

Duluth Area Youth Softball Association

T-Ball Rules

Updated: 6/08/11

The purpose of T-Ball is to teach individual skills
(Emphasis on batting form and positioning, field positioning, fielding form, base running, etc.)

Team work and lots of family fun! There are no umpires.

This is prime learning time - we want to emphasize that, be positive, and have fun!

All games end in a tie, they are all winners!

PITCHING & STRIKE ZONE: Does not apply.

Use approved T-Ball stand and place over home plate.

BASE DISTANCES: Should be set at 60 feet.

3 RUN/3 OUT RULE or 3/5 Run rule: Does not apply.

There are no "outs"; all players get to bat per inning. Every player gets an 'at bat' and runs one base at a time, however, the last player in the lineup to bat runs all the bases to home plate (sending the runners already on the bases in front of the last batter all the way to home plate) which ends the 'inning'. See below:

- The offensive team will have all players bat.
- All players get a single except for the last batter of the team per inning.
- The last batter runs all the bases to home plate, which ends the inning.
- This is regardless of defensive ball play.

There are no "outs" or "force outs".

When a defensive player catches a fly ball, fields a ball in play and touches the base in front of the runner, and/or touches the runner with fielded ball, the runner still advances to the base. Encourage the defensive player(s) for their play, explaining that they were out, but will continue to play. As for the runner, encourage them appropriately, explaining why they would be considered out.

GAME TIME LIMITS:

Games are timed for 1 hour 30 minutes. No new inning shall start after 1 hour 15 minutes.

POSITIONING; Players/Coaches:

Offensive and Defensive coaches may not touch a ball in-play, but may assist after the play to expedite the game.

- Offensive team coaches will be at 1st and 3rd bases.
The offensive team coaches should stay off the playing field and remain in the base coaching box, or general area, at 1st and 3rd bases.
- Defensive team will have a pitcher, basemen at 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, plus a shortstop in the infield.
All other defensive players shall be **on the grass** in the outfield.
All team members are on the playing field.
Each player should play at least one inning in the infield.
Defensive team coaches are allowed on the field during play.
The defensive team coaches shall have one coach positioned behind the player at the pitcher position and shall have up to two coaches in the outfield behind the players.

UMPIRES:

Does not apply.

- Offensive team supplies a coach as a “catcher”/”umpire” to assist with batting and defensive plays at home. The coach behind the plate should assist in the T-Ball stands positioning and assist with placement of the T-Ball on the stand.

Bat throwing is a problem that should be addressed along with proper batting stance and form by the coach.

EQUIPMENT & SAFETY:

The home team should supply the T-Ball and T-Ball stand.

IF A PLAYER REFUSES TO USE THE PRESCRIBED EQUIPMENT, THE PLAYER SHALL BE REMOVED FROM THE GAME.

IF A TEAM REFUSES TO WEAR PRESCRIBED SAFETY EQUIPMENT, THE GAME IS FORFEIT.

- **Ball size & type:** T-Ball.
- **Bat size:**
Little League bats less than 28”.
High tech bats, double or triple wall, will not be allowed in any class.
- **Catcher:**
This position is played by an adult coach. No equipment is required.
- **Batters:**
The batters, base runners, on-deck batters and any base coaches under the age of 18 **MUST** wear batting helmets.
Chin straps are **REQUIRED** on all batting helmets and must be worn during play.
At no time during game play may any player or team warm up using ‘batting sticks’, hit or practice hitting balls, or use any other equipment other than what is allowed during play.
- **First Aid Kits:** must be made available with each team.
- **Weather:** If weather is inclement or about to become inclement, it is up to the coaches whether or not to start play or continue play. If any lightning is in the area, play must stop.
- **Injuries:** Play shall be immediately stopped on an obvious injury to a player. We are playing for fun. The umpire will award bases upon his or her discretion.
- **Throwing of Bats:** Each player is to drop the bat, **NOT** throw it. After one team warning at the beginning of the game, the next thrown bat is declared an out and the ball is ruled dead.

SPECIAL RULES:

THERE IS NO BUNTING AT ANY LEVEL IN THE DAYSA LEAGUES

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

There will be **NO** swearing, **NO** alcohol, **NO** tobacco and **NO** drugs of any kind on the playing field, bench area, or spectator stands. **NO** alcohol shall be in the area of the DAYSA game. This applies to coaches, players & spectators.

The Zero Tolerance Policy will be followed by all coaches, players, and fans. Citation cards will be issued to those individuals not in compliance.

EACH TEAM SHALL CLEAN UP ITS BENCH AREA AFTER EVERY GAME!!