

Tee Ball (5U) Rules

The Field

- Bases will be at 50 feet.
- The pitching rubber for players fielding in the pitcher's position will be at 30 feet. *Players do not pitch.*

Game Ball

- Players will use a standard 9-9.5" tee ball.

Player Equipment

- All players must be in full uniform (jersey and pants) to participate.
- Hanging jewelry (earrings, necklaces, etc.) is not allowed.
- All batters, on-deck batters, and base runners are required to wear protective batting helmets at all times. Face cages on batting helmets are strongly encouraged.

Roster Management

- Games should begin on time, regardless of the number of players per side. Late arriving players may assume defensive positions freely at the next available stoppage of play and should be added to the end of the batting lineup.
- There are no forfeits in the Tee Ball division and coaches should make every attempt to allow the children who do attend the game to play. If the team rosters are exceptionally imbalanced, coaches may elect to redistribute players to even the sides.
- **All players must appear in the field defensively:** 4 at the traditional infield positions, no more than 2 at the pitcher's rubber (positioned either to the right or the left of the mound), and the rest evenly spaced across the outfield. There is no player catcher. ***Coaches should reinforce positioning and discourage players from crowding batted balls.***
- Teams may make unlimited positional switches during a game.
- **Every child should bat (universal batting order).**

Adults on the Field

- **Parent/adult participation will be at each coach's discretion and adhere to the following limits:**
 - **Batting (no more than 4):** One adult will coordinate batting and load the ball on the tee for his or her own team, one should coach at first base and another at third base, and one should remain in the dugout to coordinate the lineup.
 - **Fielding (no more than 2):** One coach is permitted behind shortstop and another behind second base.
 - **No more than 2 coaches may be in the dugout at any time.** Additional adult volunteers should return to the spectator area when not assisting on the field.

Gameplay

- **There is no umpire for Tee Ball games.** Coaches should assume joint responsibility for coordinating the game and making any judgment calls.
- Games will adhere to a firm one-hour time limit.
- Coaches should use their best discretion to determine whether to proceed in the event of darkness or inclement weather. **Player safety, not getting a complete game in, should always be the priority.**
- In the event that a defensive side records three proper outs, the inning will be over. Otherwise, **teams should bat for a reasonable amount of time (not more than once through the batting order) before switching sides.** For teams with long lineups, coaches are encouraged to set in advance a maximum number of batters per inning.

Batting

- There are strikeouts and no walks. **A player shall bat until he or she hits the ball in play.**
- Throwing the bat is prohibited. Coaches should teach the proper technique for letting go of the bat and address inadvertently thrown bats to the entire team.
- Coaches should make sure that on-deck batters stand at a safe distance from the plate until it is their turn to bat.
- After the midpoint of the season, players who are capable of hitting thrown pitches may attempt to do so. In such cases, a coach should pitch to the player (overhand or underhand permitted) from a reasonable distance (minimum 20 feet, maximum 30 feet). If the batter does not make contact after 5 swings, he or she must use the tee.

Base Running

- **Runners should be coached to run to the appropriate base and should not be encouraged to circle the bases for a “home run” every time.**
- Coaches may not assist or touch baserunners in any way, including holding them to stop them from advancing.
- Leading and stealing are not allowed. Runners must wait until the batter makes contact to advance.

Sportsmanship

- Players should take a moment after the conclusion of the game to acknowledge the other team, either with a traditional handshake line, fist bumps, or waves, as player safety protocols dictate.

Ground Rules

- Smoking is prohibited on the field and in the spectator area.
- Pets are prohibited from ICYP grounds.
- Adults should be conscious of setting a good example for the players at all times, and arguing between coaches or parents will not be tolerated. **In lieu of an umpire, coaches should report to the league office any individual whose behavior is considered abusive.**

For safety reasons, players and spectators should walk around the perimeter of the field when arriving/departing and should remain alert for batted and thrown balls on adjacent fields.

Updated 4/5/22