

SMYBA Tee Ball

Here is a brief outline that contains general information, equipment specifications, and the Tee Ball rules used in the SMYBA Tee Ball League. This should be shared with parents so that everyone knows what is expected during games and practices.

General Information

- Our SMYBA Tee Ball league has players that range from 5 to 6 years old, with a few exceptions.
- Each Tee Ball team has 8 – 9 players.
- Bases are spaced 50 feet apart.
- Each game will consist of 4 innings or 1 hour...whichever comes first.
- Scores are not kept.
- Safety helmets must be worn by all batters and base runners. No exceptions.
- Bats are 24-26 inches long and 2 ¼ inches in diameter. Players may provide their own bat. Personal bats should be marked with the player's name or some other identification.
- Balls are the same size as a hardball but are much softer with a sponge center.
- Gloves range from 9 – 12 inches.
- No metal spikes are allowed.

Playing Rules

- Every player bats and plays in the field each inning.
- Each batter will be given an opportunity to hit a pitched ball thrown by the coach. The coach should pitch the ball from one knee to put the ball closer to the batter's eye level.
- If the player does not hit the ball after 5 throws, then he/she will hit from the tee. WE MUST STICK TO THIS RULE or we'll never play more than two innings.
- Some players will hit directly from the Tee depending on their skill level; we don't want to discourage new players just learning the game, but encourage each batter to attempt to hit pitched balls first.
- There are no walks or strikeouts.
- A batted ball must travel 10 feet or it is a foul. A painted line on the field will mark this distance.
- Once the ball is hit, the player will advance to 1st base only, and remain there if he/she reaches it safely. There are no doubles, triples, or homeruns.
- Runners may advance only one base at a time after a ball is hit.
- No advance on overthrows
- No leading off the base
- No base stealing
- When the last batter of each inning hits the ball, all base runners will advance past every remaining base to home plate.
- Runners may slide to avoid a collision when an attempt to record a putout is being made on him or her. All slides must be feet first; no head first sliding is permitted.
- An inning is over when all players on each team have batted once.

Field Management

- Each player must have one parent or responsible adult with them at each practice and game. One adult can be responsible for multiple players but no players should be dropped off on their own.
- During games, the only player with a bat in their hand should be the current batter. A coach or parent from the team should monitor this and help the next batter be ready when it is their turn.
- When their team is in the field, coaches may be in the field with their players to help keep them focused and encourage the use of basic fielding skills.
- Throwing bats after a ball is hit must not be tolerated. Coaches should reinforce this during practice and games with team-wide and personal reminders as needed.
- No player should play the position of catcher. We intentionally do not issue protective catcher equipment for tee ball. A coach from the batting team may be behind the plate to collect pitched balls that are not hit by the batters.
- The player who fields the pitcher position should generally be placed behind and to the side of the coach who is pitching. When a batter uses the tee, the coach who is pitching should move off to the side of the playing field.
- Players should be rotated throughout the field and batting order so that everyone gets a chance at all positions.
- A coach or parent should be assigned to keep the players waiting to bat organized. This includes having the next batter ready with a helmet for their turn at bat.