

UCLL T-BALL DIVISION GROUNDRULES

2010 SEASON

1. **Safety** First and foremost safety will be stressed. "Horseplay" is not allowed in the field or on the bench. A designated coach or team parent will be responsible to enforce safety rules in dugout areas or behind the backstop fencing. Spectators must stay at a safe distance from the base lines and playing field. There is no catcher position in T-Ball. The batter shall not throw the bat. The first time a player throws the bat a warning is given. The second time the player throws the bat that player is called out. There is no on-deck circle in T-Ball.
2. **Regulation Game** A regulation T-Ball Game is four (4) innings or one (1) hour long, whichever occurs first. A new inning cannot begin after one hour, no exceptions.
3. **Batting Tee** The ball is hit off of the batting "tee" which is set atop home plate. It is the responsibility of the manager or coach to remove the tee from home plate should a play involve a runner scoring. The player who occupies the defensive position of pitcher must stay in contact with the pitching rubber until the ball is hit.
4. **Batting Order** All Players bat. The batting order shall be rotated throughout the season giving every player equal opportunity to be the lead off hitter, the last batter, and running the bases. Both teams bat once through their order each inning.
5. **Hitting** Each team will only have **one bat** available during a game. Prior to hitting the ball, the batter must be in a batting stance. The batter is allowed to take only one step forward to hit the ball after a manager has placed the ball upon the tee and has informed the defensive team that "*the ball is on the tee.*". The batter is not allowed to bunt, take half swings, or a swinging bunt. If in the manager's or coach's judgment, the batter did not take a full swing, the batter will be called back to the plate to hit again. A batted ball is considered a 'hit' when it travels at least 10 feet from home plate in fair territory. There is no on-deck circle in T-Ball.
6. **Foul Ball** Same rules as conventional baseball except that a ball which travels less than 10 feet from home plate is called a "foul ball". (An arc of radius 10 feet should be drawn (chalked) from the first base line to the third base line).
7. **Strike Outs** There are no strike outs in T-Ball. A batter continues to bat until he or she hits a fair ball.

8. **Base Running** Runners must stay in contact with the bases until the ball is hit. Runners may advance to first base and no further if the batted ball does not go past the infield. Runners may advance to second base if the batted ball is hit into the outfield. Runners that are “out” return to the dugout. When all defensive players are back to their proper positions, the manager calls “play ball” and the next player takes his/her turn at bat. The last batter in the order shall clear the bases, and the defensive team shall stay in the field until all runners have touched home plate. There shall be no attempt to put out the runners after the last batter has touched first base.
9. **Fielders** There is a maximum of 6 infielders allowed within the infield. All other players must play their position at least 15 feet beyond the baselines.
10. **Coaching** Managers and coaches may stand near their batters or fielders to give encouragement and advice but must not interfere with play. The manager or coach must request “time out” before attempting to demonstrate a technique or explain a play to the players during the progress of the game.
11. **Scoring/Standings** Scoring or team standings is not kept in the T-Ball division, neither by inning or game.
12. **Protests** There are no protests allowed in T-Ball. Any question of rules interpretation should be submitted to the T-Ball Division Vice President after the game.
13. **Pitching** After the second round of games coach/manager pitching at the mutual agreement of the managers at game time is encouraged. If pitching is used, the manager or coach shall pitch 3 pitches to the batter, and if the batter fails to hit the ball into play, the Tee shall be placed on home plate and the batter shall hit from the tee. Pitching is not mandatory but strongly encouraged.
14. **Sliding** Sliding is permissible **only after** a clinic on sliding has been given to the team. Sliding is allowed into any base or home plate. Headfirst slides are **not** allowed when advancing to the next base.
15. **Equipment** The Home team is responsible for setting up and putting away the batting tee, outfield cones, and all bases.
16. **Rotation of Positions** Each player shall be rotated to various defensive positions during each game. Over the season, each player should have played every defensive position.