

2018 PTE Tee Ball Rules

NOTE: All playing rules described in the *2018 Little League Baseball Official Regulations, Playing Rules, and Policies* handbook apply unless otherwise amended below.

Tee Ball Objectives

The focus of Tee Ball is to have fun and begin to introduce the skills of baseball to players focusing on the following areas:

Baseball Field - Discuss different bases and player positions in both infield and outfield. Explain the difference between fair ball and foul ball.

Hitting – Demonstrate proper grip, stance and swing and proper technique for hitting off of a tee.

Catching – Catch a thrown ball/ground ball. Demonstrate catching ground balls by player keeping ball in front of them, bending at the knees and catching the ball with two hands. Introduce concept of catching a ground ball backhanded.

Throwing – “T” Point Stance - step and follow through. Ground ball in the infield ball is always thrown to first. Ball hit through infield to outfield thrown to second.

Base Running – Run hard to and through first base. Make sure each base is touched and stay in the baseline. Teach not to overrun second and third base.

GENERAL RULES

Little League age 4 and 5 and Little League age 6 who have never played Tee Ball.

Goal is a maximum of 8 players per team.

Each game is played for 4 innings or a 1 hour, 30 minute time limit, whichever comes first.

Home team provides game ball and sits in the first base dugout. Visiting team sits in the third base dugout.

FIELDING RULES

There shall be a maximum of nine players on the field.

All infielders must play regular position: pitcher’s mound, 1st base, 2nd base, shortstop and 3rd base. There is no catcher in Tee Ball. Only one player per infield position.

If nine players are in attendance, the manager shall play four outfielders.

Only one player at the pitcher’s mound. Pitcher must remain on pitcher’s mound until ball is hit.

All other players must play the outfield. All outfielders must play no closer than 15 feet from any base.

Each player must play at least two innings in the infield.

Managers should rotate players evenly throughout the positions, although players who have difficulty catching should not be played at 1st base.

When the opposing team hits the ball, the infielder who retrieves the ball should be encouraged to throw the ball to first base (even if the batter has already reached first and there are players on base).

If the ball is hit into the outfield, the outfielder who retrieves the ball should be encouraged to throw the ball into second base.

HITTING RULES

All players bat one time per inning.

After the ball is hit, the batter advances to first base only.

After each hit, the player advances one base only.

After the last batter hits, all players advance all bases and score (i.e., a grand slam).

Each player should be given the opportunity to bat in different positions in the batting order. The manager should change the lineup each inning, so that a different player hits a grand slam each inning. (e.g., 1st batter leads off the 1st inning; 2nd batter leads off the 2nd inning, etc....).

Each batter will hit off a tee – no pitching is allowed at this age group.

When hitting off the tee, a ball must travel at least 5 feet to be considered a fair ball.

No bunting, stealing or strikeouts.

No sliding is allowed.

If the batter does not hit the ball after seven swings, the coach will assist the player by helping the batter swing the bat to hit the ball rather than allowing the player to take a base.

COACHING

Coaches can keep score for their own team and let the players know how many runs they have scored. There are no winners or losers. Emphasis is on skill building, having fun and camaraderie.

Each team should have one manager and at least two assistant coaches.

Managers should recruit parents to coach during games. Each coach must have proper certification to coach. See PTLLE web site for information regarding certification.

During game, when team is at bat, one coach helps the batter and one coach must be on the bench. If team has additional coaches, they can be 1st and 3rd base coaches. If one team is short coaches, then coaches from the other team should offer to assist.

During preseason, each manager is responsible for conducting the encouraged minimum of two practices per week. During season, it is up to the discretion of the coach, but at least one practice plus games is recommended. In order to run an effective practice, there should be a coach-to-player ratio of no greater than 4-1. Please encourage coaches to attend practices to eliminate players standing around during practice.

Upon completion of the game, coaches from both teams must rake the field and pick up garbage in and around the field of play. Ask parents for assistance to rake field and keep the fields clean. Parents need not be certified to coach to help with field maintenance.