

GCAA Baseball

Tee Ball Rules

Spring 2026 edition

Little League® Tee Ball Division:

- **Rookie** League (pre-K)
- **Atlantic** League (Kindergarten)
- **Texas** League (1st Grade)



*LL Rulebook
Download*

GCAA has run baseball in Garden City since 1955 and is a chartered Local League under Little League International. We follow the rules and regulations of Little League which are available on its mobile app via the above QR code or this link:

<https://www.littleleague.org/playing-rules/little-league-rulebook-app/>

GCAA Tee Ball Objectives

The principal objective at this level is skill-building, exposure to baseball, sportsmanship, and having fun (not necessarily in that order). It's nice to have a drink, snack, ice pops, etc. for the kids after the game and a good idea to assign each family the date or dates that they are responsible to bring something.

GCAA Ground Rules

- Only the Garden City Maintenance Department can maintain the fields. No one else should try to make repairs, fill holes, or remove water by adding dirt, sand, sawdust or any other material to the playing fields. Please alert GCAA of any repairs needed.
- In the event of inclement weather, GCAA will endeavor to cancel games ahead of time by alerting the league coordinator, who will notify the managers. If no cancellation is made ahead of time, managers will make a gametime decision per 3.10(a).
- Managers are responsible for ensuring that all garbage and items are cleaned up.
- Managers are responsible for ensuring that players know not to throw their bats, and for coaching kids after a bat is thrown to prevent recurrence.
- Managers are responsible for ensuring that only positive cheering occurs.

FAQs for Little League Rules
plus GCAA Local League Options

Ref #	Question	Answer	LL Rule Reference
1	This is just tee ball, do we really need to follow all the rules?	Now is the chance for kids (and parents) to learn the rules of the game the right way. They aren't here to be strictly enforced at the expense of having fun, but they can help everyone learn the game the right way and avoid frustration at the next level.	LL Rulebook App
2	Should we keep score?	No. Winning at this level is helping everyone learn the game and have fun! Any unsportsmanlike behavior by adults at this level is simply unacceptable.	Rule 1.02
3	Do we play real games?	"Games" are a combination of instructional clinics and simulated games lasting no more than 1 ½ hours. For the Rookie & Atlantic leagues, half the time can be a clinic followed by 2 innings playing. For the Texas league, you can play up to 4 innings. This is the only rule difference between the three GCAA tee ball leagues.	Rule 4.10(f)
4	What is my kid's "League Age"?	Little League's "League Age" for baseball is based on what a child's age will be on August 31 in the year of the current season. Tee ball is for League Ages 4 to 7 (GCAA uses pre-K to 1 st grade).	Reg I(a)(3)
5	Do we use a lineup?	Yes, we use a continuous batting order to make sure everyone gets their turns at bat. Instead of a half-inning ending with 3 outs, in tee ball the half-inning is over when everyone in the lineup completes their at-bat . GCAA also encourage teams to use a different order each game so everyone gets a chance.	Rule 2.00 "Batting Order" definition Rule 5.07*
6	What should we do if we have more or less than 9 players on defense?	Just like the continuous batting order on offense, everyone should be in the field on defense to learn. No one needs to sit on the bench on defense, and we encourage players to rotate during the inning. If a catcher position is used (optional), only one player may occupy the catcher position at one time.	Rule 4.01 Note 1 Rule 4.16(a) Rule 6.05(n)
7	If the other team doesn't have enough to play, do they forfeit?	There are no forfeits in tee ball.	Rule 2.00 "Forfeited Game" definition
8	What bats can we use?	GCAA provides appropriate Tee Ball bats and encourages everyone to use the team bats at this level. Bats must meet the USABat standard for a Tee Ball bat (26" and shorter) and have the USA Baseball logo and text that reads "ONLY FOR USE WITH APPROVED TEE BALLS." Tee balls have a sponge/rubber core but are the same size as regulation baseballs.	Rule 1.10

Ref #	Question	Answer	LL Rule Reference
9	Can we use batting donuts or pine tar?	Batting donuts are specifically prohibited and can render a bat "illegal." Pine tar is allowed, but should be discouraged to keep bats clean and neat.	Rule 1.10 Notes 1 & 2
10	Can kids take practice swings?	For safety reasons, PRACTICE SWINGS ARE NOT ALLOWED unless at bat. Little League prohibits an on-deck circle (at all levels up to 12U Majors) even if there is an enclosed fenced-in area. Kids must not even pick up a bat until they are at bat.	Appendix B – Safety Code
11	What batting helmets can we use?	All batters and baserunners must wear a protective NOCSAE helmet during practice and games. GCAA recommends using helmets with a face guard.	Appendix B – Safety Code
12	Is there a pitcher and catcher in tee ball?	While the pitcher and catcher positions don't actually pitch or catch, it can be useful to learn those positions as fielders. Just be sure the pitcher stays on the rubber (not closer) until the ball is hit, for safety reasons. If you use a catcher (optional) GCAA requires them to stand behind the backstop until the ball is hit to avoid thrown bats.	Rule 8.01(g)
13	Are there strikeouts or walks?	No. Batters swing until they hit a fair ball. Intentional walks are not allowed.	Rule 6.05(b)(2) Rule 6.08(a)(2)
14	Do they need to hit off the tee?	Players should try hitting a ball in motion to get comfortable with the timing. Coaches can offer to "soft toss" the ball (underhand from one knee is best) 3-5 times to each batter before moving the ball to the tee. But if a player wants to hit off the tee, they can.	Reg I(a)(3)
15	What if they mishit or bunt or check swing?	Bunting and check swings aren't allowed in tee ball. In fact, any ball that doesn't go at least 15' in fair territory should be called a foul ball .	Rule 2.00 "Bunt" and "Foul Ball" definitions
16	Are the bases shorter for tee ball?	Tee ball bases can be shortened to 50' instead of the normal 60', but GCAA encourages players to learn on the full-size field that will be used through the 12U "Major" League level.	Rule 1.04 Diagram No. 1
17	If we don't keep score, should we even call out/safe?	Yes. To encourage the kids to learn defense and baserunning, it's helpful to call safe/out even if we don't keep track of how many outs there are. In the Rookie & Atlantic leagues (or in the Texas league if both managers agree) a runner who is out may stay on the base to get more practice running the bases.	Rule 7.08 Rule 5.07*
18	Is there a dropped 3rd strike?	No, not at the tee ball level.	Rule 6.05(b)(2)

Ref #	Question	Answer	LL Rule Reference
19	Does the infield fly rule apply?	No, not at the tee ball level.	Rule 2.00 "Infield Fly"
20	Do runners need to slide?	Sliding is a skill that should be taught in tee ball, but injuries can result if not done properly. Runners must never slide headfirst . Baserunners should avoid collisions by sliding, running clear of fielders after a force play, or simply giving up to be tagged.	7.08(a)(3) 7.08(a)(4)
21	Is stealing allowed?	No. In tee ball, runners must stay on the base until the batter hits the ball.	Rule 7.13
22	How many coaches are there?	Each team can have one adult manager and up to 3 adult coaches. They can be in the field to train and coach but shouldn't touch a live ball or players during a live play. At least one adult coach MUST be in the dugout area at all times.	Rule 1.01 Reg XIV(d)
23	What if I disagree with the umpire on a rule?	There are no protests in tee ball. Adult coaches serve as umpires to teach the rules during tee ball games, and do not need to stand behind the plate.	Rule 4.19(h) Rule 9.04(a)

* GCAA has modified the referenced rule to adapt to the local league option

GCAA Code of Conduct (all sports):

GCAA has adopted a Code of Conduct for coaches and parents of all sports based on work by the Garden City Sports Cooperative (GCSC). You can find the full Code of Conduct here:

<https://www.leaguelineup.com/topnews.asp?url=gcaabasketball&itemid=2114825>

Little League also publishes a recommended Parent Code of Conduct that we include here:

Little League Parent Code of Conduct

As a parent/family member, **I WILL:**

- Remember that children participate to have fun
- Be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship
- Teach my child to play by the rules and resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence
- Demand that my child treats coaches, officials, and other players with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex, or ability
- Teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning
- Praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard
- Promote the emotional and physical well being of athletes ahead of my personal desire to win
- Respect the officials and their authority during games

As a parent/family member, **I WILL NOT:**

- Force my child to participate
- Engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent
- Boo, taunt, refuse to shake hands, or use profane language
- Encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well being of athletes
- Ridicule or yell at my child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a game
- Use drugs, tobacco, or alcohol at any league event
- Coach my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am a coach.

Safety Code For Little League (from Appendix B of the Rulebook)

- Responsibility for safety procedures should be that of an adult member of the local league.
- Arrangements should be made in advance of all games and practices for emergency medical services.
- Managers, coaches, and umpires should have some training in first-aid. First-Aid Kit should be available at the field.
- No games or practice should be held when weather or field conditions are not good, particularly when lighting is inadequate.
- Play area should be inspected frequently for holes, damage, glass, and other foreign objects.
- Dugouts and bat racks should be positioned behind screens.
- Only players, managers, coaches, and umpires are permitted on the playing field during play and practice sessions.
- Responsibility for keeping bats and loose equipment off the field of play should be that of a regular player assigned for this purpose.
- Procedure should be established for retrieving foul balls batted out of the playing area.
- During practice sessions and games, all players should be alert and watching the batter on each pitch.
- During warm up drills, players should be spaced so that no one is endangered by errant balls.
- Equipment should be inspected regularly. Make sure it fits properly.
- Pitching machines, if used, must be in good working order (including extension cords, outlets, etc.) and must be operated only by adult managers and coaches.
- Batters must wear protective NOCSAE helmets during practice, as well as during games.
- Catchers must wear catcher's helmet (with face mask and throat guard), chest protector, and shin guards. Male catchers must wear a protective supporter and cup at all times.
- Except when runner is returning to a base, head first slides are not permitted. This applies only to Little League (Majors), Minor League, and Tee Ball.
- During sliding practice bases should not be strapped down.
- At no time should "horse play" be permitted on the playing field.
- Parents of players who wear glasses should be encouraged to provide "Safety Glasses."
- Any jewelry worn that poses harm to injury will be subject to removal.
- Catchers must wear catcher's helmet, face mask, and throat guard in warming up pitchers. This applies between innings and in bullpen practice. Skull caps are not permitted.
- Batting/catcher's helmets should not be painted unless approved by the manufacturer.
- Regulations prohibit on-deck batters. This means no player should handle a bat, even while in an enclosure, until it is his/her time at bat. This applies only to Little League (Majors), Minor League, and Tee Ball.
- Players who are ejected, ill, or injured should remain under supervision until released to the parent or guardian.