

# LAKESHORE BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

## T-BALL RULES

### Objectives

1. T-Ball is a recreational non-competitive league. The primary objectives are to introduce young players to the fundamentals of the game, and to develop habits of good sportsmanship in a relaxed and entertaining atmosphere. The most important rule is that the kids should always have fun.

### Field Layout

2. Bases are set 45 feet apart in a normal “diamond” configuration. Precise measurement is not required.

### Game Conduct

3. Games are three innings or 1.5 hours, whichever comes first. A game may be shortened by mutual agreement of the coaches for reasons such as darkness or inclement weather. A game must be halted immediately if lightning is in the area.
4. All players on the defensive team play in the field. All players on the offensive team bat.
5. A team stays at bat until all its players have batted once. An inning is over when both teams have batted.
6. Batters hit the ball from a tee located at home plate. There are no balls, strikes or outs. Batters swing until they put the ball in play.
7. There is no pitching required. However, in order to hold the interest of players whose skills are clearly more advanced, usually those in their second year of t-ball, coaches may pitch to players who have demonstrated in practice that they are ready for this step. In order to keep the games progressing the coach should limit the number of pitches to 6-8 (coaches use your judgment.) and then the child should use the tee.
8. Score is not kept. All games end in a tie.
9. A batter who hits the ball into the infield advances only to first base. If the ball is hit into the outfield, the batter may continue to advance until the ball is thrown into the infield.
10. Although there are no outs, fielders should attempt to make catches and throws to the appropriate bases, and coaches should teach how outs are made.

11. Runners may not leave any base until after the bat has made contact with the ball.  
There is no stealing.

### **Safety**

12. All batters and base runners must wear helmets.
13. No fielder may be closer than 40 feet from home plate until the ball is put in play by the batter.
14. No child is allowed to play the position of catcher. If a catcher is needed, a coach or a parent should be used.
15. A field coordinator designated for the league will determine whether fields are playable. Coaches must not conduct practice or play games when the coordinator has determined the fields to be unplayable.