



MPTLL Tee Ball Rules -- 2026

Tee ball games are instructional. No official score is kept, so no team wins or loses a game.

The game will be played in accordance with normal rules of baseball, with these modifications:

1. Batting.

(a) batting will be from tee only -- no coach pitch.

(b) a hit ball that does not travel more than six feet from home plate is a foul ball.

(c) there are no strike-outs; the batter gets 3 swings maximum; after that, coach should assist player to hit a soft grounder that will not go out of the infield.

(d) coaches should vary the batting order from game to game; through the season, every player should bat first and last in the order.

2. Inning length.

The half inning ends when every player in the batting order has batted once (regardless of the number of players in attendance.)

3. Game length.

The standard game length will be three full innings; however, if three innings are completed in 45 minutes or less, the teams can opt to play a fourth inning. A new inning can not start after 55 minutes from the beginning of the game.

4. Play.

(a) Except for the last batter in the batting order (the last batter of the inning)

(i) if the batted ball does not leave the infield, the batter cannot advance beyond first base, and no other baserunners may advance more than one base,

(ii) if the batted ball leaves the infield, but does not reach the outfield fence, the batter cannot advance beyond second base, and no other baserunner may advance more than two bases.

(b) When the last batter in the batting order (the last batter of the inning), hits a fair ball, the batter and all baserunners may advance at their own risk, without any limitation on the number of bases advanced, until the defense records an out or until all runners reach home plate.

(c) When the ball is batted into fair territory, the ball remains a live ball, and runners may advance at their own risk, until play has stopped or until all players have advanced the maximum number of bases allowed under the foregoing rules.

(d) Coaches should encourage their teams to learn and make 'normal baseball' plays defensively; however, there will not be a rule that prohibits an outfielder from getting an out by making a tag or force play in the infield.

5. Defensive positions.

(a) there is no catcher;

(b) all players in attendance play in the field defensively every inning. The coach can opt to play up to 10 defensive players at a time, assuming a) they have more than 10 players in attendance, and b) they rotate bench players into the game every 3 or 4 batters.

(c) there can be no more than 5 infielders, who should be at normal positions of first base, second base, shortstop, third base and pitcher; all other defensive players are outfielders. Until the ball is put in play, outfielders must be positioned roughly halfway between the edge of the infield and the outfield fence, and the pitcher must remain on or behind the pitching rubber.

6. Defensive rotation.

(a) Once a player has played a defensive position in the infield for an inning, that player may not play the same position in any other inning.

(b) All players who play an outfield position during a defensive inning must play an infield position in the next inning; provided, however, that if the team has more than 10 players in attendance (and therefore has more than 5 outfielders), then (i) 5 of the players who play an outfield position in an inning will play an infield position in the next inning, and the remainder will play a second consecutive inning in the outfield, but (ii) no player may play more than 2 consecutive innings in the outfield.

(c) No player in attendance may play third defensive inning in the infield unless all other players in attendance will have played at least two defensive innings in the infield.

[Comment; the foregoing rules require a minimum level of rotation in defensive assignments, on a one-game basis. Coaches are strongly encouraged to consider how their defensive assignments are distributed over multiple games; in general, it is preferable that defensive assignments are distributed more equally than having 5 players who always play two innings in the infield while the other 5 players never play more than one inning in the infield.]

7. Any modification of the rules above must be agreed to by the coaches of the two opposing teams prior to the start of the game.