



Thornlie and Districts Tee Ball Association Inc.

# By-laws

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## 1. Association Colours

The association colours are Black Gold and white

## 2. Working with Children

This is the Government requirement and as you can understand with over 600 children in the competition it can be a logistical nightmare to police. We will therefore require every team to submit a working with children questionnaire for every parent/volunteer in their team when registering the team (forms are available on the web).

The clubs are to ensure volunteers who do not have children playing have a Working with Children Card and a copy of these is to be submitted with the questionnaire forms. No volunteer will be accepted to do any duty including canteen without the appropriate forms being completed.

Please be aware, aunties, uncles, grandparents are more than welcome to volunteer but must have a card if they have no children of their own playing.

We do understand you are entitled to up to 5 volunteer duties a year before the cards are required but as we cannot verify what other volunteering duties have been carried out at other events we will adopt a strengthened policy of NO card NO Duty. This is a strong line but parents must understand we must protect ALL children and show due diligence that we have taken all steps to do so.

All clubs needs to supply a full list of volunteers which includes volunteers without a working with children card, (the Club form are available on the web). All WWC cards will be validated by the Association and spot check will be carried out during game days.

**Volunteers not listed with the association will be removed from any Volunteer or Officials positions**

## 3. Games

Games are to commence and finish on the siren. NO EXCEPTIONS. Parents pay for one hour of play. If uneven innings at the completion of the game the scores are calculated as follows:

1. If it is the top of the innings and the second team has not batted the scores revert back to what they were at the end of the previous innings.
2. If the second side is batting and the siren sounds and they are winning the score remains. If they are not winning the score reverts back to the score at the end of the previous innings. (equal or a draw score is not winning)

## 4. Coaches

All coaches at TDTBA are to be Level 'A' accredited. This is an accreditation run by our governing body TBAWA. You may have accreditations at other sports but they do not impact on your requirement to have the correct accreditation.

## 5. Warming Up

Due to the amount of incidents, there is to be **NO** ball throwing during game times. Balls may only be thrown on the diamond in the 10 min change over *between* games under STRICT adult supervision.

Stretching and jogging warm ups can be used while waiting for the 10 minutes break. NO footballs, basketballs or throwing devices are to be used at the grounds.

## **6. Cabanas**

Cabanas are not for parents to shelter under. For the safety of the children please stay out of the cabanas at ALL times. The only people allowed under them are the Coaching staff and children. (Coaching staff consists of Coach, Team Manager and Base Coaches).

## **7. Out of Bounds/Restricted Areas**

The following areas are out of bounds for safety reasons:

### **6.1 Sutherlands**

Swamp area

Center of oval during Under 13s games.

## **8. Weather**

Games are cancelled when the temperature reaches 40 degrees. 13's and under games will be called a draw. All players registered to the teams of the games cancelled will be accredited a game stat, however only one game stat is to be given to children who play multiple games. A heat management plan will be introduced for finals by the TDTBA Executive Committee.

We do play games in the rain. However if lightening is seen coming in the direction of the ground the games will be called off (if the lightening is past the ground in the direction the wind and rain is going we will continue to play).

Three blast of the siren will sound to stop all games and pack diamonds away if games are called off. Games will be called off by the TDTBA Executive Committee only.

## **9. Smoking**

Smoking is a health issue and will NOT be tolerated on the grassed areas. You can smoke on the bitumen of the car park but not inside the closed off area around the oval and canteen. This also includes E-Cigarettes and Vapour devices.

## **10. Alcohol**

Alcohol is STRICTLY not permitted in the grounds of the venue. This includes the car park. This is a directive from Department of Sporting and Recreation

- No consumption of alcohol at junior sports;

## **11. Parking**

Parking is available around the ground and we request parents use due care when reversing.

A fine will be issued for any unauthorized parking on grounds

## **12. First Aid**

Fully stocked first aid kit and ice packs are in the canteen. However administering the first aid is the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

All children registered are covered for ambulance trips from the ground to hospital by TDTBA on the Saturday game day or during Friday night games.

Access to the first aid kit and any use of an ambulance requires an incident form to be completed. These are held in the first aid kit.

## **13. Bats**

Wooden bats are permitted but must have grips on the handle.

## **14. Sponsors**

Club sponsors are permitted to hang banner. However TDTBA takes no responsibility for any damage or loss to the banner.

## **15. Animals**

This is a children's sport and in the interests and safety of ALL children NO animals are permitted on the grounds.

## **16. Playing UP**

Children are only permitted to play up one age grouping from the required registered age grouping (hence if your child is a legitimate 8's and under but is registered and plays 9's and under they can NOT play 10's and under.)

If a child plays up more than 1 age group from their legitimate age group, then a fine shall apply.

Children registered in 13s who are eligible to play in their 11s age group cannot play down in the 11s comp unless they are the 9<sup>th</sup> player for that team and the team has a maximum of 9 players.

## **17. Interference from the fences**

If a ball is hit as a fair ball and passes under, through or over the boundary fence a homerun will be awarded. The plate umpire will call ' Time '. The ball will be considered as a dead ball and the base runners will advance by the call of the plate umpire.

The ball will be considered a dead ball at the time it passes the line of the boundary fence, even if it can be reached through the fence. This is a safety procedure that must be followed. If a ball is hit fair and bounces off the boundary fence and back into the playing field, the ball will still be in play until the play has ended.

**This is a judgement call by the plate umpire and therefore, is not subject to appeal.**

## 18. 7's and Under Ground Rule

1. Five strikes are permitted in this grade.
2. Coaches in the outfield are permitted but MUST position themselves BEHIND the infield players. They are NOT to stand in the diamond or in fielding positions.
3. Commonsense is to prevail where a child is continually struck out at this level. It is NOT against TDTBA rules for a coach to assist a child in hitting the ball. Interpreting this guideline means if a child has say two bats and is struck out each time the coach can guide the child's swing next time at bat. (It does not mean slug the ball out of the diamond) It is a guide to help build confidence in the child.

We need to remember this is the developing age for children and we are not here to dishearten the children but guide them and build confidence. Scores are

NOT important at this age but the development of the children is.

## 19. Under 11s and up Umpire rule

All under 11s and above games must be plate umpired by an accredited umpire.

## 20. Registration Cards

To be completed in full and provided to the registrar prior to the season commencing. If players commence after the season starts the card is to be placed into the Registrars draw inside the demountable near the Canteen on the day the child plays.

Failure to do this will deem the child unregistered.

**Unregistered players are not covered by insurance and the club will be fined per offence.**

## 21. Score cards

A sample of how to fill these in correctly is on the web. Once they have been completed correctly they are too be placed in the Registrars draw inside the demountable near the Canteen on the day of play. Score cards are the responsibility of the home team.

**Incorrectly filled in cards attract a club fine for the home team.**

## 22. Club duties

Club duty rosters are on the website. A description of what is required for each duty is also on the website and form part of these by laws.

Failure to complete your duty is a fine to the Club (be mindful the canteen is calculated per time slot)

## **23. Disputes with Umpires**

Parents are volunteers as are all committee members of all the clubs and the TDTBA committee therefore we WILL NOT tolerate any verbal or physical abuse of these volunteers or other parents and certainly NOT any child. TDTBA currently has a fine for any abuse of any official.

The following guidelines are for all age groups.

Coaches can call time and approach the umpire in a friendly manner and query a decision. (After the umpire has called time and invites the coach, this does not include judgment calls) The umpire is to listen to the coach. Once the umpire has listened and explained their decision or gone to discuss the decision with the field umpire and a final call is made it is to be the END of the discussion.

If the umpire is questioned, approached by any person not deemed to be the coach of the team or hears any derogatory comments from the spectators they are to:

1. Call time.
2. Approach the coach of the club concerned and issue a warning to the team. (The coach will need to speak to the parent/parents involved)
3. Send a responsible person to get the Game Day Official (GDO) or a TDTBA committee.
4. Any further breaches time is to be called and the offending spectator is to be asked to leave the ground.
5. The game is not to recommence until the spectator has left the ground.
6. As a last resort a 9 nil forfeit will be called to the other team if the game cannot continue in a civilized manner in front of the children.
7. The umpire is to write full comments on the score card as to the incident. Names and clubs etc

This will then result in a tribunal with the umpire the Presidents of the Clubs concerned and the coaches. It is at this point fines may be issued to clubs.

If the umpire is abused by a coach the umpire will:

1. Call time
2. Issue a formal warning
3. Send a responsible person to get the Game Day Official (GDO) or TDTBA Committee.
4. If any further instances happen from the coach the umpire is to call time and ask the coach to leave the ground
5. This is to be fully documented on the score card.
6. A tribunal hearing will then take place.

As a last resort a 9 nil forfeit will be called if the game cannot proceed in a civilized manner in front of the children.

## **24. Disputes with Officials**

Any verbal or written directive given by an official (Official meaning TDTBA Committee Member, Chief Umpire, Umpires, Club Committee and Coaches) must be followed or a fine will be incurred to the Club that person represents.

## 25. Breaches of Code of Conduct Procedure

Any breaches of the TDTBA code of conduct by any coach, player, spectator, etc... will result in a TDTBA bylaws fine.

Umpires are to put them in writing on score card, the breach that occurred and by whom. E.g. Spectator yelled unsanitary comments at opposition coach. (The Umpire must get the position of person making breach, name of the club and person making breach, same for witnesses). These breaches will be penalized in accordance with the TDTBA Bylaws

TDTBA committee we WILL NOT tolerate any verbal or physical abuse of any volunteers or other parents and certainly NOT any child. TDTBA currently has a fine for any abuse of any official. Any person in breach of the Code of Conducts maybe removed, suspended or a cancellation of their membership as may be deemed necessary or convenient for the purposes of the TDTBA.

## 26. Players Attire

For the safety of the children NO Jewelry is to worn on the playing field. This includes rubber bracelets. Medic alert are not deemed as jewelry but it is highly recommended these be taped.

Earrings are NOT to be taped they are to be removed. All shirts MUST be tucked in.

Appropriate foot wear is to be worn. If you wish your child to wear what is called a skate shoe the laces MUST be done up fully to allow the shoe to provide ankle support when running.

The only glasses to be worn are prescription vision glasses. No sunglasses unless prescription are to be worn.

Caps MUST be worn forwards. This especially applies under batting helmets. Chest plates must be worn for ALL age groups for both Boys and Girls.

Batting helmets are to be worn for ALL age groups. Catcher's helmets are to be worn in ALL grades.

Pitchers in ALL grades are to wear a face guard helmet.

Outfielders are to wear helmets if they are backing onto other diamonds. This is to apply to the children's position if affects. Example: (If right field does not back onto another diamond no need for a helmet but center field and left field do then these players need a helmet).

## 27. Parental Attire

Tee-ball is a sport that requires parent involvement and the TDTBA committee strongly recommends to ALL clubs to encourage parent involvement from the very first playing game across all grades.

Closed in shoes are required by all parents involved in the following duties:

1. Coaching whether it is team coaching or base coaching.
2. Umpiring either base or plate
3. Team Managing
4. Scorers
5. Canteen Duty
6. Game Day Official
7. Career for a child on the field while fielding or base running.

Closed in shoes are defined as covering the whole foot. No slip on ones that only cover the toes (that includes the slip on sneakers that have an open/lower back on them).

Helmets must be worn for under 16 year olds base coaching.



## 28. Injured or Sick Children

Children who have been injured (examples are: sprains - cannot complete game, fractures, broken bones, sutures) or have had a serious illness (including chicken pox) require a medical clearance to return to tee-ball.

This medical clearance clears TDTBA of any legal liability in allowing the child to return to play. TBAWA also have this requirement for all state players.

The insurance company has stated the child will not be covered if they have any pre-existing injury or illness. Thus meaning the parent is liable for all expenses. They have also said the Association needs to limit liability by requesting the clearance.

The medical clearance form needs to be given to the District Registrar for filing in the records. Clubs need to be aware via their coaching staff of what children need to complete this requirement.

It is only in the best interests of the child to obtain this clearance. If the child is medically fit to play a clearance will not be hard to obtain.

## 29. Children with Disabilities

Tee-ball is a sport for all children. From time to time we will have children playing with special needs/disabilities. These children may require assistance to play. Prejudices against these children will NOT be tolerated.

When registering and playing against children with disabilities, please remember:

1. Medical certificates clearing the child to play need to be given to the District Registrar on registration of the registered child.
2. Dispensation forms to play a lower grade will also need to be completed and given to the District Registrar for the appropriate signing off.
3. Children with Disabilities are to be given the opportunity to make first base safely on ALL occasions.
4. The children will then run the bases as per normal. Outs will then be as per normal game rules. It is discretionary agreement between the umpire and the two coaches involved as to allowing the child to get home. An out can be registered however allowing the child to make it home is in the spirit of the game. The score will then only count if the child was not a legitimate out. (Keeping in mind they may never make it home otherwise)
5. Depending on the child's disability they may require a carer to run the bases with them. This carer can assist the child and MUST remain in an immediate proximity to the child at all times and not interfere with the fielding team. The carer must wear closed in shoes.

## 30. Summary of Fines

\$100 Unauthorized parking in fenced area near canteen (page 4)

\$50 per player; playing out of age group.

\$50 per unregistered player (page 6)

\$20 for home team for incorrectly filled in Score cards (\$20 per card) (page 6)

\$50 Failure to complete Club duty (page 6)

\$200 Disputes with Officials (page 7)

\$100 Breach of Code of Conduct (page 8)

Volunteers not listed with the association will be removed from any Volunteer or Officials positions

## 31. 13's and Under Ground Rules

All general rules as per Thornlie and Districts Bylaws and Code of Conduct, unless listed below.

Any infringements of the general rules may result in a fine. Fines are listed, but are not exclusive to these fines, as T & D By-laws and code of conduct carry their own fines.

13's players must be registered for one team.

- No 13's player can play for more than one 13's team during the 13's premiership competition. Not even at the same club.
- Any team that requires players to fill in can draw from any 11's team in its own club. Playing up is a privilege, not a right.
- Be aware that just because a player is registered in 11's, they may not be able to play 13's. If they are a legitimate 10's playing up, they cannot play 13's.
- Clubs with no 11's team will be able to draw from other clubs if the team has less than 9 players, but can only field 9 players.

Players must play at least half plus 1 season general games for one team to qualify to play in the finals series.

Plate umpire will be a mutual umpire from another club as per 13's umpire roster.

- Each team must supply an umpire to cover their umpiring duty.
- Umpiring duties will only be advised to Presidents and team coaches.
- If an umpire does not cover their duty, the umpire must be a mutual umpire from another club and cannot have any ties to either team. I.e. Parent. Unless agreed upon by both coaches.

The plate umpire must be at your rostered diamond at least 10 minutes prior to the siren to check diamond and address coaches so that the game will start on the siren.

If the plate umpire has not arrived at your diamond,

- 5 minutes before the siren, the home team must call the GDO so that the game will start on the siren. (Unless you know that the duty is going to be covered.)

Both teams must supply a base umpire each. The umpires will cover bases as per, away team will cover first base and home team will cover second base. The plate umpire will cover third base and home plate. Second base umpire will start on the third base line when no play on the diamond. E.g.: No runner on base.

Games must Start and Finish on sirens.

- If a play is in progress, complete the play first.

If a ball is hit into another playing field and if there is a safety issue with the ball being pursued, the umpires will call time and talk through what the outcome of the play would have been with the base umpires, as per TBAWA rule book (away from players and parents. i.e. between first and second base) then call the play. I.e., move the runners to the base they would have advanced to or grant a home run. This is an umpire's judgment call and cannot be appealed.

This will be the call of the umpires to make, if there are no players on the other diamond, if the ball goes through the outfield, but stops just past the outfielder with no interference there is no need to award the home run and let the play go. But in the rare case when the ball is struck that well that the ball enters near the other diamond and could interfere and cause safety issues by giving chase, a home run is awarded. The umpire in the second diamond should call time if there is interference and replay the batter, if the ball does not interfere there is no need to replay.

Innings change, e.g. batting to fielding to be completed within 60 seconds

(Team managers need to be organized)

- Umpire will call batter up and commence play without fielders or batter if they feel that players are taking too long.
- Uneven innings, the score will revert back to even innings.
- Unless the home team (2nd to bat) scores enough runs to lead the game without the innings being over. E.g. At the start of the 2nd team to bat in the fourth innings the score 17 to 15 with the away side leading (1<sup>st</sup> to bat, just finished). The home team gets two runners on base and a home run is hit getting all three home. The next batter gets on base and the siren goes. The innings is not complete, but the second team to bat cannot lose.

## 32. Tee-ball Tie Breaker Rule

The first batter will start at 2nd base at the start of the innings as a base runner. The innings will still consist of 9 batters, including the runner that started on second base.

**The tie breaker rule has been written to suit our sport, due to Tee-ball having a limit of nine batters, this allows for even batting for all players.**

## 33. Fines – Lost to premiership points

Fines listed below are point related fines, for premiership.

T & D code of conduct fines are listed in T & D bylaws fines.

1. Plate Umpire Not Attending  
If the game does not start on time and/or the chief umpire has to organize an umpire, this will result in a 2 premiership point's fine.
2. Playing of non-legitimate players will result in a 2 premiership point fine and may result in a by-laws fine.
3. Any breaches of the TDTBA code of conduct by coaches, players, team managers, base coaches and scorers will result in a 2 premiership point fine and may also result in a TDTBA bylaws fine.

Umpires are to put them in writing on score card, the breach that occurred and by whom. E.g. Coach yelled unsanitary comments at opposition coach. {The Umpire must get name, club and position of person making breach. same for witnesses}. These breaches will be penalized in accordance with the T & D Bylaws and the 13's general rules.

Any breaches of the TDTBA code of conduct by spectator will result in a TDTBA Bylaws fine.

- Umpires are to put them in writing on score card, the breach that occurred and by whom. E.g. Spectator yelled unsanitary comments at opposition coach. {The Umpire must get name, club and position of person making breach. same for witnesses}. These breaches will be penalized in accordance with the TDTBA Bylaw

## 34. Finals

The finals will consist of top teams after the first 12 to 13 games as set by the TDTBA committee at the start of the season. (This depends on the amount of teams in the competition.) Teams in the Competition:

- Up to and including 10 teams. Top 4 finals.
- 11 teams and over: Top 6 finals.

Teams that have been eliminated or do not qualify for the finals must play in a round robin series until the end of the season unless organized with the TDTBA Exec.

All final games are to consist of 7 innings.

## **35. Draws in the finals**

If a draw occurs after the 7 full innings a tie breaker rule will come into play.

No scores are to be asked for or given by the scorer to anyone other than the TDTBA Executive Committee.

Any game that is scheduled will be moved to another diamond by the TDTBA Chief Umpire or TDTBA Executive Committee.

All score cards to be handed directly to the TDTBA Chief Umpire or TDTBA Registrar.

## **36. Grand Final**

Grand final will consist of 7 full innings.

If a draw occurs after the 7 full innings a tie breaker rule will come into play.

No scores are to be asked for or given by the scorer to anyone other than the Chief Umpire or T & D Executive Committee.

Score will be announced at presentations.

The best player of the grand final will be chosen by the TDTBA President or elected delegate such as life members, with help from the field umpires if required

## **37. Umpires for Finals**

The plate and base umpires for the finals series will be a mutual umpire selected by the Thornlie and Districts Association Chief Umpire. They may be discussed with the Thornlie and Districts Executive Committee if required. These selections are a judgement choice by the Chief Umpire and therefore not a subject for appeal and are not up for discussion.

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