Optimist site. Field status is updated as quickly as we can.

Please reach out any time to ask questions or for support.

Thank you again!

Your Conveners

Stacey Mitchell
519-496-5792 (cell)

Heather Keam
519-755-1306 (cell)