



## 2014 Baseball – T-BALL Rules

T-Ball is a sport based on baseball and is as an introduction for kids to develop baseball skills and have a good time. The ball (softer than a regular baseball) is placed on an adjustable tee atop the home plate. Most of the other rules are similar or identical to those of baseball. The positions that see the most action in T-Ball are the pitcher and first base, followed by the rest of the infield positions.

### **1. PURPOSE**

- a. The purpose of Little League is to cultivate sportsmanship in young people and to help them play at their personal best. Conduct inconsistent with this standard is not permitted.

### **2. OFFICIAL RULES**

- a. The Official Regulations and Playing Rules for Little League Baseball shall apply unless otherwise specifically indicated in these rules.
- b. **RULES SPECIFIC TO T-BALL:**
  - o Every scheduled game begins with 30 minutes of instruction followed by a 30 minute game.
  - o Games are usually three innings.
  - o The score is not kept for the game.
  - o An inning is completed once each child has had a turn at bat.
  - o All players on the defensive team play in the field every inning.

### **3. UNIFORMS**

- a. It is mandatory that players wear their full uniform for every game and must wear every part of the uniform in the manner in which it was intended.
- b. For safety reasons, no jewelry is allowed to be worn in games/practices, this includes all chains, necklaces and bracelets (including bracelets such as the “Livestrong” bracelet “Phitens” and their equivalents).
- c. The proper playing attire for every player is the Team hat, and Team shirt,
- d. Rubber cleats are preferred and sneakers are strongly discouraged for player safety.

### **4. EQUIPMENT/BASEBALLS**

- a. Only league approved bats will be allowed for use in games or in the batting area. Due to the recent limitation of composite bats the National Little League office will regularly provide a list of approved bats. The list is available at <http://leagueathletics.com/Default.asp?org=monroelittleleague.org>.
- b. Batting helmets - All batters and base runners **MUST** wear batting helmets.
- c. MLL provides each Manager with an equipment bag containing catcher’s gear. Each Manager will also be provided with a key to the JOBOX (includes first aid kit, umpire’s gear, bases, a few helmets and batting tees) behind the backstop of the field you are playing at. At the end of the season Managers are to return their JOBOX key to the League Director. Unless another team in the next game is present, please close and lock the JOBOX before leaving the field.
- d. For health reasons the MLL no longer supplies helmets (each JOBOX will contain a few helmets which should be used only when necessary). Every player should bring their own helmet to each game/practice. MLL can provide helmets to those people who cannot purchase them themselves.
- e. Baseballs are provided to Managers by the Equipment Committee. If additional baseballs are required, contact the Chairman of the Equipment Committee.
- f. No person is allowed to purchase any equipment, including baseballs. Only the Equipment Committee is authorized to purchase equipment. MLL will not reimburse any unauthorized equipment/baseball purchase.
- g. The T Ball division should be using the predefined baseballs as recommended by the MLL Board which is a soft core baseball.

## **5. GAME PROCEDURES**

- a. Delayed Game. Any game delayed beyond 30 minutes of the scheduled starting time due to inclement weather or unplayable field conditions may be postponed and rescheduled on another date.
- b. Postponed Game. In the event that a game is postponed, the Manager of the home team shall immediately notify the VP of Baseball.
- c. Schedule Deviations. The Field Coordinator will reschedule all games as soon as practicable.
- d. Late Afternoon Game Time Limits. No inning shall begin after the day's official sunset or 8:00 p.m., whichever occurs first.
- e. Unsafe Conditions. It is the responsibility of both coaches to determine when a game should be suspended due to unsafe playing conditions, which include field conditions, insufficient light and lightning. Under no circumstances will play be continued if thunder has been heard. When a game has been suspended because of lightning or thunder, it may be resumed when at least 20 minutes have passed without more lightning/thunder being seen/heard.
- f. Base coaches. One adult manager or coach must remain in the dugout at all times. Only those named coaches as designated on the MLL website Team Roster are eligible to interact with the kids. Adult base coaches must be used at 3<sup>rd</sup> base.
- g. Defensive coaches. A maximum of two adult coaches are allowed on the field to help setup the defense. One coach must remain on the bench at all times.
- h. Tee Coach. One coach from the team up at bat is in charge of the tee. They will place the ball on the tee once the defensive team is ready and let the player swing the bat.
- i. Housekeeping. Each team will be responsible for cleaning its dugout and adjacent area outside the dugout as well as the playing field from the backstop to the outfield after each game or practice. Players are to be reminded that candy and soda are not allowed in the dugout.

## **6. ACCIDENT AND INJURY REPORTING**

- a. It is the Manager's responsibility to report to the Safety Officer all injuries or accidents requiring professional medical attention. Such reports shall be made within 24 hours of the injury or of obtaining knowledge of such injury or accident.
- b. If a medical professional, the player's coach, the player's manager or the player's parent has determined a player sustains a possible concussion, the player must be, at a minimum, removed from the game and/or practice for the remainder of that day. The league must also be aware of its respective state/provincial/municipal laws with regards to concussions and impose any additional requirements as necessary. His/her return to full participation is subject to:
  1. The league's adherence to its respective state/provincial/municipal laws,
  2. An evaluation and a written clearance from a physician or other accredited medical provider and
  3. Written acknowledgement of the parents