TEE BALL BASEBALL

(Playing Age: 5 Years Old)

All coaches will be encouraged to prepare players for future play by rotating infield and outfield play without jeopardizing any child's safety. By doing this, we hope to increase the child's interest in the sport and decrease boredom in the field. Failure to follow this policy will be discussed with the coach, and continued problems will be reported to the Ethics Committee and the Coaches Selection Committee.

It is also important that this first experience in baseball be a positive one. We encourage all coaches and parents to stress "fun and fundamentals." We want to be sure the players are learning how to play the game properly. For example, we do not want to see the pitcher field a ball and try to out-run the batter to first base. That is not baseball. We want the players to learn to make the proper play.

1. T-Ball play will conform to the requirements of the 2017 Cal Ripken Rulebook, and as modified by these supplemental park rules.
2. At the beginning of the game, each team should contribute one new ball, which will be returned to the team for use as a practice ball after the game. Do not place any team logos on the official game ball.
3. The desired number of players per team is 12, with a maximum of 13.
4. All games will be a minimum of 4 innings or a time limit of 1:20, but an inning cannot start after 1:15. An inning shall be completed if it began before the time expiration. The home coach will keep the official clock and the home team shall occupy the third base dugout. The visiting team shall occupy the first base dugout.
5. "Friendly chanting is allowed, but coaches should immediately stop any mean or derogatory statements.
6. All players will bat with no outs recorded. In order to reduce boredom, each team shall bat half of their players in alternate innings. For example, if a team has 13 players, the team should bat 7 players in innings 1 and 3, and the other 6 players in innings 2 and 4. Coaches should train their teams to switch out from defense and offense as quickly as possible.
7. At the half-way point in the season and after a coach meeting is held with the league director, outs will be recorded. When the defense obtains 3 outs, the half-inning is over and the teams swap positions.
8. Every player will play a position when his or her team is on defense. No players will be required to sit the bench. Please rotate your players on defense to give them exposure to different positions. All players are to play the infield by the 3rd inning.
9. All male catchers positioned behind the plate, shall wear a protective cup in practices and games.
10. Catchers in T-Ball may choose to wear full protective gear with mask if they are safely positioned directly behind the batter.
11. A player in the pitcher's position will wear a helmet with a facemask and throat guard.
12. When a team is on defense, a maximum of 5 adults are allowed on the field. Outfielders cannot make an out on a runner advancing. They may, however, transfer the ball to an infielder, who is allowed to make the out.
13. When a team is batting, 4 adults are allowed on the field: One batter assistant, a third base coach, and a first base coach. An adult should be in the dugout with the team.
14. Smoking (by coaches or spectators) is only allowed in the parking lots. There will be no profane or derogatory language used on the playing field by the coaches, parents or players at any time for any reason. Head coaches are responsible for the conduct of assistant coaches, players, parents and family members of the players.
15. All bats used in MJLI in baseball from T-Ball through 14U, must be stamped BPF 1.15.

16. Diameter of bats from T-Ball through 6U cannot be larger than 2 ¼". No big-barrel bats allowed in T-Ball 5. No wooden bats will be allowed.
17. Any bat stamped "coach pitch" is illegal in league play.
18. If either team notices a batter using an illegal bat, the coach who is the batter's assistant must change the bat to a legal bat immediately.
19. Base runners may advance at their own risk, but only 1 base on a passed ball. If a runner is tagged or forced out, the runner will immediately return to the dugout. The team batting will call outs. Close plays should be awarded to the base runner.
20. No score will be kept and no "winner" is to be declared. Any coach or parent found to be discussing the score will face disciplinary action, which may include a one game suspension. Coaches should instruct the parents to also observe this policy.
21. The catcher is optional for the T-Ball 5 league.
22. In T-Ball 5, each batter will be given three pitches to hit. If the batter does not put a pitched ball in play, it will be placed on a tee for batting to continue and the batter shall be given as many swings as required until a fair ball is hit.
23. A line will be placed from the right field foul line to the left field foul line, three feet in front of home plate. If the batted ball does not pass this line, it is considered a dead ball, and the ball will be replaced on the tee.
24. A perpendicular line to the base path will be placed mid-way between the bases for determination of which base runner will occupy when play stops. The team batting will make this determination. Close plays should advance the runner to the next base.
25. A 10-foot diameter circle will be placed around the pitcher's mound. Play shall stop when the ball passes through a "cylinder", described as the pitcher's circle, and extending to the sky. The ball does not have to be under control to stop play. If the ball does not pass through the cylinder, it is considered a live ball, and runners may advance at their own risk. The defensive team may also stop play by stopping the lead runner from advancing.
26. Coaches shall place emphasis on teaching batters to not sling the bat to prevent injuries to other players and coaches.
27. T-Ball 5 will not select tournament teams or have an all-star game, and will not participate in an end-of-season tournament.
28. All outfielders must be positioned with both feet in the outfield grass so that the opposing team can differentiate between the infielders and outfielders.
29. Each Coach must exchange their designated batting order prior to the beginning of every game.
30. The final batter in each inning, for each team, shall run all the bases to home plate to complete that inning of play. It is encouraged for each coach to properly rotate their lineup allowing each child to do so. It is encouraged that the fielding team coach instructs players to throw the ball to home plate to complete the play at the plate. If there is potential for a play at the plate, the runner MUST slide and not make contact with the opposing team's catcher.
31. The Board of Directors of MJ League, Inc. recommends that all male players be equipped with a protective cup prior to each game and practice.
32. After a game or practice, coaches should not leave the area until all players have been picked up.

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