



## Bridgewater Little League Instructional League 4-5 YO Tee Ball Rules

2017

*Revisions approved by BLL BOD on 4/10/2017*

Below are Bridgewater Instructional League 4-5 Year Old Tee Ball local rules which supersede the official Little League rules. Should there be any discrepancy between the "Instructional League Tee Ball Rules" and the "Local Rules" the Bridgewater Little League Local Rules will take precedence.

1. The following Local Rules shall be followed: #1, #3, #8, #9, #10, #14, #17.
2. Safety and instruction have priority at all times.
3. The purpose of the Instructional League is for instructing and teaching baseball. Emphasis on winning is not necessary at this age. Emphasis on teamwork and trying your hardest is what should be encouraged.
4. Player mistakes will be common and must be expected. Teaching, encouragement and praise produce improvement. Criticism, sarcasm or intimidation is counterproductive. Managers shall not have unrealistic expectations of performance or behavior.
5. As this is a T-Ball League, standings (wins and losses) will not be kept.
6. Game blocks shall consist of a 1 hour and 15 min. time limit, including warm-ups. Teams should be able to complete 3 innings within a game block, but duration will defer to managers' discretion (not to exceed 1 hour and 15 minutes).
7. Defense fields the entire team, with a maximum of 6 players on the infield. One outfielder may be positioned in the outfield behind second base. Two adult coaches stand behind shortstop and the second baseman to provide guidance to fielders.
8. No player may play a "skill" position for more than one inning per game. Skill positions are defined as pitcher, first base and third base. (Note: They can play all three in a game, just not at the same position the entire game).
9. On defense, player positions must be rotated during each game and every player must play at least one inning in the infield each game.

### **Safety and Equipment**

1. The field and adjacent ground shall be kept clear of all equipment.
2. Soft safety balls will be used at all times.
3. Appropriate helmets shall be worn by batters and runners. No on deck batters shall be allowed under any circumstances!
4. Players idle or waiting to bat shall stay on or behind the bench and away from the swing of the batter.
5. Hitters who, upon swinging, throw their bats shall be warned against such action by the coaches.
6. Infielders are to be instructed not to position themselves where they will interfere with



- the base runners.
7. Players shall wear their provided team uniform: team shirt, team hat, team pants (no shorts are allowed).
  8. Only coaches and players are allowed in the bench area during games.

### **Playing Rules**

1. Brief timeouts are allowed for managers/coaches to instruct players.
2. There is no stealing or leadoffs. A player must not leave the base until the ball is hit.
3. The infield fly rule is not in effect
4. The ball is hit from a tee behind home plate. Hitters must stand as if in a batter's box. Strikes are not counted. Hits traveling less than 6 feet from home plate are foul balls. No bunting or half swings are allowed.
5. Base paths are 45 feet long. The pitcher's rubber is located approximately on a line between first and third base.
6. Batters shall bat in rotation according to a predetermined batting order. After each inning the batting order should be flipped to allow players to either leadoff or become the "Last Batter". Each player will advance one spot in the batting order each game.
7. Adults shall coach base runners from the first and third base coaching boxes, no players are allowed to coach.
8. When the ball is in play, in fair territory, runners are encouraged to take extra bases. Runners are NOT to be instructed to advance, unless forced. (Both coaches may make a slight change in this rule, but must be in agreement to the modification).
9. Except for the last batter in an inning, play is stopped when: A ball is thrown into foul territory by a defensive player. A ball overthrown into the outfield remains in play. A ball having been thrown towards the infield after a hit ball into the outfield.
10. Runners get the base they are advancing toward if they are close to half way of it.
11. "Last Batter" must be announced as that player steps to the plate.
12. The "Last Batter" is to be encouraged to keep running and try for a "Home Run". This is fun for the runner and the fielders, who have a great chance of getting an out, and the inning is over anyway.
13. Defensive coaches are not permitted to touch a live ball, or to physically assist a player.
14. After the last batter has hit, the inning ends only when all runners have scored.
15. The home team is responsible for supplying the Tee, bases and balls to be used during the game.
16. Upon completion of the game each manager is responsible for the cleanliness of their bench areas.