

# Wellington Recreation Official Age 4 T-Ball Manual



Wellington Recreation modifications to the National Federation of High Schools Baseball rules. Visit [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org) to purchase a rulebook.

## **Purpose of League Play**

The purpose of the league to be sponsored by Wellington Recreation is to provide kids with the opportunity for learning and fun in a safe environment. Friendly competition and clean sportsmanship will be emphasized. Our main goal is for ALL participants to have FUN while building athletic, team, and social skills.

## **RULE 1 - Players, Field and Equipment**

- A. There shall be six (6) defensive players on the field at a time: five (5) infielders and a catcher. Players on defense must be rotated. Players shall rotate positions every inning. Place some coaches in the field to assist with coaching, instruction and development of players as the game is played.
- B. All fielders must stay behind the infield line. The infield line is an arc, forty (40) feet from the point of home plate at all points. In the event that such a line is not physically drawn on the field, coaches shall keep all players within such a distance in accordance with the spirit of the rule.
- C. No metal cleats will be allowed.
- D. The diamond shall be fifty (50) feet between bases.
- E. The batting tee shall be located on top of home plate.
- F. There will be no pitcher's rubber or mound.
- G. The catcher shall be positioned on the opposite side of the batting tee from the batter. The catcher must wear a batting helmet, which includes ear protection at all times.
- H. Official throw down bases will be furnished by Wellington Recreation.
- I. The official ball to be used is a safety ball furnished by Wellington Recreation.

## **RULE 2 - Player Terms and Definitions**

- A. There will be no balks or base on balls.
- B. Bunting will not be allowed.
- C. There are no infield flies.
- D. A half inning is over when there are three (3) outs or when the number of players in attendance of the larger team have batted. A coach shall announce the last batter prior to their at bat. Outs must be counted.
- E. No sliding is allowed.

## **RULE 3 - Substituting - Coaching - Bench & Field Conduct**

- A. On defense, free substitution shall be allowed, however all players shall play at least every other inning.
- B. On offense the batting order shall contain the entire roster of players.
- C. A player who carelessly or unintentionally throws their bat or helmet shall receive one (1) warning. Further infractions by the same player, or if the player intentionally throws their bat or helmet shall result in the player being called out (if not already out) and in forfeiture of their next turn at bat (with an automatic out).

#### **RULE 4 --Starting and Ending the Game**

- A. A regulation game consists of six innings or forty five (45) minutes. No inning shall be started after forty five minutes.
- B. Ties will not be completed.
- C. Wellington Recreation will not reschedule rainouts; coaches may reschedule un-played games
- D. A team may start a game with a minimum of four (4) players. If a team has less than six (6) players present at game time, it can borrow the needed players from the other team so long as the opposing team would still have at least five (5) players. A team shall finish the game with no fewer than four (4) players.

#### **RULE 5 - Dead Ball - Suspension of Play**

- A. On an overthrown ball that goes into foul territory, base runners shall only be awarded the bases to which they were attempting to advance at the time the ball crossed the baseline.
- B. Play on a batted ball ends when an infielder is in control of the ball and base runners are no longer attempting to advance.

#### **RULE 6 – Pitching**

- A. There shall be no pitching. All batting will occur off a tee placed on home plate.

#### **RULE 7 – Batting**

- A. All players shall bat continuously without substitution while on offense.
- B. There shall be no penalty for batting out of order. Try to keep the same order in fairness to the players.
- C. Any batted ball that does not go at least ten feet from the point of home plate shall be treated as a foul ball. If such an arc is not physically drawn on the field, the home plate umpire shall determine if the ball passed such a distance.
- D. A swing that misses the ball shall count as a strike. Players cannot strike out on foul balls.

#### **RULE 8- Base running**

- A. Runners must remain in contact with their bases until the ball is hit. The first time a player leaves too soon, a warning shall be issued to the player. The second time the player will be called out. Each player will be issued one (1) warning per time on base. Warnings & penalties will be called immediately, and the ball will be considered dead before the play.

#### **RULE 9 - Scoring - Record Keeping**

- A. Official game scores and team standings shall not be kept

#### **RULE 10 - Umpiring**

- A. Each team shall provide one umpire for each game. The umpires shall trade positions after three innings.
- B. The Umpire-In-Chief shall make the calls at home & third base, keep track of the count, number of outs, and shall adjust the height of the batting tee. The field umpire shall make the calls at first and second base in the field and determine that all base runners remain in contact with their bases until the ball is hit.
- C. As outlined in **Rule 1**, defensive players should be placed in positions as similar to traditional baseball as possible. The following rules also apply.
  - 1. Infielders must assume a position similar to those used in traditional baseball.
  - 2. The intent is to ensure compliance with the player placement rule outline in **Rule 1** and to simulate a defensive alignment similar to the alignment use in traditional baseball. Wellington Recreation considers placing players in positions not used in traditional baseball to be a violation of Wellington Recreation Sportsmanship policy.

## Miscellaneous:

- Playing Conditions: Field supervisor will determine if games will or will not be played. Games will be called if safety is a concern.
- Opposing parents/coaches and players should shake hands after each game.
- Wellington Recreation recommends that this age group should have practices limited to one or two 30-45 minute sessions per week.
- Parent/coaches, non-playing players and spectators should be there to enjoy and encourage the activity of the youngsters.
- All coaches and officials are volunteers and as such are not employees of the Town of Wellington.
- All coaches will be required to attend a training seminar and will be subject to a background check.
- No alcoholic beverages or tobacco products will be allowed or used in the parks during youth games or practices.
- Swearing will not be tolerated by fans, participants, or coaches. All adults need to remember that they are role models and need to be positive in their words and actions.
- Elastic Clause: The league director shall have complete charge of the Youth Sports League. Any and all situations not specifically covered by these rules shall be acted upon by the League Director and all actions by the league director will be final.
- The league director reserves the right to change or amend any of the rules or regulations contained in this manual. Any questions concerning Youth Sports should be directed to:

Wellington Recreation  
Bryan Critchfield  
8700 Third Street  
Wellington, CO 80549  
(970) 568-7410  
E-mail: [recreation@wellingtoncolorado.gov](mailto:recreation@wellingtoncolorado.gov)