

## Tee Ball Rules

How we play: We really just emphasize fun and working on learning the fundamentals of catching the ball, throwing the ball, and hitting the ball. Here are the rules:

- We play three innings
- Every kid hits once in every inning

Each hit is always a single - the kid hits the ball off the tee and runs to first and stays there. When the next kid hits, the kid on first runs to second, etc., with everyone advancing one base until everyone has hit. When the last person hits, everyone runs around all of the bases and everyone comes home. The last kid hits a home run every time, so make sure a different kid hits last every inning. Shuffle up the line-up and have that prepared before the game.

When a ball is hit off the tee the kids in the field try to catch it and throw it to the first baseman, who tries to catch the ball and touch first. The end of the play is always the first baseman having the ball, touching first, and throwing it back to the coach at home who puts the ball on the tee for the next batter.

To reiterate: There are no "runs" or "outs" in T-ball. The kids can swing and miss at the tee as many times until they hit it into fair territory. Even by some crazy chance should the team in the field get the ball to first before the kid hitting gets to first, that kid is not out. It's great for kids to get the ball to first before the runner, and we cheer that as the point, but no one has to go back and sit on the bench or anything. It's just cool. (This almost never happens.)

After the first eight games, starting in the fifth week, and if both coaches agree to it, if you would like to ask the kids if they want the ball pitched to them instead of having them hit it off the tee, that's fine.

If you're doing coach-pitch, however, please limit it to three pitches.

If they can't hit any of those three, grab the tee and have them hit off of that. Games last FOREVER if we try to have T-ball kids swing until they hit. Please do not do that. That makes the kids in the field hate T-ball. And if a kid doesn't want to have a ball pitched to them, let that go. They signed up for T-ball and if that's what they want that's what they get.

The point is to keep games moving quickly, so the kids have fun, they pay attention, and everyone goes home after an hour or so. We want to keep things up beat, cheer every attempt, but also to keep the kids on task and focused on the game. There is a safety issue as well, as some kids will hit the ball pretty hard off the tee and if the kids aren't paying attention they can get whacked. I know it's funny to talk about kids in T-ball picking flowers and playing in the dirt, but really try not to let that happen. These kids can and will pay attention if you keep them focused and show them that the game is fun and important.

In the binders I'm going to give Managers at their first practice, you'll find lots of good tips on drills and how to organize your first four practices, how to teach how to catch and throw and hit, and how to organize things and make the games fun. I'm also always available at 749-0298 (my cell) if you have any questions.

Hopefully, that just about covers everything we need to cover right now. As I said, give me a call or drop me an email if anything doesn't make sense.

-Sam Pfeifle VP of Tee Ball

