



## **Doncaster Dragons Baseball Club - Parent Information**

### **Why play baseball?**

Baseball is a fun, high participation, team sport that focuses heavily on the basics of throwing, catching and hitting a ball. It is a very team oriented game, where participants are encouraged to learn and support each other in a team environment.

A key emphasis of baseball is in coaching and teaching the fundamental mechanics of the game, many of which complement other sports (e.g. cricket, golf)

The advantages of baseball are:

- ✓ It is high participation in that players get to bat on more than one occasion per game and are rotated through all key positions at junior level.
- ✓ Children are taught the basics of throwing and catching by technical experts. Again, these skills are transferable to other sports
- ✓ It is very team oriented, in that it relies on players actively working together and supporting each other to get the opposition out and to score runs
- ✓ Our entry level, club hosted junior competitions (Under 10 & Under 12) are limited to 90 minutes and played at the one venue, therefore minimising the need to travel.
- ✓ The sport is played in all States of Australia and most countries globally.
- ✓ Elite level opportunities exist at both the national level and professional level through links to US Major League Baseball and US College system

### **What is available at Doncaster Baseball Club?**

We conduct an entry level Under 10 T-Ball competition and an Under 12 Baseball Competition on Friday evenings. Both competitions are mixed – girls and boys are invited to play

We also have Under 12, Under 14, Under 16 and Under 18 teams on Sunday mornings. Senior Men's teams play Sunday afternoons & Senior Women's teams on Saturdays afternoons. All of these teams play in the Baseball Victoria Competition.

The Summer season runs from October through to March each year. The Winter Season runs from April to September.

### **Competition Guidelines**

All competitions in which Doncaster Baseball Club participates are governed by Baseball Victoria policies and procedures.

We also supplement these policies with our own Match Committee Guidelines and Code of Conduct. Copies of these are available from the club website.



## Doncaster Dragons Baseball Club - Parent Information

### T-Ball

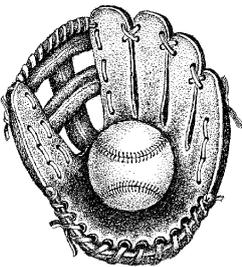
T-Ball is a modified form of baseball played by boys and girls aged 5-9 years. Our Under 10 T-Ball program is aimed at teaching the fundamentals of the game.

A special ball and a tee is used to ensure that the children can learn the skills of the game in a safe and enjoyable environment without the pressures of the live pitch game. Active parent involvement and participation in the game is supported.

T-Ball is an excellent start to team sports and provides an introduction to basic ball handling skills and hand-eye coordination. This takes place in a fun, team environment that values the merits of the individual and participation over winning.

### What is Baseball?

Baseball is known as "America's national pastime", and has been played for more than 150 years now – mainly thanks to a West Point Cadet by the name of Abner Doubleday who is credited with having invented the game in the year of 1839.



The game is played on a baseball field or diamond. There is the home plate, where each batter stands when it is their turn at bat, the first base, second base, and third base.

There are two teams consisting of nine players each. The player's positions are the pitcher, the catcher, the first baseman, the second baseman, the third baseman, the shortstop, the left fielder, the centre fielder, and the right fielder.

When one team is on the field, the other team takes turns among its members, at batting the ball.

The **infield** is a 90-foot square (junior leagues use a 45-60 foot square). The **outfield** is the area between two foul lines formed by extending two sides of the square from home plate. The infield and outfield, including the boundary lines, are fair territory and all other area is foul territory.

The **ball** is a sphere formed by yarn wound around a small core of cork, rubber or similar material, covered with two stripes of white leather, tightly stitched together.

The **bat** is a smooth, round stick not more than 2 3/4 inches in diameter at the thickest part and not more than 42 inches in length.

Each **fielder** may use or wear a leather glove. A fielder is any defensive player.



## Doncaster Dragons Baseball Club - Parent Information

### Objectives of the game of Baseball

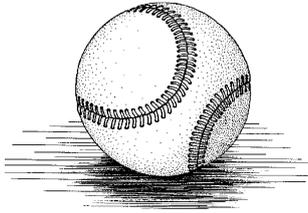
The objective of each team is to win by scoring more runs than the opponent.

A **RUN** is the score made by an offensive player who advances from batter to runner and touches first, second, third and home bases in that order.

A **BATTER** is an offensive player who takes his position in the batter's box and attempts to hit a ball thrown to him by the pitcher.

A **PITCHER** is the fielder designated to deliver the pitch to the batter. The pitcher pitches the ball to the batter and the batter attempts to hit the pitch and become a runner.

A **PITCH** is a ball delivered to the batter by the pitcher.



The **CATCHER** is the fielder who takes his position back of the home plate and catches the pitcher's pitch when the batter does not hit the pitch.

A **RUNNER** is an offensive player who is advancing toward, or touching, or returning to any base.

The winner of the game shall be that team which shall have scored, in accordance with these rules, the greater number of runs at the conclusion of a regulation game.

An **INNING** is that portion of a game within which the teams alternate on offense and defense and in which there are three **OUTS** for each team. Each team's time at bat is a half-inning.

An **OUT** is one of the three required retirements of an offensive team during its time at bat. When three offensive (batting) players are legally put out, that team takes the field and the opposing team becomes the offensive (batting) team.

### How a Team Scores

One run shall be scored each time a runner legally advances to and touches first, second, third and home before three men are put out to end the inning.

### Basic Rules

The **batting order** must be followed throughout the game unless a player is substituted for another. Each player of the offensive team shall bat in the order that his name appears in his team's batting order.

The first batter in each inning after the first inning shall be the player whose name follows that of the last player who legally completed his time at bat in the preceding inning.



## Doncaster Dragons Baseball Club - Parent Information

A batter may be **put out** in any of the following ways:

- ✗ Their fair or foul FLY BALL is legally caught by a fielder (catch);
- ✗ After they hit a fair ball, the batter or first base is tagged before he touches first base;
- ✗ A TAG is the action of a fielder in touching a base or a runner while holding the ball securely and firmly in his hand or glove.
- ✗ A third strike is legally caught by the catcher;
- ✗ A STRIKE is a legal pitch when so called by the umpire, which -
  - Is swung at by the batter and is missed;
  - Is not struck at, but any part of the ball passes through any part of the STRIKE ZONE.

The STRIKE ZONE is that area over home plate the upper limit of which is a horizontal line at the midpoint between the top of the shoulders and the top of the uniform pants, and the lower level is a line at the top of the knees.

The batter becomes a **runner** and is entitled to first base without liability to be put out when -

- Four "balls" have been called by the umpire (A BALL is a pitch which does not enter the strike zone in flight and is not struck at by the batter).
- They are touched by a pitched ball which they are not attempting to hit unless (1) The ball is in the strike zone when it touches the batter, or (2) The batter makes no attempt to avoid being touched by the ball;

The batter becomes a **runner** and is liable to be put out when –

- They hit a FAIR BALL (A FAIR BALL is a batted ball that settles on fair ground between home and first base, or between home and third base, or that is on or over fair territory when bounding to the outfield past first or third base).

A runner acquires the right to an unoccupied base when they touch it before they are put out. In advancing, a runner shall touch first, second, third and home base in order. If forced to return, they shall retouch all bases in reverse order, unless the ball is dead.

Any runner is out when -

- ✗ They are tagged, when the ball is alive, while off the base (EXCEPTION: A batter-runner cannot be tagged out after overrunning first base if they return immediately to the base).
- ✗ They fail to retouch their base after a fair or foul fly ball is legally caught before they, or their base, is tagged by a fielder.
- ✗ They are touched by a fair ball in fair territory before the ball has touched or passed an infielder.
- ✗ They pass a preceding runner before such runner is out.