

Sugar Land Little League T-BALL DIVISION GROUND RULES

The Little League Baseball Official Regulations and Playing Rules shall govern the “Playing Rules” for the T-BALL Division.

The Sugar Land Little League T-BALL Division Ground Rules listed below are additional, modified, or detailed explanations of the “Playing Rules” for the T-BALL Division only.

1. SCHEDULED GAME START TIME: All games shall begin promptly at the scheduled start time.
2. CURFEW: No new inning shall begin after 1 hour from the start time. If a new inning starts, every attempt should be made to complete the inning so both teams have the same number of at-bats. No new inning will begin after 10 pm and no game will be played after 10:30 pm.
3. LENGTH OF GAMES: All games will be complete if any of the below occurs (games may end in a tie):
 - a. Six innings have been played.
 - b. 1 hour has passed since the start of the game, no matter the spot in the inning, latitude should be allowed, if necessary, to give every player the chance to bat twice.
 - c. The Board Member on Duty shortens the game due to weather, 2 innings minimum.
4. SCOREKEEPING: **Games will not be scored.**
5. RUN RULE: A 5-run per inning rule is in effect through the entire game. Note: continuation scoring will not be allowed past 5 runs; if the batter hits the ball to score the 5th run the play will stop and side is retired. The only way more than 5 runs can be scored is on a home run (over the fence).
6. LENGTH BETWEEN INNINGS: Teams shall change positions as rapidly as possible at the end of each inning. Play should resume within 1 minute after the last out of the previous half inning.
7. RAIN-OUTS: Rain-out games shall be rescheduled by the League VP.
8. COACHES: Each team is allowed 1 manager and 3 coaches.

Offense: First base, third base, Coach pitcher and dugout

Defense: Each team is allowed three coaches on the field, but they must remain in the outfield while the ball is in play.

The pitching coach is allowed to instruct the batter verbally or with gestures but should not approach the batter. If a child is at risk of being hit by a pitch, he should be instructed to avoid injury. Third base coach is allowed to approach the batter to better instruct the proper stance.
9. UMPIRES: There will be no league provided umpires. Each team will umpire their own game opposite their respective dugout. The home team will umpire 1st and 2nd base while the visiting team will umpire 3rd base and home. The stoppage of play will be the responsibility of the team at play.

10. **BATTING ORDER:** Each team will use a continuous batting order with unrestricted defensive substitutions. A player who arrived after the start of the game will be inserted at the bottom of the batting order. The mandatory play rule applies, see rule #14.
11. **PITCH LIMIT, COACH PITCH /TEE:** There is a 6-pitch per batter limit. For league age 4-5 the batter can hit off the tee but should be primarily off the Coach if at all possible. It is up to the Coach to decide how many are coach pitched, and how many are off the tee, as long as the total pitches does not exceed 6.

In the even the pitch is not hittable, the coach will take ownership and the pitch does not count. The coach or manager can position the tee and batter as long as the tee remains in contact with home plate.
12. **OUTS:** No outs will be recorded. Teams will bat through the order to end the half inning.
13. **PLAYERS:** T-BALL Division if for league age 4 and 5-year-old players.
14. **MANDATORY PLAY:** Up to 10 players may play on defense (4 outfield, 5 outfield if not using kid catcher). Players cannot play the same position in one game. Each player must play outfield at least 1 time each game.
15. **DEFENSIVE FIELDERS:**
 - a. Infielders may not play in front of an imaginary line extending from first base to third base until the ball has been put into play.
 - b. Outfielders must remain in the grass behind the infield at all times unless assisting on a play. They cannot interfere with the base runners. The pitcher cannot make an unassisted put-out at second and third base. He/she must throw the ball to the second/third basemen. The pitcher can, however, make plays unassisted at first and home.
 - c. No unassisted play can be made by an outfielder on a force play. He/she must throw the ball to the base.
 - d. Infielders consist of a pitcher, catcher, first baseman, second baseman, third baseman, and shortstop. Outfielders may have up to four players (unless forgoing a kid catcher)
 - e. The catcher is required to wear catcher's equipment.
 - f. The designated pitcher must have both feet behind the pitching rubber prior to each pitch (one in the dirt and one in the grass). The pitcher may not cross this plane until the ball crosses the plate. The pitcher must also wear a protective helmet with facemask.
16. **INFIELD FLY:** The infield fly rule is not in effect.
17. **STOPPAGE OF PLAY:** Play will continue until the lead runner is stopped. The position of each base runner will be the last base legally touched. Runners may attempt to advance only 1 base on an overthrow from the infield, the runner can be thrown out attempting to take the base. A runner can only score from 3rd base on a batted ball put in play; the runner may not attempt to advance to home on an overthrow from the infield. Once each runner has safely advanced 1 base, the coach pitching shall call time.
18. **BASE RUNNERS:** No steals are allowed. Runners may not leave the base until the ball is hit.
19. **DUGOUT ASSIGNMENTS:** The Home team will occupy the 3rd base dugout while the Visiting team will occupy the 1st base dugout.

20. **PROTESTS:** No protests will be allowed. If an incident occurs, one or both managers should locate or call the Board Member on Duty for resolution. Once a resolution has been met, the incident will be dropped, and no further discussion will occur outside the field.
21. **ON-DECK BATTER:** No on-deck batter is allowed. Players must remain in the dugout and are not allowed to hold or swing bats in the dugout. Bats stay on the rack or outside of the dugout until the player is on their way to the plate.
22. **BUNTS:** Bunts are not allowed.
23. **FIELD MAINTENANCE:**
 - a. The home team shall be responsible for making sure the field is prepared before each game (putting out bases, marking the field, lightly watering, etc.)
 - b. The visiting team is responsible for raking and watering the field after the game.
 - c. Both teams are responsible for picking up the trash in their respective dugouts.
24. **INJURY REPORT:** An injury report must be filled out for every injury, no matter how minor. Forms can be found in the concession area, as well as the division binder. The incident must be reported to the league **SAFETY MANAGER** within 24 hours of the injury.