

# Yucaipa Valley American Little League

## 2026 Tee-Ball League Local Ground Rules

The Board of Directors from the American League considers the primary goal of the Tee-Ball League program to be instructional and the managers and coaches are expected to teach players the fundamental skills of Little League Baseball. A higher priority shall be given to achieving this goal than to any other. No Official Score will be kept for any games.

Yucaipa Valley American Little League considers SAFETY TO BE A PRIORITY. As such we expect all managers, coaches and volunteers to follow the rules as stated:

- No on-deck circle will be allowed.
- No players climbing on fences or dugouts.
- A batter's helmet MUST be worn by any player that has a bat in their hand.
- A supporter for boys must be worn in order to participate in games and practices.
- A catcher's mask with a throat protector, chest protector, shin guards, and a cup (for boys) must be worn while in the catcher's position.
- There must be an approved coach or volunteer in the dugout with the players at ALL times.
- Any manager, coach or volunteer that is in the dugout or on the field for the team, shall give their UNDIVIDED attention to the players of the game (i.e. NO scorekeeping, emails, or texting by these individuals).
- No smoking, vaping or alcohol use permitted while on YVALL premises.

The Board of Directors from the American League has determined that the Tee-Ball League Division will play its season in accordance with the official playing rules of Little League Baseball Rules and Regulations 2026, subject to the following additions and amendments:

Age Restriction: The Tee-Ball Division will be played by players league age 4-6, with exceptions, based on board approval.

- 1) All players are required to play an equal amount of time in the outfield and the infield in each game. This is to ensure all players play a variety of positions during each game. Defensive substitutions and re-entry are allowed at every position throughout the game.
- 2) The batting order shall be all the players on the team roster present for the game, batting in order, throughout the game and shall not change.
- 3) The offensive team will bat in a continuous batting order throughout the entire season and shall not change. The first batter of the game shall be the batter who immediately followed the batter who had their last at bat in the previous game. The batter cannot strike out.
  - a. First Half of Season: There are to be no outs recorded. Players will remain on the field even if an out is made
  - b. Second Half of Season: In an effort to help players learn the rules of the game before moving to higher divisions outs will be recognized on balls batted in play. If the defense records an out on a batter/runner (force out, tag play, catch pop fly, etc.) said batter/runner

will return to the dugout. Official outs for the inning will not count against the batting team's inning ending. Each team will still get to bat through their entire lineup, as outlined above, regardless of any outs recorded during the inning.

- 4) Balls struck must travel beyond **ten (10) feet** to be considered a hit. Bunting is not allowed.
- 5) ***Bats shall not be thrown***; One (1) warning should be issued to the player and manager. If the batter repeats the behavior, he should be sent back to the dugout and not able to advance to first base.
- 6) There is no on-deck circle; all players waiting to bat should remain seated in the dugout and away from any bats. Managers and Coaches are reminded to keep safety in mind.
- 7) **Sliding into first base is highly discouraged, but it is technically not against Little League rules.** Head first slides are not allowed while advancing into any bases; One (1) warning should be issued to the player and manager. If the player repeats the behavior, he should be sent back to the dugout without advancing any bases.
- 8) The base runners are not allowed to steal bases. The Runner must remain on the base until the ball is hit. There is no leading off.
- 9) The offensive team's time "at bat" ceases when:
  - a. All players on the roster have had one (1) opportunity to bat in the inning. Managers are required to inform the opposing manager when it is the last batters turn, at that time the inning is over.
- 10) Each team will field a maximum of twelve (12) defensive players; six (6) infielders and six (6) outfielders.
- 11) The catcher must wear all catcher's gear; this includes shin guards, chest protectors, helmet/facemask (with a separate/additional throat protector) & appropriate supporter and hard cup when behind the plate.
- 12) Overthrows at any base, regardless of whether or not the ball is out of play will NOT result in the runners advancing. Managers shall institute sportsmanship and a sense of fair play on holding runners.
- 13) **A Batting Tee shall be placed on top of home plate and MUST be utilized for the first half of the season.** In an effort to better instruct players, **managers may choose to utilize coach pitching for their team after the half way point in the season, date will be determined by the Board of Directors (see schedule for date).**

In doing so, the following will apply:

- a. Each Batter will receive a maximum of five (5) pitches from a coach. If the batter was not successful in getting a hit, a Tee will be utilized thereafter.
- 14) Field markers (Cones)
    - a. Ground Rule Double – A ball must roll or bounce (touch or untouched) past the cones to be considered a Ground Rule Double and runners advance two bases.

- b. Cones will be placed in the edge of the outfield grass.
- 15) The game will end after one (1) hour; regardless of which team is at bat. The field must be cleaned up and vacated as soon as possible.
  - 16) Two (2) coaches/managers or approved volunteers will act as offensive base coaches, one (1) at First and one (1) at Third. They will also act as umpires. If coach pitch, a third “approved” adult will be allowed on the field.
  - 17) Two (2) coaches/managers or approved volunteers will act as defensive coaches and are allowed on the field of play. They will also act as umpires.
  - 18) There shall be no arguments or challenges of rules or judgment calls.
  - 19) The home team shall be responsible for the field set up, as follows:
    - a. Bases shall be placed in designated areas and securely fastened.
    - b. The Outfield Fence will be marked with cones that will be placed at the edge of the grass line.
  - 20) The visiting team shall be responsible for the field pickup. During an interleague game however, the team playing on their home field is responsible for both set-up and clean-up. When setting up the field, please use the designated bases for the specific field you are using (the field number matches the number on the bottom of the bases). **Both teams are responsible for cleaning up their dugouts and stands.**
  - 21) An official Tee Ball baseball will be utilized for the entire season.

Managers, Coaches, Umpires & Players should conduct themselves in a courteous and respectful manner at all times and shall promote sportsmanship and a sense of fair play at all times. Conduct to the contrary will NOT be tolerated in any form.