

**Bethpage Baseball Association (BBAI)**  
**T-Ball League Rules**  
**(amended 3/06)**

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this league is to teach players the fundamentals of Baseball, learn good sportsmanship, and most importantly to have FUN. The T-Ball league is considered an instructional league, which will focus on helping the players gain confidence handling a bat, and fielding a batted ball. This league will introduce children to hitting from a tee (first half of season), hitting live pitching (during the second half of season), and the basics of fielding and base running. Teaching, demonstrating fair play, and sportsmanship must be stressed and observed by all coaches and parents at all times. There will be no scores kept, with no wins or losses. Every player will receive a participation trophy at the end of the season.

**General:**

1. Good Sportsmanship shall be stressed and maintained at all times.
2. No foul language will be permitted on the field at any time.
3. No smoking is permitted on the field or around the vicinity of the field and the players.
4. Conduct of spectators watching the game is the responsibility of the team Manager.
5. Practices: to be held at the discretion of the coach.

**Uniforms:**

1. Players must wear full uniforms at all times. This includes pants, uniform shirt, and must wear a hat in the field. Players without hats or uniform pants will not be allowed to play.
2. All male players are required to wear protective cup athletic supporters.
3. Spikes: use of baseball shoes or similar turf shoes is optional. Athletic shoes must have rubber bottoms, metal spikes of any kind are not allowed.
4. Bats must have grips. No batting donuts are allowed.

**League Rules:**

1. Games will start no later than 6:00 PM. Players should be at the field by 5:45 PM.
2. Safety Baseballs will be used throughout the season.
3. No Unsupervised Bat Swinging. Only player at bat may hold a bat in his/her hands. On deck batter may not swing a bat near other children.
4. There are no strikeouts, no walks, and no base stealing.
5. All players must play in the field every inning (spread the outfield if you have to). Players must rotate positions every inning, getting an equal opportunity to play each position over the course of the season. No player should sit on the bench while their team is in the field.
6. Universal batting order will be used. All players must be listed in the batting order, nobody sits. Batting line-ups shall be varied from game to game so that all players have a chance to bat in all batting positions.
7. Batters per inning: T-Ball Division Leader will decide how this will work for each season. It works well (with teams of up to 10 or 11 kids) to have all kids may bat once in an inning. (If there are 12 or more kids, T-Ball Division Leader may opt to bat only 6-8 kids per inning)  
Note: If a one team has 10 players, and the other team has 8, each player will still only bat once per inning.
8. All batters and baserunners must wear batting helmets.
9. Even though the players will not be pitching, a player shall occupy this position when using the tee or with the coaches pitching to players during the second half.
10. There will be no catcher. No catching gear will be assigned to teams.
11. Games will last a maximum of six innings. No new inning may start after 8:00 PM. Coaches shall use discretion with darkness and shall end the game earlier if conditions prevail. This holds true even if teams have not batted an equal amount of times. Safety of the players is the primary concern.

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12. Games may be interrupted at any time to show or teach a principle or technique to the players.
13. Rain: Please assume the game is on if you do not hear from the league. If the game is cancelled, Managers will be called. Managers are responsible to call their team to them about cancellations. If, during a game lightning is seen, the game shall be called immediately.
14. Pitching: All batters will bat off the tee until the Game 7. At that time, coaches may pitch to the batter if they are able to hit pitching. Coaches are permitted to take a reasonable amount of time to allow a child to hit a pitch (5-6 swings without having to constantly reposition a batters stance). If the batter has not hit the ball after that time, the batting tee shall be placed at home plate for the batter. If a child is not comfortable with pitching, they may continue to use the batting tee whenever they want.
15. Baserunning: During the first half of the season, no base runner will be called out and removed from the bases. This helps teach players how to run the bases. During the second half of the season (after Memorial Day), a baserunner may be called out and removed from the bases on only two occasions: One, a fly ball which is caught. Two, a clearly decidable ground out throw to first base, or force out. There will be no force outs at home plate, double plays, or tagging up during the season. Players should be encouraged to throw the ball to the pitcher's mound to stop play.
16. Advancing on the bases: If a player hits the ball into the outfield, he may advance to second base, if open. If a batted ball clearly is hit well beyond the field of play, a player may advance as far as possible. At no time should a player be purposely "stretching" a hit into extra bases.
17. There will be no advancing to extra bases on over throws.
18. Juice list: If you have each player take turns bringing juice or snack, please hold it for after a game. (Water only during the game for players.)

**Groundskeeping/School Rules:**

1. On occasion you may be scheduled at a School Field and you find there is a conflict with a School District Team (i.e.-lacrosse, girls softball, etc.). If this happens, School Teams have priority over our little league. Usually it's worth waiting the half hour or so and playing a shortened game.
2. Wet/Muddy Fields:
  - The School District and the Town of Oyster Bay have the same rules that we must adhere to. We are not allowed to dig out and remove dirt. There is usually a mound of clay near the backstop to fill in holes, please use that as necessary. Do Not dig up dirt from the ground nearby and put on the infields. The School District, Town, and BBAI spend money every year on clay for the infields.
  - No infield dirt can be raked onto the infield/outfield grass. The fields must be left in the condition that they are found in.
  - Bring a rake with you if you think you'll need one.