

NYS Bubblegum Rules

Updated 6/17/20

The Bubblegum division is NYS' tee-ball league, meant to introduce 4-5 year olds to the game in a safe and fun setting. We encourage kids to be safe, have a blast, try hard, and be a good sport.

The Field

- The distance between bases shall be 50 feet. The distance from home plate to the center of second base shall be 70' 8".

The Game

- Games shall be restricted to 1 hour. No new inning may start more than 60 minutes after the game begins, excluding time stopped for rain or other weather delays.
- Every player on the roster bats every inning played, and takes the field every inning. Additional players over standard defensive team size should be evenly space in the outfield.
 - Parents are encouraged to take the field with their children to help them pay attention to the game.
 - Players will hit off the tee at all times. The batter may have as many swings as needed to put the ball in play.
- There is no "official" scoring for games at the Bubblegum level.
- Coaches are asked to be on the field to assist with defensive coaching or to keep their players' attention. Each team should have a base coach at 1st and 3rd base when their team is batting.
- Outs are not recorded, but should be celebrated. Batters who are out do not have to return to the dugout, and should be allowed to stay on the bases.

Roster and Lineup

- Teams shall consist of 8 – 10 players.
- All players will bat in order regardless of their fielding position. Players not fielding will still bat in turn.
 - Games may be played with as few as 5 players (a full infield) per team. Replacement players from other Bubblegum teams are allowed if needed to field a team.
 - At no time shall a person be allowed to play for a team who is not a registered NYS player.
- All players will be placed in the batting order determined by the coach and will hit in that order.
 - Coaches should start each inning with a different player in the order so the same player isn't always hitting first or last.

- The game shall be viewed in three inning segments. For each segment, the following rules applies to all players:
 - No player shall play more than two innings in the infield, two innings in the outfield, or sit more than two innings.
 - No player shall sit a second inning before the rest of the roster has sat out at least one inning.
 - The infield consists of 1st Base, 2nd Base, 3rd Base, Shortstop and Pitcher (player to the left or behind the coach that is pitching).
 - Coaches should endeavor to track where players play and try to “even out” playing time at various positions throughout the season.

Base Running Rules

- Base runners can only advance one base per batter, except the final batter of an inning, who hits a “grand slam” and runs around all bases.
- Sliding is not allowed
- Base stealing is not allowed. The batter must put the ball in play for the runner to advance.
- Leading off is not allowed. A runner must remain in contact with the base until the batter puts the ball in play.
- Players shall not advance on an overthrow.

Most importantly, have fun!