

2024 Squirt Division Rules

Home Team gets 1st Base Dugout

No Umpires or Ground Rules

2024 Squirt Division-

Teams will play games on Saturdays. We will begin on May 11th and end on July 20th, with July 27th as a make-up date. We will not play on Memorial Day weekend. That's 10 games total. If we get a ton of rain plan on makeups being during the week in July if we run out of Saturdays in July.

Need to conduct at least one practice per week {shoot for 2 per week before season starts}. Can request the use of the batting cages as well once we get into the season.

Each team is required to have a meeting before you schedule a practice and meet with the parents and kids. Introduce yourself, set expectations, and put together a coaching/volunteer staff for the year.

Teams are provided balls, bats, tees, helmets and rubber bases to use for practice and games. Also provided a first aid kit.

For games, teams are expected to arrive 30 minutes prior to gametime. Managers are expected to arrive prior to the rest of the team. Once your field is open, please do team building activities. Group stretches, jogs, playing catch, etc... Always have something planned and going on.

Please allow the teams prior to you to exit and clean the dugouts before entering.

Games must start on time as we are on a tight schedule on Saturdays. So if you are the home team, have your infield set and ready prior to start time. And if hitting first, have your first batter ready and second set to go.

Games will be 4 innings long.

Each player will play 2 innings in the infield, get 2 at bats and participate in 2 innings of clinics.

Managers should have multiple adults with each group of kids during games. Ideally you would staff the following way. When hitting, have one adult near the plate, one coaching first and one coaching 3rd, and one helping get the kids ready to hit INSIDE the dugout. When in the infield, have one adult between 1B and 2B, and one between SS and 3B. When in the outfield doing drills, have 2 adults. 1 doing hitting work with a tee and the other doing fielding drills. So you will need 5-6 adults per game, that's why you need that parent meeting.

Split team into 2 groups

Group A and Group B

4 inning games

Batting :

1st and 3rd - Group A

2nd and 4th - Group B

Fielding:

1st and 3rd innings

Infield – Group A

Outfield (doing a drill) – Group B

2nd and 4th innings

Infield – Group B

Outfield (doing a drill) – Group A

It is recommended to have the 2 groups above planned out prior to arrival for games with what positions they will play to ensure all get fair opportunities during the season. Also to split your kids into 3 or 4 groups for practice and rotate them from drill to drill. Provide a few mins in between for drinks, and keep the same adults at each station running the drills.

Batters are not permitted to be outside the dugout when they are waiting to hit. They should be inside the dugout sitting in the order they are to hit. There is NO on-deck batter allowed. Batters waiting to hit should get ready and remain in dugout until called.

Parents are asked to refrain from being near the players area and are asked to stand back away from the diamond unless you are a coach.

Players will need to provide their own gloves. Uniform will consist of hat, shirt, pants. Players will need sneakers/cleats and socks. Bats will be available for use but if you are looking to purchase one, please make sure its USA Baseball certified.

We will use softer baseballs designed to limit injury.

Each player will hit from the tee for the first half of the season. If the coach chooses, he/she can pitch to the players in the second half. Max of 5 good pitches and then if they don't hit the ball fair, then go to the tee. There are no outs and will get as many chances as needed to hit the ball fair.

Players only advance one base, with the exception of the last batter in that inning. All players on base will advance around and score to end the inning.

Fielders must be placed in the following positions.

P, 1B, 2B, SS, 3B- if you have a 6th fielder as we have 12 players on rosters, that player would stand at the 2B/SS spot right in front of 2B. There will not be a catcher. 6 players in the max to have in the infield. You cannot just line up the players across the infield. They need to learn positions and where to play.

While half of the team is either in the infield, or hitting, the other 6 are in the outfield doing drills with coaches. It is recommended to have players do ground ball drills, hitting drills or throwing. Remember the basics of how to hold the ball. How to hold the bat, etc...Players and coaches cannot take it upon themselves to decline this clinic time and just sit down. We need to keep these players active for as much of the hour to 75 mins as possible.

Players will line up on the foul line and shake hands after the game.

There are no umpires as we do not record outs, walks, strikeouts or keep score.

Coaches must also make sure players are not "fighting" over the ball in the field, and work with them to understand who is responsible to get the ball on this play and who is responsible to back up, cover the base, etc...

After the game, please make sure the dugout area is cleaned up.

The concession stand will be open and there are team packages available to purchase for snacks, drinks, etc...

The restrooms will be open. At this age, the players should all go before arriving or right when they do as they usually like to go during the games.

Team pictures will be scheduled on a Saturday in late May or early June. The schedule will be posted in May.

Uniform pickup will happen before the regular season begins. More info soon. If folks sold raffle tickets, the stubs would be due then. If they didn't sell, write their info on stubs and turn in.

Questions please reach out to me at toddsko79@aol.com or 716-602-2749.

Thanks,

Todd Skoczylas

NTNLL Squirt Division VP and league Vice President