

**CENTRALIA RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
T-BALL LEAGUE RULES  
Revised April 2017**

**Mission Statement**

Centralia Recreation Department Mission Statement:

It is the mission of the Centralia Recreation Department to work in partnership with our community in order to provide instruction in the fundamentals of youth and adult sports. The Centralia Recreation Department's main purpose is to provide both children and adults with an opportunity to play, learn, and have fun in athletics without concern or regard to physical ability, race, religion, or financial situation.

**General Rules Applying to All Leagues**

**Coaches:**

1. The coach of each team is responsible for the conduct of his/her team, fans, and players.
2. Coaches must notify all players of upcoming practices and games. Coaches should make every attempt to maintain the participation of all players on the team. If unable to contact a player, or if a player discontinues participation in the program Centralia Recreation Complex staff should be notified. Any coach who does not encourage the participation of all players will be considered for disciplinary action.
3. It is the coach's responsibility to maintain the equipment and promptly return it in good condition at the end of the season.
4. Coaches will be responsible for making sure dugouts are picked-up and kept trash free. Please make sure that dugouts are kept clean. Coaches who do not insure their dugouts are cleaned could face a city ordinance fine for littering.

**GENERAL OBJECTIVE:**

The objective of the Centralia Recreation Department's Youth League is to provide instruction in the fundamentals of baseball/softball as well as giving the participants an opportunity to play games. The Centralia Recreation Department would hope that the coaches and parents would please keep in mind that the main objective here is not who wins or loses, but that the participants have the opportunity to play, learn and most of all have fun. Therefore, the Centralia Recreation Department would like to ask you to please refrain from questioning the calls of the officials in an ungentlemanly manner. You must remember that it is a learning experience for the officials as well, so please make it as easy as possible for them. We here at the Centralia Recreation Department will try to help them become as proficient as possible at their job. We want the league to operate as efficiently as possible and again most importantly, to be fun for the participants.

**It is the hope of the Centralia Recreation Department that the T-Ball League will be strictly an instructional league. The participants will have the opportunity to learn about teamwork and participating in team sports, many for the first time. Let's try to make this a learning experience, but most importantly one of fun and recreation for those involved. It does not matter if your team wins or loses because all of those involved, children and adults, will be winning by taking part. There will be no official score kept everybody wins.**

### **RULE 1: MEMBERSHIP**

**Sec. 1** Boys/Girls will be entered in the league according to their age. All boys/girls who are four (4) - six (6) years of age and not more than eight (8) before August 1, of the current year, will be eligible.

**Sec. 2** **Once a player is assigned to a team, he or she may not switch teams without approval by the Centralia Recreation Program Coordinator.**

**Sec. 3** Ineligible players are defined as:  
 -Anyone playing who is not registered or paid  
 -Anyone playing for a team to which they were not assigned

*\*When an ineligible player is discovered & protested, & protest upheld, the game in which he or she was playing will be forfeited by the team using the ineligible player*

**Sec. 4** The Centralia Recreation Department will schedule an on-site supervisor, and 1-2 umpires per field, per game.

**Sec. 5** Time Limit Rule: The time limit regulations for all leagues are as follows. Each league has a set maximum time limit, which is stated in the set of rules governing for that specific league. There must be at least 5 minutes left of the official game time in order to start a new inning otherwise the umpire will declare that the time limit is over, and the team that is ahead in runs scored shall be declared the winner, regardless of the inning. However, both teams must have completed the same number of innings at bat (unless home team is ahead). If an inning is started before the time limit expires, the inning must be completed in full (unless the home team is ahead or as soon as the home team score the winning run).

**The home team shall be listed last on the schedule and shall occupy the 3rd base dugout**

## **PLAYING RULES**

- Sec. 1** The official games of the T Ball League are to be governed by rules as compiled and adopted by the rules of the Centralia Recreation Department Youth Leagues.
- Sec. 2** Games shall consist of six (6) innings or 1 hour time limit, whichever comes first.
- Sec. 3** All players present will in the batting order but only nine (9) players will play in the field every inning. Each player shall play a minimum of 2 defensive innings.
- Sec. 5** For safety reasons, a player/catcher will not be used. All players will play in the field itself. The umpire will be in charge of teeing up the ball for the batter.
- Sec. 6** A half inning shall consist of 3 outs, or a team batting their entire lineup. No player can bat more than once in an inning. (If only 10 players are present, only 10 players bat, etc)
- Sec. 7** Adults may be on the field while their team is on defense. However, they may not attempt to catch thrown or batted balls, unless for the safety of a player.
- Sec. 8** Each player is given Five (5) swings to hit the ball into fair territory.
- Sec. 9** Bunting the ball is not allowed.
- Sec. 10** Once the play is dead, the ball must be returned to the umpire who puts it on the tee. The play is dead and the base runner is frozen to the base he/she is at when the ball is thrown and reaches the infield.
- Sec. 11** Runners may not advance to another base on an overthrow to any base.
- Sec. 12** Batter may not run at the ball when hitting or attempting to hit the ball.

- Sec. 13** Batter is out for intentionally throwing the bat. The batter must also be removed from the game for throwing the bat in anger.
- Sec. 14** Sliding is permitted.(no head first)
- Sec. 15** An official score shall not be kept. This is extremely important because this is purely an instructional league.
- Sec. 16** No score is kept in T Ball League; therefore, there will be no forfeits. If one team is short of players, team may combine players in order to have a game. However, games should still start and end on time.

### **PROTESTS**

- Sec. 1** There will be **NO protests** of any type in this league.

### **CONDUCT**

- Sec. 1** All that is dishonorable, unsportsmanlike and ungentlemanly is particularly and expressly condemned. A coach, player, or team guilty of such action shall be removed from the game at the discretion of the umpire. Further action may be taken by the Recreation Director or his appointed representative.
- Sec. 2** Smoking or the use of foul or profane language by coaches will **NOT** be tolerated during preliminary practice or during the progress of the game. **ABSOLUTELY NO SMOKING** in or around the fields and dug outs!
- Sec. 3** ANYONE (players, coaches, parents, fans, etc.) striking/threatening an official in any sport or activity sponsored by the Recreation Department will be suspended from play and/or all facilities of the Recreation Department for a minimum period of one year.
- Sec. 4** Any fan whose conduct is dishonorable, unsportsmanlike or ungentlemanly may be removed from the vicinity of the field of play and/or the spectator area. The fan may also be suspended.
- Sec. 5** Any player throwing any object in anger, shall be ejected from the game immediately and will be suspended for the equivalent of one game, based on a regulation game.

**Sec. 6** Any player, coach or team violating any of these rules or rulings of the Centralia Recreation Department shall be liable for probation, suspension or disbarment.

**Sec. 7** When a manager, coach or player is expelled from a game, they shall be suspended the remainder of said game and next league or play-off game.

### **FIELDS & EQUIPMENT**

**Sec. 1** The base distance will be 50 feet.

**Sec. 2** The Centralia Recreation Department will furnish all bases, bats, balls and tee for each league game.

**Sec. 3** A batted ball must travel at least 10 ft. or it will considered a foul ball.

### **CANCELLATIONS**

**Sec. 1** It will be up to the judgment of the Centralia Recreation Complex staff to determine if a game will be cancelled due to weather or field conditions. As soon as the decision is made to cancel, coaches will be notified. It will be the coaches' responsibility to contact their players/parents! Parents, please do not call the Recreation Complex to ask about cancellations.

**Sec. 2** It is the decision of the umpire or supervisor in charge to cancel a game once it is in progress.

### **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, DRUGS AND TOBACCO**

**Sec. 1** *NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES* are allowed on the playing area or in the dugouts. If any player, coach, or manager violates this rule the player(s) team will forfeit that game. NOTE: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE NOT ALLOWED IN CITY PARKS.

### **CENTRALIA RECREATION DEPARTMENT REFUND POLICY**

1. Full refunds are given ONLY for fully cancelled leagues or activities.
2. Refunds are granted up to the start of a program only with a written medical excuse stating the specific reason the person is unable to participate.
3. NO REFUNDS are granted after teams are formed w/o medical excuse.

4. There will be NO partial or pro-rated refunds granted.
5. NO REFUNDS granted for registrations of \$10 or less.
6. All refunds must go through the City of Centralia process. There are no cash refunds. All refunds are by city check and mailed to the address on the registration form.

**UMPIRES**

- The umpires have complete authority of the game.
- No harassment of the umpires will be tolerated. This includes coaches, players, and fans. This could result in an ejection.
- Only the head coach may discuss disagreements with the umpire. There can be no discussion of ball/strike or safe/out (judgment) call, the resulting penalty could be an ejection from the game.

**ROOT FOR YOUR TEAM AS HARD AS YOU WISH BUT CONDUCT YOURSELF UNDER THE HIGHEST PRINCIPLES OF SPORTSMANSHIP**

***GOOD COACHES COACH,  
AND  
LET UMPIRES UMPIRE***