

St. Thomas Optimist Softball

TIMBIT DIVISION (U5)

1. Emphasis is to be placed on learning the fundamentals of the sport, good sportsmanship, and having fun.
2. Diamonds will be prepped by City Staff ahead of Games
3. There will be no umpires assigned - Coaches are responsible for calling fair/foul and directing players
4. Coaches are responsible for placing bases into sleeves before the game (first coach to arrive)
5. "Home" team coach is responsible for returning bases to equipment bins after each game
6. There will be no score kept and no forfeits at this level
7. All players will play offense and defense each inning
8. Minimum of two innings to be played per game
9. No innings will begin after 60 minutes from the start of the game
10. All players will bat when their team is playing offense - no outs are recorded
11. A player will receive a maximum of five pitches (coach-pitch) and then must use the tee
12. Coaches will pitch from a minimum distance of 10 feet from the plate
13. The area marked 10 feet from the plate toward the pitcher is considered a "dead-ball" zone
14. If the ball is hit foul or within the dead ball zone the player will bat again until a fair ball is hit
15. Base-runners will advance one base per batter until the final batter has hit
16. When the final batter has hit, all runners advance to home
17. Only base-runners will be allowed to stand on bases
18. Stealing bases is not allowed
19. All players will take the field when their team is playing defense - no one on the bench
20. Coaches or parents may assist with batting and/or fielding as needed
21. Fielding players must be positioned at base distance or farther and may not enter the 10 ft dead-ball zone to field a hit ball
22. Catcher must wear the leg guards, chest protector, and catcher's helmet
23. Catcher must be positioned at least 5 ft behind home plate
24. Batters/base-runners must wear a helmet with face mask until they have entered the dugout

Ball: 9" soft core ball

Pitcher: No closer than 10 ft dead ball zone

Dead Ball Zone: A circular arch measured from home plate to 10 feet

Base Distance: 45 feet