



SCR Tball Rules 2018

The purpose of the Tball division is to serve as a developmental step for beginning baseball players and coaches. The age range of players in Tball is four to five years old in preschool or kindergarten.

- Games will be played at Reach 11 using their adaptive playing fields (cork/turf fields).
- All batters hit the baseball off of standard baseball tees.
- All bats must be Babe Ruth certified and follow the new 2018 USA Bat requirements. To see if your bat is qualified, visit usabat.com; In Tball, special Tball bats could still qualify using these new standards, but must have a sticker on them to be used. See this site to determine if your bat qualifies usabat.com/approved-tee-balls. We strongly recommend only using a new tball bat with the USA Stamp permanently shown on the bat to avoid confusion.
- Game balls will be soft-core Tballs (which are softer than Level 5 and regular baseballs)
- Players must wear sneakers (non-spiked shoes) on Reach 11 adaptive fields.
- Each defensive player must wear a baseball glove. We encourage, but do not require, that all male players wear an athletic cup.
- No catchers allowed in Tball.
- All players must wear approved headgear (batting helmet) while batting, on-deck, on the base path or by the coaches box. Approved headgear shall be considered to cover both ears.
- This is a non-umpired division. The head coach (Managers) will ensure the game flows properly.

Game Preliminaries

- No game balls are provided. The home team should provide a bucket of 4-5 balls to be used during the game.
- The home team takes the 3rd base dugout, away team 1st base dugout.
- Coaches should have their teams at the field at least 15-30 minutes prior to the game start time.
- First batter should be ready to go at precisely the scheduled starting time from the calendar.
- Manager is responsible for the conduct of their players, coaches, and parents.
- Only SCR registered coaches and players are permitted in the dugout and on the field during the game.

- Defensively, teams should fill-in all standard baseball positions (except catcher) and can have up to 5 outfielders. You should only have a Pitcher, 1b, 2b, SS and 3b for infield positions and never have a wall of infielders at any point during the game.
- You may move players around defensively during an inning. For instance, if your pitcher has fielded 3 balls, you may swap them out with an outfielder during that inning so other players can be in the action sooner.
- Players may sit out during an inning but teams with more than 9 players shall follow the SCR Fair Play Rule whereby no player sits out twice before every player sits out once.
- Players may substitute positions at any time during the game.
- All players bat regardless if they are playing a defensive position or sitting out.

Game Rules

- Game consists of 3 innings
- An inning ends when all batters bat through their order. The final batter is permitted to run all the bases and everyone on the base at that time scores. We encourage teams to alternate the last batter each inning.
- There is no official score reported for this division.
- The offensive team is permitted to have coaches at first base, 2nd base, 3rd base and one with the batter.
- The defensive team is permitted to have coach in the infield and outfield to help with positioning and guidance to players.

Putting the ball in play

- Each batter will hit once per inning
- Each player will advance one base after a ball is hit.
- Once the last batter has hit and scores their “home run” teams will switch sides.
- There are no outs in Tball, but encourage fielders to make appropriate baseball plays. If a player is tagged out (or forced out), the runner stays on the base and continues as if there was no out.

Batting

- The entire roster bats each half inning. The order can be changed each inning.
- If a player shows up after the game has started, that player is added to the bottom of the order.
- Bunting is not permitted.
- If a runner swings and misses or hits the tee and the ball drops, the ball will be placed on a the tee and the batter will take another swing.
- There are no strikeouts
- Base runners do not advance on an overthrow

- If a player throws a helmet or bat in an unsportsmanlike manner, the offensive coach should provide a warning to the player for the first infraction and discipline the player for a 2nd or repeated infraction.

The Runner

- Lead-offs and steals are not permitted.
- Base runners must wait until the ball is hit to leave the base.
- Sliding is discouraged, especially on the Reach 11 adaptive fields. If sliding does take place, it must be feet first.

Postgame Handshakes

- Youth sports should be as much about teaching sportsmanship as teaching athletic skills. Shaking hands after the game is a valuable lesson. “The point is, the handshake is a simple, traditional show of goodwill and respect, and respect for your opponent is an integral part of any definition of sportsmanship.” (Swift 1994)
- At the end of each game, before your team meeting and before you vacate your dugout, both teams should line up single file down the foul line in front of their dugout. The teams will meet approximately at home plate and will shake hands or give a hi-five, and say good game. This includes all Managers and Coaches for both teams.
- It is imperative that all players and coaches handle this ritual with class and a calm attitude and set an example for the kids.
- Anyone showing poor sportsmanship at any point before, during or after the game could be suspended and/or asked not to be a part of this league.
- See this Sports Illustrated Article:
<http://www.si.com/vault/1994/05/02/130987/give-young-athletes-a-fair-shake-when-we-eliminate-postgame-handshakes-we-fail-to-teach-the-main-lesson-of-sports>

Field Prep

None needed at Reach 11

Field Cleanup

Each manager should assist to ensure there is no trash/garbage left in the dugout after the game and that your team vacates the dugout quickly.

Game Day General Reminders/Best Practices

1. Anyone on the field of play or in the dugout should have completed a background check, concussion training and registered as a coach with the league before being allowed on the field. If you think you will need extra parents on the field or in the dugout, please have them complete the appropriate steps to be approved as an Assistant Coach.

2. The league does allow parents to briefly step on the field in foul territory to take pictures. However, this should be brief and not be allowed the entire game
3. Keep the game moving as quickly as possible. Having kids “standing around” creates boredom and frustration for both the players and parents.
4. The objective of Tball is to teach basic baseball skill and knowledge. Teaching batters to run the bases, fielders to make basic plays etc. is best practice. Most important objective at this age is having fun!
5. Inspect dugout and stands for any trash and dispose of it properly. Do not leave a dugout full of trash and make sure trash is removed from the stands after each game. Please be mindful of the next game on your field. Please promptly leave the dugout after your game is completed.
6. Have you snack and/or team meeting outside the dugout. We want to keep the games on time and the biggest factor delaying the start of the next game is team snacks in the dugout.