



Age 4 T-Ball

Wellington Recreation modification to the National Federation of High Schools Baseball rules. Visit www.nfhs.org to purchase a rulebook.

Purpose

The purpose of the league run by Wellington Recreation is to provide kids with the opportunity for learning and fun in a safe environment. Friendly competition and sportsmanship will be emphasized. Our main goal is for all participants (players, coaches, parents, etc.) to have fun while building athletic, team, and social skills.

1. Rule 1 – Players, Field, and Equipment
 - a. There must be six (6) defensive players on the field at a time. Players on defense must be rotated every inning. Coaches will be on the field to help with instruction and development of players as the game is played.
 - i. Infielders must assume a position similar to those used in traditional baseball.
 - ii. Wellington Recreation considers placing players in positions not used in traditional baseball to be a violation of Wellington Recreation Sportsmanship Policy.
 - 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. If such a line is not physically drawn on the field, coaches keep all players within such a distance in accordance with the spirit of the rule.
 - c. No metal cleats allowed.
 - d. The diamond should be fifty (50) feet between bases.
 - e. The batting tee is to be located on top of home plate.
 - f. There will be no pitcher's rubber or mound.
 - g. Bases will be provided by Wellington Recreation.
 - h. The official ball to be used is a safety ball provided by Wellington Recreation to coaches for games.
2. Rule 2 – Player Terms and Definition
 - 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 for one of two following reasons.
 - i. There are three (3) outs or.
 - ii. There have been as many batters as there are players on the team with the largest number of present players.
 1. A coach announces the last batter prior to them at bat.
 - e. Outs must be counted.
 - f. No sliding allowed.



3. Rule 3 – Substituting – Coaching – Bench & Field Conduct
 - a. On Defense, free substitutions are allowed, however, all players must play at least every other inning.
 - b. On offense, the batting order must contain the entire roster of players.
 - c. A player who carelessly or unintentionally throws their bat or helmet receives one (1) warning. Further infractions by the same player, will result in the player being called out.
 - d. If a player intentionally throws their bat or helmet, the player will be called out (if not already out).
4. Rule 4 – Starting and Ending the Game
 - a. A regulation game consists of six (6) innings or forty five (45) minutes, whichever comes first. No innings may start after forty five (45) minutes of play.
 - b. Ties will not be completed.
 - c. Wellington Recreation will do everything in their power to reschedule canceled 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 the 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 should always have at least four (4) players.
5. Rule 5 – Dead Ball – Suspension of Play
 - a. On an overthrown ball that goes into foul territory, base runners are only 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.
6. Rule 6 – Pitching
 - a. There is no pitching. All batting will occur off a tee placed on home plate.
7. Rule 7 – Batting
 - a. All players must bat continuously without substitution while on offense.
 - b. There is no penalty for batting out of order but coaches must 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 is treated as a foul ball. If such an arc is not physically drawn on the field, the home plate umpire determines if the ball passed such a distance.
 - d. A swing that misses the ball counts as a strike. Players cannot strike out on foul balls.
8. 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 must 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 and penalties will be called immediately, and the ball will be considered dead before the play.
9. Rule 9 – Scoring – Record Keeping
 - a. Official game scores and team standings will not be kept.



10. Rule 10 – Umpiring

- a. Each team will provide one umpire for each game. The umpires will trade positions after 3 innings.

Miscellaneous:

- Parents and spectators are encouraged to retrieve balls that go out of play in order to restart game quickly.
- All players have a right to play every game and an equal amount of time if they have attended regular practices.
- Playing Conditions: Field Supervisor will determine if games will or will not be played. Game will be called when there is a safety concern.
- Opposing coaches and players should shake hands after each game.
- The Recreation Staff will make every effort to reschedule missed games. Make up games may not be played at the same time or days as regularly scheduled games.
- Participation awards, when given, must be given to ALL players.
- Parents, coaches, non-playing players, and spectators should be there to enjoy and encourage the activity of the players.
- All coaches and officials are volunteers and as such are not employees of the Town of Wellington.
- No alcoholic beverages or tobacco products will be allowed or used in the parks during games or practices.
- Foul language will not be tolerated by fans, participants, or coaches. All adults need to remember they are role models and need to be positive in their words and actions.
- A parent or fan that is loud, obnoxious, or disrupts the event will be asked to leave the premises and will be expected to comply immediately.
- Elastic Clause: The League Director has complete charge of the Youth Sports League. Any and all situations not specifically covered by these rules are acted upon by the League Director and all actions by the League Director are 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
8700 3rd Street,
Wellington, CO 80549
(970) 568-7410
recreation@wellingtoncolorado.gov