

## **East Side Little League - T-Ball (5 & 6 yr. old) Program**

### **Playing Rules**

The primary purpose of the program is for the children to have fun playing baseball while learning the proper fundamentals. There are no team records, league standings, playoffs, or championships. There are no trophies awarded. If the individual team managers wish to give the children a small token at the end of the season that is solely at their discretion. There should be no individual MVP or similar type awards.

The Official Little League Rule Book will be used for the East Side LL T-ball League, unless superseded by one of the following special East Side Instructional League Rules.

#### **General**

##### **Safety**

- Prior to practice or game the managers and coaches must check the field (including fencing and benches) for unsafe conditions, and correct the situation. If the condition warrants, report it to the Building & Grounds Director, the T-Ball League Director or any other Board Member.
- All batters must wear LL approved batting helmets
- All base runners must wear LL approved batting helmets.
- During a game, prior to each swing of the bat, it is the responsibility of the coach who is instructing the batter to insure the fielding team is ready for the ball.
- In case of inclement weather (thunder and/or lighting) have all players and coaches leave the field and seek shelter.
- All players not currently in play must be behind the fencing, preferably sitting on the bench.
- There is to be no “on deck:” batting practice.
- During game play only one ball should be used, i.e. put all other balls away.
- Any accidents that occur must be reported to the League immediately and followed by an Incident/Injury Report to the League Safety Director as soon as possible.

##### **Grounds**

- It is the responsibility of the managers to clean trash from the field after their team has used the field. This includes the area around the benches and the bleachers.
- The coaches and managers are encouraged to
- Rake the infield;
- Level areas around pitchers mound and bases by adding or removing dirt; and
- Perform general maintenance on the field, fencing, benches and bleachers.

##### **Scheduling**

- Rainouts are to be decided by both managers and/or by the league director. The decision is to be made at the field at game time.
- Make-up games are to be played within 10 days of the rainout date, as determined by the T-ball League Director.
- If a game is postponed due to bad weather, inform the T-ball League Director as soon as possible.

- No additional practices or games are to be scheduled without the league's permission.

### Equipment and Uniforms

Players will be issued T-Shirt, hat and socks that can be kept by the players

- A manager/team may not assess players a fee, or request payment for, any uniforms including, special hat, shirts, socks, etc., or equipment such as bats, helmets, etc., without expressed permission of the Board of Directors.
- All items purchased for team use are the property of East Side Little League and Little League Baseball.
- Player's names are not permitted on the back of the uniform shirt.
- Only equipment and uniforms supplied by the League are permitted.
- All equipment must meet Little League, Inc., safety requirements.

### Game Rules

#### General Play

- This is an instructional league; coaches and managers are encouraged to call time-out to provide instruction to a player, re-run a play or simply teach one or all of the players. Instruction should not occur during play other than verbal instructions (No interference by coaches during play).
- The defensive team should have at least two coaches on the field to instruct their players and to also act as umpires when playing games.
- The offensive team should have a coach at home plate to help instruct the batter and to place the ball on the tee. Prior to placing the ball on the tee, the coach needs to make sure the fielding team is prepared for play. There should also be coaches at first and third to instruct the players on how and when to run.
- Every game will consist of 4 innings (unless the time limit is exceeded). The home team will always get the last at bat, even if leading at the time.
- **Each half inning is completed after 10 batters have batted or 3 outs have occurred, whichever comes first.**
- **The last play begins with the 10<sup>th</sup> batter hitting the ball from the Tee and is complete once the batter-runner makes it safely to at least first base, is put out, or any other base runner is forced or put out or the third out is obtained.**
- **There is no six (6) run limit per inning rule.**

#### Player Rotations

##### Season:

- Players are to be rotated through all infield and outfield positions through out the course of the season so that each will have equal playing time at each position.
- NOTE: Exception due to safety concerns:
- If the manager / coach feels the player **does not** have the necessary skills to protect themselves from a thrown or hit ball then the player should not be placed at first base or on the pitchers mound.
- A player must start at least every other game

##### Game:

- Managers should have a prepared lineup and position rosters before the start of a game.
- Each player must play at least half the game (2 innings in the field).
- No player should play at the same position for more than two innings.
- Players may be substituted freely on an inning-to-inning basis. Player changes during the middle of an inning should be avoided.

### Batting

- All batters must wear helmets
- All players are to bat in an established order.
- **All players on the team bat whether or not they are actively playing the field.**
- All hitting must be off the tee. Coach pitching to players is not permitted. Absolutely, no exceptions!
- The batted ball should travel at least 15 feet to be considered a hit. Have the batter repeat their swing if the ball did not travel far enough. (Draw a 15 foot circle in the dirt prior to the game start)
- There are no strikeouts or walks.
- **NO Softball style bats may be used, regardless of whether they are approved by Little League Baseball (Local ESLL Rule).**

### Fielding

- **Each team is to use ONLY nine players on the field with the ninth player being an extra outfielder.**
- **There is no catcher.**
- Players are to be in their proper positions (except for center field, where a center-left and center-right fielder are to play) and no special shifts should be allowed.
- All outfielders must be at least 20 feet behind the base paths.
- The player acting as the pitcher must be within the mound area.
- Players may be substituted freely on a per inning basis.
- The pitcher must stay on the pitching rubber until the ball is hit.

### Base Running

- All base runners must wear a batting helmet at all times.
- The base coaches should be adults capable of instructing the runners.
- The base coaches should use much discretion when instructing the players to run. At this age play should be stopped after the ball is returned to the pitcher
- Runners who are not halfway to the next base when play is considered stopped must return to the previous base.
- No advance on overthrows.
- No Stealing. Runners must remain on base until the ball is hit. No leads are permitted.
- Players must be instructed to slide to avoid collisions and contact.

### Field

- Bases are 50 feet long.
- Pitcher's mound is 38 feet from the plate.

### Protests

- All disputes are to be resolved on the field. There are no protests in the T-Ball League.

**REVISED March 27, 2013**