

**Medicine Hat Minor Softball
Association**

Game Time and Days U5 T-ball Division - Rules

- Time of Play --- 6:00 - 7:15 (1/2 hr practice to begin)
 - Practice beginning at 6:00pm;
 - Games will start at 6:30pm;
 - Games are 4 innings or 45 min limit; no new inning can start after 7:15 p.m.

Game Cancellations

- Cancellations due to poor weather will be made by the division director by 5:00; ONLY a division director is permitted to cancel play prior to start time.
- Stopping a game due to bad weather, ONCE in play at the diamond, is at the discretion of both coaches.
 - Always err on the side of caution in the case of lightening;

Equipment

- Batters must wear a helmet or they will not be permitted to bat;
- Batters must use bats and balls supplied by the Association;

Diamond Layout

- Distance between the bases is 30 feet;

Offence

- When all defensive players are in position and ready, the coach will place the ball on the tee and say "play ball";
- Batters should only have 3 practice swings;
- Strikeouts are not permitted;
- A ball is foul identical to conventional softball rules with two exceptions.
 - A ball is foul if it travels less than 10 feet in fair territory from home plate, or
 - the batter hits the tee with the bat causing the ball to fall from the tee;
- Each inning shall consist of once through the batting order, although OUTS are called, there may be as many outs as correctly fielded per inning until the entire batting order has had a chance to hit;
- it is recommended to have a rotating batting order, so each child has a chance to be last batter, at least once in the season. (i.e. The last batter becomes the first each inning, leaving a new last batter)
- The coach must advise the opposition when the last batter is up;

Defence

- All players on the roster will be given a defensive position;
- Players are to change positions after each inning. No player shall play the same position more than once per game;
- The infield must switch with the outfield after 2 innings;
- No running of the ball from the outfield, no rolling or running the ball to the bases. Players are encouraged to throw;
- Players must throw the ball overhand where at all possible. Underhand will be allowed within 3-5 feet of the bases;
- Adults assisting in field, must leave the ball to be played by the athletes;

- Stoppage of play occurs when the ball touches the infield, with the exception of the last batter;
- After the last batter has hit, stoppage of play occurs when the catcher places the ball on the Tee;

Outs

- The first few weeks will allow for a "no out" grace period. T-batters will learn about the OUT rule. It is so important that U5 introduces this rule/concept to prepare for U7 "3 outs".
- Throwing of the bat is an automatic out; leniency is given by discretion of coaches for the first half of season;
- All called OUT players must hustle to bench;
- In case of a tie, the runner is safe;
- If there is an overthrow on any attempted play at a base, the runners will be permitted to advance at their own risk, but not more than one base.