

Avon Little League

Rules for Tot Ball Softball

This league shall be primarily governed by the “Official Rules of Little League Softball,” as published by Williamsport, PA. The following exceptions and modifications to the existing rules have been generated and Board approved in the interest of safety, fair play, and more even competition.

I. Pre-Game and Post-Game Rules:

A. Home team duties and responsibilities

1. Uses the 1st base dugout
2. Furnishes a game ball (any ball in good condition)
3. Gets out the tee from the storage shed before the first game of the day

B. Visiting team duties and responsibilities

1. Uses the 3rd base dugout
2. Furnishes a good backup ball (any ball in good condition)
3. Puts away the tee in the storage shed after the last game of the day

C. Dual responsibilities

1. Visitors will be listed first on the game schedule unless otherwise noted.
2. Any available practice time prior to a game shall be shared equally. Coaches are encouraged to work together to involve all available players (regardless of team) in pre-game warmups.
3. All players and equipment not directly involved in the game must remain on the bench.
4. No batting practice is permitted on the field, within 1 hour before the start of any game.
5. There is no on-deck position in Little League. No batter may warm up outside the field of play.
6. Each team is responsible for cleaning trash from their respective dugout.

II. General Rules and Avon Little League Rules:

A. Game Play

1. Time limit will be 1 hour from the start of the game. It is suggested that both teams have a combined 30 minute “practice” followed by a 30 minute game. During the “practice”, coaches should focus on fundamentals of fielding, throwing, catching, and swinging a bat. This is best accomplished by running stations for 5 minutes, then rotating to the next station. 4 stations rotations that focus on the above fundamentals getting them the basics of those skills.
2. Once the time limit has been reached, the current inning should be finished (full inning). This is the actual start time, not game time. The next inning begins after the offensive team has batted through their lineup.
3. The maximum number of innings played will be 4 innings.
4. Each team will bat through their entire lineup each inning. Teams should stagger their lineup each inning so that players who bat last, are not always last.
5. Teams will use all players defensively. The infield will include 5 players, with no catcher, and they must assume normal defensive positions. The rest of the players will be placed in the outfield. All Players in the pitching position must play even with or behind the rubber.
6. There will be no steals. There will be no extra bases allowed on fielding errors.
7. On balls hit to the outfield, runners will be frozen as soon as the ball is in the infield. “In the infield” means that the ball has crossed the dirt/grass boundary, regardless of whether or not the ball is in the possession of a defensive player. Runners en route to the next base when the ball enters the infield may continue to that base at their own risk.
8. Leading off is not permitted.
9. The tee will be used for the entire game. The ball must travel 10 ft or be declared a foul ball.
10. There are no walks.

11. There are no strikeouts, but outs will be called. Players who are called out, do not have to leave the base (let them run the bases). Since the inning will not end with 3 outs, coaches can use their discretion on what players are able to be removed from the bases when out.
12. Score will not be kept so there is no mercy rule. There will be no tracking of wins and losses.
13. Infield fly rule is NOT in effect.
14. Sliding is not permitted.

B. Players and Coaches

1. The defensive team is allowed 2 coaches on the field, typically one on the right side of the field and one on the left side of the field. The offensive team is allowed 3 coaches on the field – a 1st base coach, 3rd base coach, and one coach manning the tee.
2. There are no call-ups for Tot Ball Softball. If there are not enough players available to field an infield, teams are encouraged to use players from the other team.
3. All players will play the infield and outfield evenly. It is the manager's responsibility to be sure that all players have had a chance to play each position throughout the season.
4. No player will be permitted to play the same position for more than 1 inning in a game.
5. Defensive players must not be moved during an inning except for an injury or other emergency.
6. All players present will bat in a continuous batting order. If a player shows up late, she will assume the last position in the original batting order. If a player is injured or leaves a game early other than for an ejection, her spot in the order is bypassed, and no out is recorded.
7. Managers will not be allowed to cancel any games. Any cancellations due to inclement weather will be decided by the League President or his/her designee, in consultation with the Avon Parks and Rec Dept. If a conflict exists with a school function affecting several members of the team, the manager must contact the GM, not less than 7 days before the assigned game, to request a change of schedule. All make-up games must be rescheduled with the GM and Scheduler.

C. Equipment

1. 11" yellow soft Incrediball will be used.
2. All fielders must wear a fielder's mask.
3. Batters must wear a helmet with a facemask.
4. All players must wear their League-provided jersey and softball pants.
5. Players are not allowed to wear jewelry. Newly pierced ears must be bandaged.
6. Bats must feature the Little League, USA Softball, or 1.20 bpf stamp.

III. Umpires: are not used in Tot Ball

IV. Rules Violations or Disciplinary Issues:

At the recommendation of the GM and at the discretion of the President or his/her designee, a player, manager, or coach may be suspended for disciplinary reasons or rules violations for one game. If this occurs a second time, the Board of Directors shall review the player, manager, or coach, for possible expulsion from the league. All league officials can recommend disciplinary action to the President for all off-field violations by players, managers, coaches, parents, etc., while on Little League property at any time.

V. Lightning:

If a lightning strike is seen 30 minutes prior to the start of a game or during a game, ALL games being played at the park where the lightning occurs (Veterans Memorial Park or Little League Park) shall be immediately canceled and rescheduled as set forth under the General rules and Avon Little League

rules section. Avon Little League does not adhere to the rule pertaining to waiting periods prior to the resumption of play. Any game stopped due to lightning will not resume that day.