

Toms River Little League

Softball T-Ball Division - 2026 Local Rules

Preamble: This document comprises Toms River Little League Rules and Regulations and the specific (T-Ball) Division rules. In no case do these rules preempt the Official Rules and Regulations of Little League Softball unless by official action of the TRLL Board of Directors as permitted by Little League Charter. The TRLL Constitution and By-Laws supersede all Local Rules.

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**** ** DURING COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS SEASONS PLEASE FOLLOW PROGRAM**

PARTICIPATION PLAN FOR HEALTH RELATED GUIDELINES ** **

Safety—Weather:

1. Upon hearing thunder, game play or practice is to suspend immediately.
2. Upon seeing lightning, game play or practice is to suspend immediately.
3. All players, managers and coaches must clear the field and seek shelter either at the TRLL building or in a vehicle.
4. DUGOUTS ARE NOT SUITABLE SHELTERS!!
5. The game or practice may resume 30 minutes after the weather has cleared.
6. Managers and/or coaches MUST take the initiative to suspend the game since there are no umpires.

Field and Equipment Responsibilities:

1. Each team must be represented at all work parties. The manager is responsible to arrange for a minimum of (1) individual to represent their team for all scheduled work parties.
2. After inclement weather occurs, all teams playing on Saturday and/or Sunday must have representation in order to have fields playable that day and should report at 8:00 am. The manager is responsible to arrange for a representative from their team.

3. Managers and coaches are responsible for cleaning the dugout after each game/practice.
4. Managers and coaches are responsible for raking the infield after each game/practice.
5. Failure to comply with the previous four (4) rules may result in a one game suspension for that manager.
 - a. Repeated failure to do so may result in a two game suspension and so on.
 - b. The Division VP and the executive board will consider any extenuating circumstances.
 - c. If a manager is suspended, he/she is not permitted to be at the complex during the play of the next regularly scheduled game.
6. Players are NOT allowed to rake the fields.
7. All managers and coaches are responsible to walk the field prior to the game and/or practice to identify any safety issues. If a safety issue is identified it must be corrected immediately.
8. Managers will be required to post a \$100 bond for league issued equipment.
9. Managers and/or coaches should notify the Equipment Manager Tom King at titan1414king@aol.com immediately when defective or damaged equipment is found, so a suitable replacement can be provided.
10. The manager is responsible for returning league issued equipment promptly at season's end on scheduled equipment return dates unless other arrangements are made with Equipment Manager. (Return dates TBD.) Failure to return equipment on the scheduled date and time will result in forfeiture of the manager's bond check and the ability to manage or coach the following season. Managers are required to clean their equipment prior to its return, and to call-out any damaged pieces.
11. Hit-downs in the fences or backstops are PROHIBITED. This eventually warps and damages fences.
12. Managers and Coaches must supervise and prevent players from digging holes in the field. This is both a safety and field maintenance issue.

TRLL Complex Rules:

1. All managers and coaches are required to inform and remind parents and families of the players of the TRLL Complex Rules and may be held responsible for the actions of the players, parents and spectators.
2. All volunteers must complete the criminal background check through the email link from JDP before Managing, Coaching and/or assisting with TRLL players. This link can be obtained by emailing TRLL President Brian Doyle at bdoyle329@gmail.com with the person's name, email address and team name.

3. Only Safety Certified managers, coaches, and/or parents are allowed to assist in games/practices including the batting cages.
4. The manager is responsible to enforce all the Batting Cage Rules posted at the TRLL Complex. In addition:
 - Ensure the spectators remain in the office at all times. No one other than players, managers, and coaches are allowed to be in the batting cages.
 - Players cannot swing a bat unless in the batting tunnel or with a coach at the soft toss and/or tee location. That is bats are to remain below the belt and must wear helmet if holding a bat (Managers and Coaches must enforce this rule).
 - All practice equipment must be picked up and returned to their storage area.
 - Players must not throw hard balls at the walls and/or light fixtures.
 - Use the style of softballs that are supplied to your team and specific to your division.

Game Play—Conduct

1. Any manager, coach, player, or parent ejected by an umpire during a game will be suspended for the remainder of the game and next physically played game.
2. Any manager, coach, player, or parent involved in a heated argument with an umpire or another coach or manager, may be suspended for one game.
3. The use of inappropriate language by managers, coaches, players or parents will not be acceptable under any circumstances. The use of such language will result in a one game suspension.
4. Any manager, coach, or player throwing equipment may be subject to a one game suspension.
5. Both dugouts must be quiet once the pitcher begins his/her pitching motion and are required to avoid any intentional actions (in the opinion of the umpire meant to distract either the pitcher or batter). The manager of a team that consistently allows a violation of this rule will receive a one game suspension.
6. A suspended manager, coach, player, or parent will not be present at the TRLL Complex during the next physically played game.
7. At any time, a manager or coach may be subject to removal from his position by the Board of Directors of TRLL.

Game Play—Safety (All Williamsport Rules Apply):

1. Infielders and outfielders warming up before the start of an inning must throw the softball on the “dugout side”. Throwing the ball across the infield is strictly prohibited.

2. Players (not in the game) warming up outfielders must wear a helmet.
3. Metal spikes of cleats are prohibited.
4. Female catchers must wear a protective cup.
5. All batters and base runners must wear approved protective helmets.
6. There is no “on-deck” circle, or an area to be used as such, anytime during a game or practice.
7. All players must wear team uniforms.
8. All managers, coaches, and team parents must be Safety Certified.
9. If a Manager or Coach asks a parent to assist during the course of a game or practice, THE PARENT MUST BE SAFETY CERTIFIED AND MUST HAVE COMPLETED THE LEAGUE REQUIRED CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK. Failure to comply may result in a 1-game suspension and/or further action by the Board of Directors.
10. MEDICAL RELEASE FORMS: Managers and coaches must have in their possession the medical release forms for each of their players at all games and practices. Very important if a serious injury occurs.
11. INJURIES: In the event a player becomes injured in conjunction with League activities and under the supervision of the team manager or coaches, it is the Manager’s responsibility to immediately notify Safety Officer Matt Arango (Cell# 732-684-7757/ Email: marango623@gmail.com) and to complete the proper accident forms which can be explained by the Safety Officer. This will ensure that the incident will be reported to Williamsport within the required time frame.
12. Players are not permitted to coach the bases during a game in this division.
13. Face masks are mandatory.
14. Heart guard shirts are recommended.

Game Play—General

1. Unless indicated otherwise within this document, the official regulations and playing rules, with addendums, of Little League Softball 2026 apply.
2. There will be a maximum of (4) SAFETY CERTIFIED individuals per team, allowed within the confines of the field during a game. District 18 requires that one of the team coaches or manager must be safety certified during the current season.
3. Playing time: Roster sizes are kept to a minimum in this division in order for all players to play the entire game.

4. Batting Order: Everyone bats regardless of if they in the game or not. Rotate your order from game-to-game. Late arrivals to the game shall be placed at the end of batting order if they arrived after their original batting order position.
5. Defensive Positions: All players on the team will play defense. Rotate all players through every position (safety first- if you have safety concerns due to a player's ability -do not put the player in harms way). Outfielders must be standing in the grass not the infield dirt.
 - a. Infield will consist of standard softball positions, with the exception of there will be NO catcher.
 - b. If you have less than 8 players, the first position you will eliminate will be the defensive position of pitcher and then if you have less the 8, you will eliminate outfield positions as well and spread the remaining outfielders out an equal distance.
6. Games shall consist of between 3 and 6 innings and will last absolutely no longer than 1 hour and fifteen minutes (whichever comes first) / Players attention span and ability to follow instructions will dictate this as well.
7. An inning shall continue until the entire batting order has batted through the line-up. There will be NO outs in the field. This is an introductory division and all instructional. Congratulate the players on a play made and explain to them that what they did was what should be done.
8. No inning shall begin 15 minutes prior to the start of the next scheduled game for that field if applicable.
9. Players are not to swing, pick up or hold bats in the dugout. Only the batter at home plate should be holding a bat.
10. There is no stealing or bunting.
11. Runners can only leave the base once the ball has been hit. There are no advances of bases on over throws to any base.
12. A hit ball must travel at least half the distance to the pitchers mound to be fair. First and Third base coaches will call foul/fair balls.
13. All hitters will hit off a tee every other inning. Rotate innings between hitting from tee and coach pitch (Until section below). During coach pitch innings, after 3 swings hitter will use tee.
14. On all hit balls, the runner may only advance one base except on a Home Run or a Ground Rule Double. The last batter of the half inning will run all the way around the bases as if it was a home run.
15. No head first sliding.
16. Home teams will sit on the first base side of the field.
17. All games will be played as scheduled. If a game is cancelled follow the guidelines set forth by the TRLL scheduling director and Executive VP of Softball Operations for rescheduling games.

18. No games will be played off site, unless determined by the scheduling director and/or Executive Vice President of Softball Operations.
19. No scores or standings will be kept at this age group.
20. Bases shall be set at 50 feet.
21. Approved little league softballs will be used, specifically the TRLL issued Easton Incrediball level balls.
22. The manager's duties do not stop with coaching a team. It also includes ensuring your team parent is providing all league information to the parents, such as fundraising events, and all league information he or she may receive.

Game Play—Rain outs:

1. All cancelled games will be determined by the Field Maintenance Director and Executive Vice President of Operations around or before 3:30 pm on weekdays and around or before 8:30 am on weekends. This information will be available through the TRLL Online League System and Online League System notifications to email accounts for players and coaches.

Game Play—Playoff Season (Not Applicable in T-Ball Division).

Game Play—Playoff Tournament (Not Applicable in T-Ball Division).