

Urgent – changes to U/7 Tee Ball Rules

Effective immediately!

At the Delegates' meeting held Tuesday 14th November it was agreed by the clubs that for the remainder of the season there would be some special rules applicable only to the U/7 competition. These are to be applied in conjunction with the normal tee ball rules. The intent of the changes is to make the game more enjoyable for beginning players.

1. There will be NO minimum number of players for an U/7 team. They can play with less than 7 if they wish.
2. Teams will bat through their line up each innings. It is expected that teams often won't have the same number of players. The team with fewer players will continue to bat until they have had as many turns at bat as the team with the larger number of players. The team with fewer players will bat as normal so that the first batter in a new inning will follow the last batter from the previous inning. The team with the larger number of players will bat in reverse order from the previous inning so that the same child does not have to bat last every inning.

Before the last batter is about to hit the umpire will hold the ball in the air and loudly announce last batter. Scorers are asked to assist in letting the umpire know when the last batter is about to take their turn.

(This innovation is to reduce playing time lost when teams change over after 3 outs or 6 runs. It is envisaged there will be fewer change overs and more playing time)

3. Players may no longer advance when a fly ball is caught. When a fly ball is caught the batter is out, the ball is dead and all runners will return to the base held before the ball was hit. Double plays are no longer an option.
(This innovation is to reduce the screaming and shouting at both fielders and runners that invariably occurs when a fly ball is caught. It complements the "shoosh" campaign.)
4. There will be no strike outs in U/7. Children will continue batting until they have put the ball into play.
(This is a common request of coaches each week at the plate meeting so to avoid conflict and confusion by young umpires it has been adopted as a rule in U/7's only)

There was discussion about limiting the number of bases run or assessing the value of a hit and restricting the runners to the number of bases that would have been achieved if no errors occurred but no firm decision was reached. Coached are requested to allow their runners the true value of a batted ball but without taking advantage of errors by young children still learning to play.

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