

# Southington South LL T-Ball Rules 2018



A brief summary of the rules and equipment specifications recommended by the T•BALL USA ASSOCIATION are listed below. Is there more than one way to play? Yes. There are several rule variations and they are marked with an asterisk (\*).

## RECOMMENDED RULES OF PLAY

- Players' ages are 4-6 years old.
- Players on a team – 10 to 12.
- 50 feet between the bases.
- A real or imaginary playing line is between first base and third base or an arc 40 feet from home plate.
- Every player bats and plays in the field.
- The ball is hit off a batting tee; there is no pitching.\*
- There are no walks or strikeouts.
- The ball must travel 10 feet or it is a foul.
- No fielder may cross the playing line until the ball is hit.
- No stealing. Player stays on the base until the ball is hit.
- An inning is over when all the players have batted once and the last player has circled all the bases.\*
- Standard game is three or four innings.
- Scores are not kept.
- Safety helmets MUST be worn.
- Bats - 25"/26" long. 2¼" diameter, max. 17 to 20 ounces.
- Ball - 9" to 9½" around; 4 to 5 ounces. Softer than a standard baseball. Molded core or sponge rubber center.
- Gloves - 12" long, max.
- Tee - adjustable, flexible tube on a moveable base.
- Athletic footwear.

T-ball should be positioned as a skill-building, learning experience, where the score is not the focus of the game.

**\*Batting Order.** An inning is over after every player has batted one time. A variation would be to have 6 players hit then switch to defense. This would allow for 4 innings to be played as well as keeping the kids engaged in the game more because of constant changing. This gives each player 3 at bats if there are 10 players on a team. A team with 11 players would have to bat 5 players at a time and 7 players in the last inning. Whether you bat around or choose fewer batters, the last batter will circle all the bases.

**\*COACH-PITCH** is a modification of the game usually reserved for later in the season after everyone's confidence has improved. A coach (adult) throws the ball to the batter. Overhand pitches can be thrown from one knee on the ground to put the pitcher at the same level as the batter. If the player is unable to hit the pitched ball after 6 throws, the ball is placed on a tee and the player's turn continues. All other rules are the same. T-BALL USA recognizes the benefits provided by coach-pitch and endorses its use; especially, after the youngest of players have gained confidence in the batting situation.

**Fielding.** A coach or an adult should play first base. This prevents any possible injury from trying to catch a thrown ball from the field. There should be 5 players in the infield to include a pitcher, Third, Short stop, Second base and a player near first base. The remaining players should be spread out in the outfield.