

Mount Laurel Girls Softball

T-Ball Playing Rules

The T-Ball division of Mt. Laurel Girls Softball is an instructional program designed to provide first year players with the foundational skills of youth softball. This program is purely instructional. The objective of T-Ball is to teach the fundamentals of the game within a structured, positive environment. The following playing rules and policies have been adopted to help facilitate these goals.

Field:

- Field shall be prepared by raking and/or dragging prior to each game. This shall be the responsibility of the home team.
- Field shall be raked and/or dragged after each game. This shall be the responsibility of the visiting team.
- Bases and tees shall be properly stowed in the field box after each game

Equipment:

- Only safety balls provided by MLGS shall be used for all games and practices.
- Players must wear helmets with complete face shield while at bat, on deck, or running bases.
- All equipment must be handled with proper care and neatly stowed in the field box after each game.
- First aid kits are provided in the field box. Please advise T-Ball commissioner if any items are used.
- Report any broken or missing equipment to T-Ball commissioner.

Players and Coaches:

- All defensive players on a team may be positioned in the infield in the conventional infield positions of P, 1B, 2B, SS and 3B. These fielders shall not be positioned in the runner's base paths. All remaining players shall receive skills training in the outfield area. No player shall occupy the catcher's position. Coaches may be used as first base fielders only if the team does not have enough girls to field the position (i.e., if there are less than 5 girls available to play).
- Defensive players shall be rotated to a different position at the start of each inning. Players shall not play the same infield position twice in the same game, unless due to a shortage of players.
- Offensive players not at bat, on base, or on deck, are to remain in the bench area, safely behind the fence.
- Players shall not be permitted to swing bats outside of the batting area.
- Team shall rotate their batting lineup every inning. Coaches shall rotate their batting orders each game so that all players bat in each spot in the batting order, including leadoff and last, during the year.
- A coach shall be positioned in the batting area to instruct all batters using the tee. A minimum of one defensive coach shall supervise and help instruct the fielders. There are no limits to the number of coaches permitted on the field. However, all coaches shall be adults. No minor siblings shall be permitted on the field.

- A defensive coach shall be placed in the outfield and keep players, not positioned in the infield, occupied with skills training during play.
- Each team shall have at least one coach in the bench area always, while any player is there.
- Only players and coaches shall be in the bench area.
- Parents not acting in a coaching capacity are not allowed in the bench area during the game, unless attending to injury or illness.

Starting, Playing, and Ending Games:

- Games shall be played according to their scheduled dates and times.
- All postponed games shall be rescheduled.
- Teams shall share the field during pregame warm up.
- Games shall be scheduled for 4 innings. Each team shall bat and field 4 times.
- No scoring shall be kept, or outs recorded.
- Each team shall bat all players once per inning.
- Batters and runners may advance a maximum of one base on batted ball. The last batter of the inning will hit a "homerun"... all runners on base at that time, may advance all bases without limitation. Other than the normal, initial play to a base, no other plays on this batter or runners should be attempted.
- Runners must not leave base until batter strikes ball.
- Batters who are thrown or tagged out by fielder shall return to bench.
- Lightning – If flash of lightning with a bang of thunder 30 seconds or less behind it is observed, the game shall be suspended immediately and may not restart until at least 30 minutes from the last observed flash of lightning or bang of thunder.
- Games **may** be ended prior to the end of 4 innings if game time exceeds 75 mins. If the game will be ended for any reason other than weather or unexpected circumstances, each team should be given an equal number of opportunities to hit on offense (i.e., the game should only end after the completion of a full inning).