

# Forest Hill T-Ball Association



2018

BlastBall  
Handbook

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## **Forest Hill T-Ball Contacts**

Laura Harrington - President  
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To reach any of the contacts, please email [office@foresthilltball.com](mailto:office@foresthilltball.com)

If we have missed anyone we are sorry but we have deadlines to meet for printing.

Please check FHTBA web site for a complete listing of our sponsors.

# **Code Of Conduct**

## **HOW TO BE A FAN AT A BLASTBALL GAME**

It is the goal of FHTBA to provide a safe and secure environment for our players, umpires and coaches free of any demeaning or abusive behaviour, verbal or otherwise, on the part of spectators at the ballpark.

As adults, we have a responsibility to protect our young people from any abusive and damaging behaviour and to provide them with a safe environment in which to develop their skills and build their self-confidence.

## **Be Good or Be Gone Policy**

The city of Kitchener has implemented a BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT POLICY (June, 1999) to encourage appropriate behaviour and activities in all Parks and Recreation Facilities. Behaviour and activities that obstruct or hinder the rights of others to use and enjoy Parks and Recreation Department Facilities is unacceptable and prohibited.

Inappropriate Behaviour at a Forest Hill T-Ball game includes:

- Creating a disturbance—verbal or reacting in a manner that undermines the decision and authority of a coach, or others.
- Shouting any demeaning, rude or abusive comments at a player, coach or another parent.
- Intimidating or threatening a player, coach or another parent
- Using profanity / obscene language directed at a player, coach or another parent
- Harassing a coach over his/her calls behind the plate or on the bases
- Engaging in verbal or physical conflicts with other parents or fans.
- Littering or causing unsanitary conditions.

### **Enforcement Steps:**

1. The offending party will be told by a FHTBA Official (a member of the executive or a coach of the teams involved) that their behaviour is not acceptable and they will be asked to stop the behaviour.
2. If the party does not stop with the unacceptable behaviour, they will be asked to leave the facility
3. If the party refuses to leave, the official will call the Police.

### **Consequences:**

“anyone who commits inappropriate behaviour or activity under ARTICLE III Section ii, iii and iv **may** be ejected from the facility immediately and prohibited from returning to a program or event for a period of time”

The coaches on each team are responsible for the behaviour of the spectators associated with his / her team.

### **TIPS for PARENTS**

- Make sure your child is committed to the team (games and practices)
- If your child cannot make a game call your coach ahead of time as they need to make up the lineups for the game before they arrive.
- Encourage your child to attend practices as they are essential in skills development
- Make sure your child is dressed properly (FHTBA Hat, Shirt & long pants)
- Arrive at the park at least 1/2 hr before game time for warm-up and also to get the games started on time.
- Stay and watch the game
- Offer to help the coaches with scoring, practices or sometimes coaching
- Be a supportive spectator and only make comments that support and encourage the players. Never ridicule young players who make mistakes.
- Do **NOT** ask the coach to drive your child to a game or practice—The City of Kitchener Insurance Policy does not cover coaches under these circumstances. Arrange car-pooling with the other parents on the team.
- If you have any concerns, talk to your coach **after** the practice or game.
- Insist that your child stays on the bench not in the spectator area
- Take an opportunity to thank the coaching staff of the team—they put a lot of volunteer hours into running the team on and off the field.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### Priority of Rules

The Forest Hill T – Ball Association has adopted these rules to maintain an appropriate balance between flexibility and consistency.

The official rules of baseball published by the Ontario Baseball Association (OBA) apply whenever the association or league rules do not override them.

The association secretary is responsible for maintaining a copy of these rules.

## **PURPOSE**

These rules are designed to avoid confusion and to guide coaches, players and parents to ensure fairness and equality during games.

It is still the responsibility of all parties involved to demonstrate good sportsmanship conduct in line with the association's objectives of developing player's skills in a fun and learning environment.

## **GENERAL CONDUCT**

Teams should be at their diamonds ½ hour before the scheduled game start time.

**The use of tobacco or alcohol on the field or benches is PROHIBITED.**

## **GAME CONDUCT AND ASSOCIATION RULES**

The game begins at the designated start time when the coaches declares play ball (a 5 minute grace period is allowed if there are insufficient players to start). Both coaches should discuss if a game should be canceled due to in climate weather. The safety of the players must take priority and no game can continue if lightning is observed.

The home team prepares the field for the game (tee, bases, lines, etc.).

## **UNIFORMS / EQUIPMENT**

All players must wear a league cap and shirt. No jewelry can be worn with the exception of Medical Alert necklaces and/or bracelets. No metal cleats are allowed. **It is mandatory that long pants be worn. NO SHORTS.**

All players that are either on deck, batting or running the bases must wear a helmet with the chinstrap fastened before play can start.

Ball gloves are not necessary but they can be worn if they choose to.

### **SCORING**

No scores will be kept for Blastball because all games end in a tie.

### **PLAYING FIELD**

In an open area, field, park or diamond, position your Tee/home plate so that hitting allows you a safe area of play. Like regular ball diamond, from the tee pace off 15 feet to the right and position your Blastbase. This establishes your fair/foul line to the right.

To the left of the tee and perpendicular to your Blastbase line, pace off an equal distance and position your cone. This establishes your fair/foul line to the left.

Now pace off 7.5 feet directly in front of the Tee and lay out your line marker between the (hypothetical) 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> base lines, this becomes the dead ball line. If the ball is hit inside of that line it is foul and should be re-teed for another try. If it goes beyond the line, either in the air or on a roll it is considered in play.

### **OBJECTIVE**

The defensive players take the field behind the dead ball line. The 1<sup>st</sup> batter hits the ball off the tee and runs to the blastbase, if the batter reaches the base and “Honks” before a defensive player catches the ball in the air (an automatic out) or fields it and raises his arm with the ball in it and yells “Blast”, he/she scores a run. If the ball is caught or fielded and “Blast” is yelled before the runner gets to the blastbase, then the runner is out.

Each team will bat all players once per inning then change sides.

Forest Hill T-Ball (BlastBall) Rules – Rev. 2014

# 10 Commandments For Parents

T-Ball is a very good thing because it keeps  
the parents off the streets

1. I shall not criticize the umpire unless I am ready to assume his duties
2. I shall not complain about anyone unless I have labored more hours on the T-Ball program
3. I shall not be a "Grand Stand" Manager
4. I shall encourage my child to follow the T-Ball Pledge
5. I shall remember that only 10 players can play at one time
6. I shall set an example of sportsmanship for my child to follow
7. I shall not be critical unless I am willing to put out the necessary effort to correct my criticism
8. I shall encourage my child to follow the T-Ball Pledge
9. I shall remember that all managers, coaches and league directors are volunteer workers and cannot work on the T-Ball program full time
10. I shall offer my services for work whenever possible