



Tri-Cities Little League: Tee Ball Division

In-House Game Rules:

The Game

- 1) The game will begin at the designated time.
 - a. If there are fewer than 6 players present combined between the two teams, wait until 6 players arrive.
 - b. If there are more than 6 players on one team, but fewer than 6 on the opposing team, the team with more players may share a player or players until their 6th player arrives.
 - c. If a team has 5 players in the field, the positions should be: 1B, 2B, SS, 3B, and P
 - d. If a team has 6 players in the field, the positions should be: 1B, 2B, SS, 3B, P, C
 - e. If the game is delayed due to weather or the previous game went too long, the start time of your game will be the first at-bat.
 - f. If lightening is seen in the sky, or if the alarm is sounded that there was lightening present, all individuals should evacuate the field immediately and move to shelter (the awning of the concession stand, a car, etc).
- 2) The game will occur on the baseball diamond if playable.
 - a. If there is standing water that cannot be removed by game time, or the infield is unplayable for another reason, the game may be played in the outfield. Manager should communicate this to the VP of Tee Ball sometime after the game.
 - b. Prior to the game, the infield and batting box should be raked smooth, and all major divots/holes should be filled.
 - c. Prior to the game, the infield should be chalked: batter box and baselines that extend 10 feet past the base.
- 3) Each game will not be officially scored.
- 4) Each game will be with the intent of playing 4 innings.
 - a. If three innings are not completed by the 90 minute mark after the start time (first at-bat), then the final inning should not be started.

Offensive Rules

1) Batting:

- a. All offensive players will bat once each inning.
- b. Hitting will be split up into the first half and the second half of the season.
 - i. First half: Every player will hit off the baseball tee.
 1. The goal is for the players to make contact with the ball, not the tee.
 2. If the ball is struck and travels less than 10 feet into the infield, a “foul ball” may be called, and the batter may continue with their at-bat.
 3. If the batter has not hit the ball within a reasonable amount of time, the coach may assist (hand-over-hand) in swinging the bat so contact is made
- c. Second half: Player may begin hitting off of coach pitch. This will occur from 20’ to 25’ away from home plate. The coach will be on one knee and pitch to the batter overhand only.
 - i. If the ball is struck into fair play no matter the distance traveled, it will be considered a hit and the batter should advance to 1st base.
 - ii. Each player may take 3-5 pitches (depending on the tempo/speed of the batter) from their coach.
 - iii. If the last pitch is hit into foul territory, another pitch will occur until the next swing involves a strike or hit.
 - iv. If they are unable to make contact, the tee should be brought out and the batter is to continue until they get a hit.
- d. **Games 5-8. Managers may meet before the game and come to an agreement to play in a batting tee format or a coach pitch format. Some teams are ready for coach pitch at this point, but both teams should be doing one or the other in an agreed upon game plan to make the game equal for both sides.**

2) Baserunning:

- a. The batter will only run to 1st base when the ball is hit and will stop there.
- b. The baserunner will advance only one base upon each upcoming hit going through their lineup.
- c. The last batter up every inning will hit a “home run” and run all of the bases along with the previous runners already on base (bases loaded), with everyone clearing the bases all to home plate.
- d. If the ball is hit up into the air, each baserunner should be taught to tag up and wait for the ball to make contact with the ground.
- e. If the ball is caught by the defense, the baserunners should be taught not to advance to the next base. After that is completed, all runners will advance one base.
- f. There are no leadoffs. Players should be taught to have one foot on and one foot off the base (instead of the player standing with both feet on the base or both feet leading off the base).

3) Coaching:

- a. Three offensive coaches are allowed on the field during offense.
 - i. During the first half batting off the baseball tee, coaches are to be positioned at 1B, 3B, and behind home plate
 - ii. During the second half with coach pitch, coaches are to be positioned at 1B, 3B, and P.
 - iii. ****Under Head Coach's discretion, a 'Dugout' coach can be implemented in order to keep the players in the correct batting order and to ensure safety (batting helmets, bats, etc).**
 1. Players in the dugout should not be holding bats while awaiting their turn. There should not be running around or any 'horseplay' in the dugout to ensure player safety.

4) Equipment:

- a. Each batter is required to wear a batting helmet WITH a cage/face mask attached.
- b. Each batter must use a bat that has the **USA approved sticker** on the stem of the bat: **NO EXCEPTIONS**- this is a Little League Official Rule as of 2018. **See Below**
- c. Cup protectors are optional at this stage. (They are mandatory at the next level: Instructional League)
- d. Each player should have a glove on their hand when in the field.
- e. The catcher must have all appropriate gear on before squatting/standing in the batter's box behind the batter.

Defensive Rules

1. The defensive team should consist of six players (1B, 2B, SS, 3B, P, C)
 - a. This give one of the assistant coaches a chance to take the extra players to the outfield to practice skills (fielding, batting).
 - b. If an assistant coach cannot take the extra players to the outfield for skills practice, they can assume outfield positions.
2. Each team should focus on attempting to get outs during the game.
 - a. Although the out is not recorded officially, it should be recognized and positively reinforced by the coaches. The runner will always be safe even if the out occurs in the field of play.
 - b. This includes force-outs and tag-outs.
3. Coaches should be placed on the right and left side of the infield assisting the positions.
 - a. Focus should be on territory of the position, paying attention to the batter swinging, figuring out where the ball should go in the field of play, having the plays in a 'ready position' for the impending hit.
4. There should be equal playing time for each player.
 - a. Players should be switched around positions on the field
 - b. The exception to this is any safety concerns (example: player is not safe catching balls thrown to them when they are at 1B from their teammates.) If there is a concern, this should be discussed with the parents and a decision can be made.

Post Game

1. Each team should line up along the base lines at the end of the game and shake hands (or give high-five).
2. The teams are strongly encouraged to purchase a post-game snack from the concession stand. There are picnic tables and bleachers along the field that the whole team can sit at. This allows the players and families to socialize after the game.
3. The managers (with the help of the assistant coaches) are responsible for making sure the field is left in game-ready condition.
 - a. The batting area and infield should be rake so that holes are filled and the batting area is smoothed out.
 - b. Each base should be returned back to the base closet and a plugs should be placed at each station (1B, 2B, 3B). Home plate stays on the field.
4. All equipment should be placed back where it was taken from (rakes, chalk, tractor, etc) before leaving the fields. This is important in ensuring our equipment is stocked and being kept away from the outdoor elements as well as it getting taken/stolen from the field.
5. Advocate that all of your players as well as their families pick up their trash at the end of the game to keep the grounds as nice as possible. Trash cans are placed at each field to dispose in. This includes the dugouts.

*USA Approved Logo:



2019 Opening Day: May 4th

2019 Picture Day: May 11th

2019 Closing Ceremony: June 29th



2019 VP of Tee-Ball Division: Paul Venezia

2019 President of Tri-Cities Little League: Jeff Scheider