

Division Specific Rules: T-Ball Division Rules (Ages 4–6)

T-Ball is an instructional division focused on fun, fundamentals, and confidence building. Scorekeeping and competition are secondary to player development and equal participation.

Age Group

- Open to players ages 4–6 as of April 30 of the current season
- 6 year olds may choose to play in either T-Ball or the U8 division
- To be eligible for U8, 6 year olds must have completed at least one season of T-Ball within the Escalon Recreation Program

Teams & Format

- Co-Ed
- 6-8 Players per team
 - Games may start with a minimum of 5 players
- 1 Head Coach, 1 Assistant Coach (not mandatory but recommended)

Coaches & Conduct

- Coaches may be on the field or in the dugout
- Positive coaching is expected at all times
- Teach and encourage. Do not over coach or pressure players

Field Dimensions

- Base paths: 50 feet
- Infield set using throw-down or anchored bases
- Batting tee positioned approximately 35–40 feet from defensive players for safety

Field dimensions are intentionally smaller to promote player success, safety, and more balls in play.

Game Length

- Games are 3 innings or 60 minutes, whichever comes first
- No new inning may start after 50 minutes

Equipment

- All bats must have the USA Baseball T-Ball stamp
- Batting helmets required
- Rubber cleats only (no metal spikes)
- 9” soft safety baseballs only (no hard balls)
- Home team provides game ball and batting tee

Batting

- Players may choose to hit from a coach pitch or the tee
- Coach pitches up to three (3) pitches
- If the ball is not put in play after three pitches, the batter will hit from the tee
- Players may start their at-bat using the tee if preferred
- Every player gets a chance to put the ball in play
- Entire roster bats each inning
- No strikeouts
- No walks
- No bunting

Base Running

- No leading off or stealing
- Runners should generally advance one base at a time for safety
- Coaches may adjust advancement based on the play and player ability
- Runners must stay aware of plays and listen to coaches
- No extra base is award for balls that leave field of play
- Once the last batter hits, all players on base run home.

Defense

- All players may play defensively (no sitting out)
- Coaches may position players between innings
- Coaches are allowed on the field to teach and assist
- Rotate positions frequently so players learn all spots

Outs

- Outs may be taught for learning purposes but are not emphasized
- Players should safely return to the dugout after an out to prepare for batting
- Coaches should keep the game positive and instructional

Scorekeeping

- No official score kept, no standings
- No playoffs
- Focus is on learning and fun

Safety & Sportsmanship

- Teams must clean up dugouts after games
- Good sportsmanship is required from players, coaches, and parents

Rule Authority

- Only the rules listed in this document apply to the T-Ball division.