



2023 CVLL

T-Ball Playing Rules

These rules are specific to **Clinton Valley Little League** or are here for clarification purposes. They are not a replacement but are a supplement to the 2023 Official Little League Rulebook.

T-Ball Division Level of Play: The objective of each game shall be to provide instruction to players – not to win the game. Scores and standings will not be kept and “All Stars” will not be named. There will be no playoffs.

T-BALL DIVISION RULES WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Home Team Responsibilities:

The home team is responsible for the field set up before each game and conditioning the field after each game & practice. This includes putting out/away bases, raking and/or dragging the infield and LOCKING the boxes before you leave. The visiting team is expected to assist the home team. Both teams are responsible for cleaning up dugouts; garbage must be IN the can & not left loosely in the dugout. Failure to do so will result in reduced privileges of the field & equipment; and any equipment lost due to unlocked boxes will be replaced by the home team manager.

2. Field layout:

- A. The distance between bases will be 50 feet (*use peg with shortest distance*).
- B. A batting circle measuring 10' in radius will be marked around home plate with the center front of home plate being the center of the circle.
- C. The pitcher's mound will be a 5' radius circle measured from the center front of the pitchers plate.

3. Games:

- A. Six innings will constitute a complete game. Three innings will constitute a complete game in case of darkness, rain, or other inclement weather conditions.

- B. A time limit of 90 minutes will be imposed. This means no inning shall start after 90 minutes of play.
- C. A complete inning will consist of eight batters having batted, regardless of the number of outs.
- D. The last batter in an inning rounds all the bases. Defensive players should remain on the field until the last runner crosses home plate.
- E. Play during an inning ceases when in the managers' opinion no runners are attempting to advance and the defensive team has possession of the ball in the infield and calls time.
- F. Any questions about the rules or recommendations for adding/adjusting the rules contained in this document should be referred to the T-Ball Division Player Agent for discussion.

4. Team rosters & Batting lineup:

- A. A continuous batting order will be used.
- B. Free substitutions between innings are allowed.
- C. Each player must play at least three innings – one at an infield position. The catcher's position counts as an outfield position.

5. Minimum Participation Requirement:

- A. No player can sit on the bench defensively more than 1 inning (3 outs) unless all players have sat on bench defensively 1 inning (3 outs).
- B. No player can sit on the bench defensively more than 2 innings (6 outs) unless all players have sat on bench defensively 2 innings (6 outs).
- C. Any player not meeting the minimum requirements due to the game being shortened because of weather or time limit must start defensively the next scheduled game.

6. Play:

- A. There will be no strikeouts, each player bats until he/she has successfully hit the ball into fair territory.
- B. Each hit will result in a single (no doubles).*
- C. When a baserunner is out, the runner will stay on the base.*
- D. The infield fly rule does not apply.
- E. When a fly ball is caught the ball is dead, runners may not advance and no additional plays can be made.
- F. Bunting is not allowed. A fair ball is any ball that is hit into fair territory that goes beyond the 10' radius batters circle.

7. Equipment:

- A. It is recommended that all male players wear athletic supporters with metal, fiber, or plastic protective cup.
- B. Spikes or cleats are recommended and must be molded plastic or rubber.
- C. Bats must have the Little League or T-Ball insignia or meet Little League specifications (not more than 33" in length & not more than 2 ¼ inches in diameter).
- D. The batter must wear a helmet during while on the field.

8. On-Field Coaches:

- A. Two defensive coaches are permitted on the field, in the outfield area. The best spot for the coaches are between 1st & 2nd or 2nd & 3rd.

9. Stealing is not permitted in T-Ball.

10. Safety:

- A. One coach or adult with a background check completed must be in the dugout at all times
- B. On deck batters are not permitted at any time or place on or off the playing field during the game. This is an Official Little League Inc. rule. The only players permitted to leave the dugout in an offensive situation are the batter and any base runners.
- C. To help keep both runners and fielders safer, CVLL has provided a double first base system. If there is a play at first base, the runner must make every attempt to run to the orange base to be safe. The first baseman must also attempt to only have one foot on the white base. It will be at the discretion of the coaches to determine if the batter/runner or fielder properly using the double first base system. Please stress with your players how to use first base properly and safely.
- D. Batters, base runners, catcher & pitcher must wear protective helmets.
- E. Pitching Helmets (with face mask attached) must be worn.
- F. If a batter throws the bat after swinging at the ball and the entire bat lands or rolls outside of the 10 foot circle around home plate, the batter is given a warning. After such warning, if that player throws the bat again, the batter is out and play is dead. No runner may advance and no plays can be made by the defensive team.
- G. The catcher shall be positioned outside the 10 foot circle behind home plate to the left or right of the batter, until the ball is hit into play.
- H. Arguments about calls between coaches or parents will not be tolerated. Any person found to be doing so will be disciplined by CVLL Board of Directors. This disciplinary action will be at the discretion of the CVLL Disciplinary Committee. ***Coaches and parents are expected to set an example for the kids – be a leader.***

ADDITIONAL RULES

Objective: The final weeks of the season will allow for the following additional rules in order to allow the T-Ball players to advance their skillset and learn some of the rules that will be allowed at the next level:

- 6B. *Replacing rule 6B in the above section.* Each hit will result in a single, unless the ball is hit into the outfield grass. If the ball is hit into the outfield grass, then it will be at the discretion of the hitter's 1st base coach to allow the hitter to run for a double. Under no circumstances will the hitter run for a triple.
- 6C. *Replacing rule 6C. in the above section.* When a baserunner is out, the baserunner will leave the base and return to the dugout. *The baserunner's coach can facilitate this, not the other team's defensive coaches on the field.*

Note: A complete inning will still consist of eight (8) batters having batted, regardless of the number of outs.