

# 2009 T-Ball Rules

## PTE Little League Objective

PTE Little League's objective is to enrich our children by providing them with the positive experience of teamwork, personal achievement, and excellence through participation in our baseball and softball programs.

## T-Ball Objectives

The focus of T-Ball is to have fun and begin to introduce the skills of baseball to players focusing on the following areas:

- **Baseball Field** - Discuss different bases and player positions in both infield and outfield. Difference between fair ball and foul ball.
- **Hitting** – Demonstrate proper grip, stance and swing, and proper technique for hitting off a tee.
- **Catching** – Catch a thrown ball/ground ball. Demonstrate catching ground balls by player keeping ball in front of them, bending at the knees and catching the ball with 2 hands. Teach concept of catching a ground ball backhanded.
- **Throwing** – “T” Point Stance - step and follow through. Ground ball in the infield ball in always thrown to first. Ball hit through infield to outfield throw to second.
- **Base Running** – Run hard to and through first base. Make sure each base is touched and stay in the baseline. Teach not to overrun second and third base.
- **Note:** For practice plans and additional information, refer to the document “PTLLE Baseball Basics” on the Coaches Corner section of the PTLLE web-site ([parsipannybaseball.com](http://parsipannybaseball.com)).

## General Rules

- All little league age 5 and 1<sup>st</sup> year players (up to age 6).
- A maximum of 8 players per team.
- All games are 4 innings or one hour and thirty minutes, whichever comes first.
- Home team provides game ball and sits in the first base dugout. Visiting team sits in the third base dugout. Game and practice balls are provided by the league. New baseballs are used for games and old ones for practice.

## Fielding

- There shall be a maximum of nine players on the field. All infielders must play regular position - 1<sup>st</sup> base, 2<sup>nd</sup> base, shortstop and 3<sup>rd</sup> base. Only one player per infield position. If nine players are in attendance, the manager shall play four outfielders.
- Only one player at the pitchers mound. Pitcher must remain on pitchers mound until ball is hit.
- All other players must play the outfield. All outfielders must play no closer than 15 feet from any base.
- Each player must play at least two innings in the infield.

## **Batting**

- All players bat one time per inning. After the ball is hit, the batter advances to first base only. After each hit, the player advances one base only. After the last batter hits, all players advance all bases and score (i.e., a grand slam). Each player should be given the opportunity to bat in different positions in the batting order. The manager should change the batting lineup each inning, so that a different player hits a grand slam each inning. (e.g., 1<sup>st</sup> batter leads off the 1<sup>st</sup> inning; 2<sup>nd</sup> batter leads off the 2<sup>nd</sup> inning, etc....)
- Each batter will hit off a T – no pitching is allowed at this age group.
- When hitting off the tee, a ball must travel at least 5 feet to be considered a fair ball.
- Keep one batting order for the season. The player that makes the last out – the following person leads off in the next game. This way every child will get equal at bats.
- No Bunting, stealing or strikeouts. No sliding is allowed.
- If the batter does not hit the ball after 7 swings, the coach will assist the player by helping the batter swing the bat to hit the ball rather than allowing the player to take a base.

## **Coaching**

- Each team should have one manager and at least two assistant coaches. If possible, during games, it is recommended to have at least three assistant coaches. Managers, should recruit parents to coach during games. Each coach must have proper certification to coach. See PTLLE web site for information regarding certification.
- Coaches can keep score for their own team and let the players know how many runs they have scored. There are no winners or losers. Emphasis is on skill building, having fun and camaraderie
- During game, when team is on the field, only two coaches in the field.
- During game, when team is at bat, one coach works the tee, one coach at first, one coach at third and one on the bench. If not enough coaches, at least one coach should be at tee, first base and the bench.
- During pre-season, each manager is responsible for conducting a minimum of one to two practices per week. During season, it is up to the discretion of the coach, but at least one practice plus game(s) is recommended. In order to run an effective practice, there should be a coach-to-player ratio of no greater than 4-1. Please encourage coaches to attend practices to eliminate players standing around during practice.
- Upon completion of the game, coaches from both teams must rake the field and pick up garbage in and around the field of play. Ask parents for assistance to rake field and keep the fields clean.
- Managers should attempt to rotate players through the pitcher's position, so everyone has a chance to field at that position during a game.
- In the event of inclement weather after the start of a game, the League will make a decision as to whether to call a game. Managers should contact the President, Vice President of Baseball or division coordinator to determine if a game should be called once it has started.