Oxford Parks and Recreation
Modified T-Ball (5-6) Rules

I. General Information

A. All participants must abide by the Code of conduct. Regulations as set by the Oxford Recreation Department will be strictly enforced by Department Staff and/or their designated officials.
B. To be eligible for 5-6 Modified T-ball, a player must be 5 or 6 years old by May1 (*Spring)*/October 1 (*Fall)* of the current year.
C. Players are not allowed to have jewelry, earrings or hard hair accessories in their hair. Hair accessories include items such as hair barrettes, beads, hair clips, hair pins, etc. Officials may deem unlisted items unsafe and must be taken out/off the player.

II. Uniforms and Equipment

A. Team uniform: Jerseys and hats will be provided to each player. Parents will supply helmet, glove, pants and bat. A bat will be in the team equipment bag for players to use. Team coach will decide team pants color.
B. Base coaches and coach pitchers must wear a helmet.
C. Cleats with rubber soles or tennis shoes may be worn. No metal cleats allowed.
D. Catchers, batters, warm-up batters and base runners must wear helmets at all times while on the playing field. Male catchers must an athletic cup in order to play.
E. Bats- Bats barrels may have a range of a minimum of 2 inches to a maximum barrel of 2 ¼ inch.
F. All batters and base runners must wear batting helmets with masks and chin strap. Runners who have scored must keep their helmets on until they are behind the fence, out of playing area. A team whose runner removes a helmet will receive one warning. Each additional occurrence will result in an out.

III. Field

A. The diamond shall be at 60 foot bases with an 8 foot arc in front of home plate.
B. The adult pitcher line will be at 25 feet and must have 1 foot touching the line in order to pitch.
C. The player pitcher position will be inside 8 foot radius circle with the center being at 40 feet.

IV. Game

A. Game Length: Six innings or no new inning after one hour. Any inning started must be completed unless the home team is ahead. The umpire's time will be the official time and will be kept by the official scorer. Incomplete games stopped by darkness or other causes, will be rescheduled and started at the point which the game originally stopped. The line-up will be recreated as close to the original as possible. In the event the game is tied, no game will go beyond 6 innings and will result in a ½ win and ½ loss in the standings.
B. Teams will be given 10 minute grace period from the scheduled starting time for only the 6pm game. There will be no grace period for later games. The team failing to field at least 7 players shall forfeit the game.
C. Each team will be allowed 2 mound visits per game not to exceed 1 minute.
D. A team may score 3 runs or make 3 outs to constitute an inning.
E. Slaughter Rule – There will be no slaughter rule. The 5 run rule will keep the game moving forward.
F. There will be no infield warm up between innings.
G. A continuous line up will be used- All present players will bat in the line-up.
H. Players may enter the defensive positions any number of times during the game. The batting order will remain the same. Twelve defensive positions are used for the 5-6 Modified Tball league, 7 outfielders are allowed. If only 8-9 players are present, the infield positions must me covered with the outfield positions being short of players.
I. Outfielders must play behind the infield dirt.
J. Each player must play 2 defensive innings.
K. If a player is not present when the defensive team takes the field, their name will be removed from the line up and will be entered at the bottom of the lineup if they arrive.
L. Pitcher must pitch overhanded pitches.
M. **The player pitcher must have 1 foot inside the circle.** The player pitcher may wear any protective gear that the player, parent or coach feels necessary.
N. Teams may use 3 coaches, who will include the head coach and 2 assistants. Two outfield coaches are allowed on defense. Coaches need to remain behind the outfielders.

O. There are no balk or infield fly rules in the 5-6 Modified Tball League.
P. Overthrows- There is no advancement on balls overthrown to any base from infielders. Wild, uncontrolled throws from the outfield will be considered live balls (not overthrown) and runner may advance until the defense has stopped the advancement of the lead runner.
Q. The umpire will call time out when:
    1. The ball is in control by a player that has stopped the advancement of the base runners.
    2. The ball has gone into dead ball territory.
    3. Player has stopped running.
    4. Rule P- Overthrows

R. The player pitcher cannot field the ball inside the circle and run it to a base. They may run the ball to a base if fielded outside of the circle. Players should be encouraged to throw the ball overhanded to bases.
S. Players may not roll the ball or underhand throw the ball to the base. The must throw the ball overhanded. Plays completed with rolls or underhanded throws, will result in the runners being safe. (Exception: Umpire's discretion, if the ball is fielded right beside the base or in a natural movement towards the base, then the ball could be underhanded to the base.
T. Do not teach player to call time by holding the ball up. Time will be called by meeting the requirements on letter Q.
U. In case the season ends with two teams tied-we will total the head to head score to get a winner, if head to head score is the same we will then have a one game playoff to determine the winner.

V. Batter

A. Batting Line Up- Each team will give the opposing team and the official scorer their batting order at least 5 minutes before the start of the game.
B. For the 5-6 Modified Tball League only, the score keeper should alert the umpire immediately if a batter is out of order. As soon as the infraction is found, the correct batter will take over the count if the incorrect batter took any pitches. If the error is not detected until after the "at bat" is completed, the skipped batter will miss their at bat until their next time comes up in the batting order. There is no penalty.
C. Total of 4 swings per at bat with no less than 2 pitches required. The fourth swing must be hit in fair territory and past the home plate arc. The batter will be out if the fourth swing result is a miss, foul ball or does not clear the arc.
D. Hitting Options: 2 pitches/2 off the tee; 3 pitches/1 off the tee; 4 pitches/O off the tee.

VI. Base Runner

A. Base stealing is not permitted. Base runners may not leave base until his teammate hits the ball. If a runner leaves the base before the ball is hit, the runner will be called out.
B. Overthrows- There is no advancement on balls overthrown to any base from infielders. Wild, uncontrolled throws from the outfield will be considered live balls (not overthrown) and runner may advance until the defense has stopped the advancement of the lead runner.
C. Courtesy runners will also be allowed if a player becomes ill or injured. If a player is removed from the game due to illness or injury, it will not be considered an out in his position in the batting order.
D. A runner who misses a base, will be called out if:

    1. Another runner has touched the missed base.
    2. The play has been called dead before the runner corrects him/herself by touching the missed base.
    3. An adult prompts the runner to return to the base by touching the runner.
    4. The runner misses home plate without correcting himself prior to entering the dugout.

The Oxford Parks & Recreation reserves the right to make rule changes, interpretations and /or additions during the season as needed to assure the safety of the participants.

(Modified 1-25-2023)