

## Clairemont Hilltoppers Little League

### T-Ball Division Rules 2026

T-Ball is an introduction to the game of Little League Baseball. It is intended to be a skill building, learning experience where safety comes first and with an emphasis that the score is NOT the focus of the game and is not even kept. The focus should be on teaching basic skills and making sure it is a fun experience so they will continue to play the sport.

The emphasis in T-Ball are:

- A) Safety
- B) Learning and Building on the fundamental skills of baseball
- C) Enjoying the sport of baseball

Rules:

1. Each team will arrive at least 15 minutes prior to start time to ensure full attendance and warm up.
2. Games are up to 1 hour long and must end on time to accommodate the next team. Games will start on schedule even if players are absent or late. (Generally, this is 3 innings each)
3. Prior to each game, players on each team line up along the baselines with hats over their hearts to say the Pledge of Allegiance. Following this, one player will recite the Little League Pledge, line by line, for all to repeat. (it's on their shirts)
4. Score is not kept.
5. There must always be a volunteer in the dugout/ bench at ALL times.
6. A Safety Baseball will be used at all times in Tball.
7. Offense - All players will bat each inning.
8. Parent volunteers while playing offense will be limited to home plate, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd base coaches.
9. There are no walks, strikeouts, protests or penalties.
10. There is never an on-deck batter.
11. The ball must travel 10 feet when hit to be fair.
12. Every base runner advances one base with each ball hit.
13. Base runners cannot advance on overthrows.
14. Base runners may be forced or tagged out.
15. Runners must stay on the base until the ball is hit.
16. The last batter up will run through home plate (i.e. homerun). The defensive team MUST hold their positions until all the runners have cleared the bases. **Coaches must reinforce this rule for safety and sportsmanship.**
17. Ensure that every player has an opportunity to be the last batter at least once during the season.
18. Defense - All players are on the field for every inning.
19. Outfield players cannot tag a base. They must throw the ball to an infielder to complete the play.
20. While playing defense, parent volunteers (coaches) will be limited to 1<sup>st</sup> base, 2<sup>nd</sup> base, 3<sup>rd</sup> base, and outfield for a total of four. (The only exception is for a 4 year old players. They require their own volunteer).
21. There are no plays at home plate.
22. After the finish of the game, both teams will give a cheer for the opposing team and then meet at home plate to shake hands and say "Good Game". They then run around the bases in the same direction.
23. The attendance of a parent or guardian is required for each child for the entire duration of every game and practice. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE FOR VARIOUS SAFETY REASONS.**
24. The conduct of parents, coaches and managers must always set positive examples of good sportsmanship for all players and spectators.
25. Defensive alignment shall be as follows: (1) no more than 5 players shall play in the infield (2) there shall be only 1 player at each of the following infield positions (Pitcher, First Base, Second Base, Shortstop, Third Base) (3) There is

no catcher (4) all remaining team members shall be positioned in the outfield (positioned to allow adequate space behind the nearest infielder to reinforce the importance of backing-up the infield.)

\*\*\* Volunteers are an absolute necessity for T-Ball. A minimum of five volunteers per team is suggested for a seamless and fluid play. Most importantly, communication with all the opposing coaches are vital in making sure that all involved will have a safe and enjoyable game.