



2012 SILVER TEE T-BALL TOURNAMENT RULES



1 - The Game

T-ball is a game of baseball between two teams of ten players (minimum 8), with a sufficient number of alternates under the direction of a manager and coaches played in agreement with the playing rules under the authority of an umpire or umpires on a recommended T-ball field.

It is designed to get young children interested in the game of baseball by stressing and maintaining active participation of all the players: with mandatory alternation of players at a game with the offensive team utilizing the eleven players as batters to score as many runs as possible and the defensive team using two extra outfielders to make as many outs as possible in accordance with the rules.

2 - Definition of Terms

- a) Playing line - is an imaginary line running directly from first base to third base which is a guideline for the home plate umpire to determine an encroachment.
- b) A dead hit ball - is a legally batted ball that; a) in the umpire's opinion will not or could not have firmly crossed the pitching rubber b) in the umpire's opinion the batter has made an illegal swing. But if the ball is caught in flight by the defensive team the batter is out and the ball is in play until time is called.
- c) Calling Time – Time is called by the umpire when at their discretion there is no further play to be made. When any defensive player has control of the ball in the infield area and in the judgment of the plate umpire there is no attempt to make a play on any of the base runners, TIME WILL BE CALLED, and the base runners, in the judgment of the umpires, will be held on the last base they occupied or the unoccupied base they were approaching when time was called. A player raising his hand with the ball therein, above his head will not automatically attain a call of time by the umpire.
- d) Infield area - is the area in the judgment of the home plate umpire in which the defensive infielders would normally play in performance of their duties. It also includes the adjacent foul territories which are encompassed by the playing line being extended from the bases to the dugout door post.
- e) An appeal - must be made by a player or manager before "Play" is called for the next batter or in the case of the last batter, it must be made before the last defensive player is off the playing field.



- f) Lead-offs - No player on the offensive team, while a base runner, shall take a lead-off from the base he is on until the batter has hit the ball from the tee. When any runner has taken a lead-off, the umpire shall indicate this with play continuing and all runners in jeopardy. At the end of the play when time is called, any outs will stand and all other base runners will return to their original bases and the batter (if not put out) returns to bat with the same count. In the event that the lead-off occurs on the last batter, play will continue as before and all legal runs are allowed to score except the player(s) who led off.
- g) Illegal swing - when the batter does not take a full swing or chop swings downward on the ball.

3 - General Rules

- a) For the purposes of fair play, each player must play a minimum of two (2) defensive innings. It is compulsory that all players play a complete inning when alternated and must be put in at the beginning of an inning.
- b) Batting Orders – A continuous batting order will be used and must be followed for each inning. A batter who fails to bat in his proper batting position shall be declared out, on an appeal from the defensive team, if another player completes a time at bat in his place. However the proper batter may take his place in the batter's box at any time before the improper batter becomes a runner.
- c) If the improper batter becomes a base runner or is put out and the proper appeal is made the plate umpire shall a) declare the proper batter out, b) nullify any advances or scores made by the base runners because of a ball batted by the improper batter, and c) the next batter will be the player in the batting position following the player who was called out because of missing his turn at bat.
- d) If the appeal is made too late then the improper batter becomes legal and the player in that batting position is considered to have completed his turn at bat. The next batter will be the player in the next batting position in the line-up.
- e) In the event that a team cannot field eight players, the game will be forfeited.



- f) A regulation game
- Will consist of four (4) complete innings, provided the one has scored more runs than the other. If the score is tied after four innings in round robin it will remain a tie, if the tie occurs in a playoff game then play is continued until one team has scored more runs than the other in an equal number of innings or when the home team has scored the winning run in the last inning.
 - In the event the umpire terminates the game before the end of the fourth inning and there has been at least three completed innings played, the score will revert back to the last completed:
- g) Protesting a game. There are no official protests in T-ball. A call may be questioned but the umpire's judgment will stand. Any conflicts in the interpretation of rules will be addressed on the field immediately with the Tournament Director and Umpire in Chief before play resumes. Keep in mind that this is an instructional level of baseball for all involved.

4 - Playing Rules

- a) Overthrows - In the event a throw to any base or home plate results in an overthrow, the base runner shall be permitted to advance as many bases as possible until such time a defensive player has control of the ball in the infield area. In the event the ball leaves the playing field, the offensive players shall be permitted to advance to the base they were approaching at the time that the ball was thrown plus one more base. Those batters with last batter status are exceptions, they are allowed to continue to score.
- b) A batter will be allowed five strikes before being called out. A strike will be considered a 1) foul ball 2) dead ball 3) completely missing the ball on a swing. A batter may only be called out on a 5th strike that is a ball being completely missed on a swing.
- c) Last batter status - Any players on the offensive team who are base runners when the last batter is at bat are regarded in the same way as the last batter and no defensive play can be made on them on the bases. They are all forced to home plate when the last batter has hit the ball fairly.
- d) In the event that the last batter's fair hit leaves the playing field by going over the outfield fence in flight, it will be considered a home run and all the runners having last batter status will be allowed to score. But if the ball bounds over, goes under, or gets caught in the outfield fence and in so doing interferes with the fielder's chances to field the ball, all base runners will be allowed to score but not the batter.



- e) In the event that the last batter of the offensive team is out on a fly ball, the members of the offensive team who are base runners shall be permitted to score, provided they are on base when the ball is caught or they retouch it after the ball is caught or if they try to retouch it after the ball is caught before touching the next base. These runners have to score prior to the ball being returned to home plate.
- f) In the event that the last batter of the offensive team or any other base runner with last batter status is obstructed in any manner by any member of the defensive team while running the bases, it shall be the discretion of the umpires as to how far he would have advanced had there been no obstruction.
- g) In the event that the last batter of the offensive team strikes a base runner with a fairly hit ball before it passes a defensive player or a defensive player makes an attempt at the ball the play will be called Dead and base runners except for the hit base runner will advance one base and the play is over.
- h) In the event that the teams have a different number of players both teams will bat the same number of players equal to the team with the highest number of players. The team with the lesser number of players will bat the players starting with position 1, 2,3 and so on until they bat the same number of batters. This batting order must remain the same throughout the game.

5 - Umpires

- a) Once the batting line-ups have been exchanged the plate umpire takes charge of the game and takes his place behind home plate.
- b) The decisions of the umpires shall be final; however the managers of each team shall be entitled to ask for permission to approach the umpires for an interpretation of the rules. No umpire shall overrule any other unless invited into consultation.
- c) The umpires are the only ones that can give "Time."

6 – Tie Breaker Rule

- a) All scores for tie breakers will be considered the score at the end of the 3rd inning of play.
- b) If one team has beaten all the teams they are tied with, they will be awarded the position. If the remaining teams are tied with the same record, the position will be awarded to the team that won head-to-head and then run differential.
- c) In the case of 2 teams tied in the standings the deciding criteria will be 1) most wins 2) head to head record 3) run differential (after 3 innings) 4) coin toss will decide the position.