

**New Albany Little League**  
**T-Ball League (4-6 Year Olds) Rules and Instructional/First-Year Machine Pitch League Rules**  
**PLAY IN NALL WILL BE BY THE LITTLE LEAGUE RULEBOOK WITH THESE EXCEPTIONS**

**Division Basics**

- Time limit is one hour or four (4) innings whichever comes first.
- An approved softie baseball or 10" softie ball for softball will be used for all games.
- The base paths will be 50'. Base paths will be marked with a hash mark at the halfway point.
- An inning will end when the team at bat completes **one rotation** through their batting order. When a player is put out on the field he/she may be removed from the bases but the out will not count toward ending the inning (No outs in this league).
- An approved T-Ball Bat must be used (27" for softball, 26" for baseball and stamped with the USA Baseball mark).
- Two ADULT base coaches are permitted in this division. Each team must have one ADULT in the dugout to assist players (i.e., keeping the players in the dugout, keeping the batting order straight).
- A team will be allowed to have two (2) defensive coaches (who must remain in the grassy area of the outfield behind the players) and three (3) offensive coaches when batting on the field.
- Coaches are responsible for getting the Tee and returning it to the storage box after the last game. Coaches should pick up two game balls at the concession stand for each game.

**Batting**

- All players will be placed in the batting order (bat the bench). Each team will bat the same number of players each inning (i.e., if one team has seven players and one has nine then the lesser team will bat the first two over again to equal the nine players).
- ONLY the batter while batting is permitted to hold a bat. At no other time should a player be holding a bat. (No warming up on deck permitted)
- The batting area will be marked with a 15' arc that extends from foul line to foul line. A hit ball must go beyond this arc or it will be declared a foul ball.
- If a player throws the bat, that player will receive a warning. If a player continues to throw the bat, they may be removed from the bases and other runners may not advance.

**Putting the ball into play:**

- Softball T-Ball: Players will receive three (3) pitches thrown by their coach. If the batter hasn't hit the ball after three (3) thrown pitches from the coach the "T" will be placed at home plate and the batter will be given two tries to hit the ball.
- Baseball T-Ball: T-ball players will have 5 attempts to hit the ball off of the "T" or be removed from the batting order for that inning.
- Baseball Instructional: Each player will receive 5 pitches from the pitching machine set to 32 m.p.h. Only an adult may operate the pitching machine. If the hitter does not hit the ball within 5 pitches, a tee will be used.

**Fielding**

- All players play the field. No catcher is permitted. Defense should consist of a traditional infield (5 players) so if a team has 10 players, it will be 5 infielders and 5 in the outfield. A coach will assist from the catcher's position.
- Players may not obstruct the runners.
- This is an instructional league. We are here to train the kids the game of baseball and softball. Therefore, you must teach the kids to make plays on runners instead of having one fast player run-down the batter/runners and get them out.
- Coaches in the field on defense must not assist a fielder making a play other than giving verbal instructions.

**Base Running**

- A batter should stop at first base on a ball hit to the infield; a batter may attempt to advance to second base on a ball hit to the outfield.
- If a runner is put out that player is removed from the base to reward the defense.
- Runners do NOT advance on overthrows at this level.

**Pitching**

- The pitching circle will be approximately 35 feet from home plate.

**IT IS EXPECTED THAT PLAY AND CONDUCT WILL BE SPORTSMANLIKE. NO EXCEPTIONS!!!!**

**Players, managers, coaches and appointed adults ONLY allowed in the dugouts. Players, managers and coaches are not allowed to leave the dugout during the game unless an injury occurs or excused by the umpire.**

**NO VERBAL ABUSE OR HARASSMENT TO AN UMPIRE, COACH, MANAGER, OPPOSING PLAYER OR PARENT WILL BE TOLERATED. REFER TO THE LEAGUES' CODE OF CONDUCT!!!!**

# COACHING TIPS

Encourage your parents to help during practices and during games. Each team needs several parents helping at all times.

An adult must be in the dugout with the kids when their team is at bat.

Every team should have someone who is getting the hitters ready for their turn at bat. This will prevent unnecessary delays. It is very important to keep the game moving!

Please ask your players and parents to help clean up after every game.

Players in the dugout should not be pushing, touching, etc.

Coaches should vary the positions for players throughout the game and season.

Coaches are responsible for getting the machine or T out and putting it away after the last game.

Coaches should pick up two game balls at the concession stand for each game.

Players line up and shake hands after each game.

Players get a small treat at the concession stand after the game.

## **The coaches in this league coaches should be teaching:**

Where the bases are and what they are called.

What direction they should run.

How to throw and how to swing a bat. (Where to place the hands) Most players will not be able to catch a baseball at this level. Getting their glove to right location is the first step.

Players should be taught to look at their target then step and throw. Look, point, step and throw.

Infielders do not run into the outfield to chase a ball.

Do not jump on the ball. Stay on your feet.

Do not walk in front of or in between your teammates when they are throwing

NEVER walk up to another player who is swinging a bat – They may not see you.

Check out the resources available on the Little League website.

HAVE FUN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!