



## 3 – 4 Year Old T-ball Rules

The purpose of the NYS 3 – 4 year old T-ball League is to provide a fun, non-competitive environment for developing fundamental baseball skills. Players should receive positive reinforcement and be encouraged to do their best. Standings, scores, and outs are not recorded.

**A. Code of Conduct:** Coaches are responsible for their team's players, parents, and spectator conduct at all times. Players, parents, or spectators who are unruly will be warned by the coach and may be asked to leave the game area if necessary. Repeated offenses may result in player suspension.

**B. Rosters:** Each team will have a minimum of 6 players and a maximum of 12 players.

**C. Mandatory Play:** No minimum amount of players is required to play a game. NO Forfeits.

**D. Field Dimensions:** Bases are approximately 45 feet apart.

**E. Uniform:** An NYS administered or approved jersey and hat must be worn during the game.

**F. Time Limits:** Games will have a time limit of 50 minutes or 3 innings, whichever comes first. If game time expires before completion of 3 innings, the game shall end after the current batter completes his or her at-bat.

**G. Field Assignments:** The home team is listed first on the schedule and will occupy the third base side of the field. The visiting team will bat first.

**H. Standings and Score:** Standings and scores are not kept. No outs are recorded.

**I. Umpire/Official:** NYS will provide a site director, responsible for managing the facility and insuring proper set up of field and providing customer service. Team coaches are responsible for understanding the rules and officiating the games.

**J. Managers/Coaches:** An offensive coach is allowed at home plate to help the batter and base coaches are allowed at 1st and 3rd base. Defensive coaches are allowed on the field to instruct the players. An adult coach MUST be in the bench area at all times when players are present.

**K. Players:** Players may not wear jewelry, rings, watches, pins, or other metallic objects.

**L. Equipment:**

- The maximum bat barrel diameter is 2 1/4". The bat may be either wood or metal.
- Safety Baseballs are used (slight give for safety).

**M. Defensive Rules of Play (Fielding):**

- All players will play on the field when on defense. A maximum of seven infielders and the rest of the team must occupy the outfield.

- The catcher position is not used.
- Infielders may not be more than 10 feet in front of the base path.
- Outfielders may not be less than 10 feet behind the base path.
- No outs are recorded.
- Fielders should be encouraged and instructed to play the field and try to make the proper play.

**N. Offensive Rules of Play (Batting):**

- A continuous batting order will be used. Any player arriving after a game has begun should be inserted in the batting order in the last batting position.
- All offensive players except the at-bat player and base runners must be inside the dugout. There is no on-deck circle.
- The ball is considered in play when the coach places the ball on the batting tee.
- The ball must travel at least 4 feet from the tee in fair territory or it will be considered foul. If the tee is struck instead of the ball, it will be considered a foul ball.
- If the batter does not put the ball in to play after 3 swings, the batter will advance to first base and all other runners will advance 1 base.
- Each runner will advance 1 base on a fairly hit ball.
- Runners must stay in contact with the base until the ball is hit.
- If the defense puts out a batter or runner, he/she will be allowed to remain on base.
- A ½ inning will be considered complete when all batters in the lineup have batted and all runners have touched all the bases. The last batter in the will continue to run the bases until he/she touches home.
- Sliding of any kind should be strongly discouraged.