

Freehold Township Little League Rookies / Tee-Ball Division - Rules and Regulations

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

The Freehold Township Little League Rookies / Tee-Ball program is an instructional, non-competitive baseball program, which will follow the age-specific guidelines set forth by Little League Baseball. The purpose of this program is to give all players the opportunity to learn the fundamentals and core skills of baseball, in a FUN and AUTHENTIC baseball environment!

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Each team will practice a maximum of one hour per week at the Michael J. Tighe Park Tee-ball fields, located in the back of the park on the right side, behind the swings. Tee-ball Fields A, B, C and D are available for priority use of our Rookies / Tee Ball program. Manager will determine all practice times. Fields are available on a first come, first served basis.
2. Practices should follow the provided *Little League Tee Ball Program Guide* plans; however, each manager can adapt those plans on a weekly basis to be better suited to the skill levels of players or teams, or number of attendees.
3. With the exception of opening / parade day, all games will be played on Saturdays at 8:30 AM on Fields 4,5, 6 and 11 at Michael J. Tighe Park. Each game will be 1 Hour and 15 minutes in length, regardless of the amount of innings played. Games will end promptly at 9:45 AM; innings in progress will not be completed.
4. Games rained out will be made up at the discretion of FTLL based on field availability. Games rained out on Saturday will NOT be moved to Sunday; however, based on field conditions they may be moved to later in the day that same day; or to other fields in the park. All games schedules will be available on the League website, FTLL.org.
5. No score will be kept in any game. Players and coaches will line up at home plate and shake hands upon completion of the game.
6. All Rookies Division / Tee Ball coaches are responsible for ensuring games start promptly at 8:30 AM each Saturday. There are no umpires assigned to the Rookies / Tee-Ball division.
7. Bases will be set at 50 feet for all games.
8. Coaches must be present on the field for instruction at all times. There also must be a minimum of one (1) coach in the dugout at all times with players.
9. All Managers and Coaches must be registered as such in the FTLL registration system, and have the following current certifications:
 - Freehold Township Coach ID (renew every three years)
 - Rutgers Certification (one-time course)
 - CPR Certification (renew every two years)
 - Signed Current Season Little League Volunteer Form (renew every year)

Coaches are required to wear their Freehold Township issued picture Coach ID card at all times when coaching. This includes all practices and games.

Any manager or coach who has not completed the Rutgers and CPR certification programs, and the background check process may not assist at practice or games.

10. All players will receive a uniform T-shirt and hat prior to the start of the season. Player must provide for themselves and wear baseball pants (mandatory) at each game. Plastic cleats and cups are also recommended.
11. Home team occupies the first base dugout.
12. Home team is required to provide one (1) parent volunteer to the snack bar for each home game (8:30 AM – 10:00 AM). Games will not start until each home team has a volunteer present in the snack bar.
13. **NO on deck batters. NO bats are permitted to be held in the dugout by and player. All players (except those at bat or on base when batting) must remain in the dugout. Bats should be kept outside of the dugout; only the batter should ever have a bat in their hands.**

EQUIPMENT

FTLL will issue each coach a full set of tee-ball equipment consisting of one batting T, a bucket of practice balls, tennis balls, five (5) game balls, batting helmets, catchers equipment, cones, and two (2) aluminum Tee-Ball bats prior to the start of the season. Equipment must be returned to FTLL at the conclusion of the season.

GAME RULES

BATTING

- Outs are outs! Coaches on the field (defensive team) will make the calls. Outs are unlimited per inning – every inning, every player on the team will have an at-bat, regardless of how many outs are recorded.
- Every player will hit from a tee while at-bat for the first seven (7) games of the season (no exceptions). This will help develop proper hand-eye coordination and allow coaches to teach proper fundamentals of swinging the baseball bat. In the final three (3) games of the season, every player will have the opportunity to hit three (3) pitched balls from his/her coach. If there is no contact made after the third pitch, the coach must set the ball on the tee for the player to hit.
- Once the batting order is set, you must bat in that order the entire game. Coaches should change the batting order each game, and during the game use a rotational order every other inning (e.g. Inning 1 – 1-11; Inning 2; 11-1)
- The batting tee shall be placed directly on home plate, or if conditions dictate as close to home plate as possible.
- The ball must travel at least half the distance to the pitcher's mound to be considered a playable ball.

- Coaches are permitted (and encouraged) to place the ball on the batting tee for the players.

BASE RUNNING

- Coaches are encouraged to coach first and third base to help instruct their players the fundamentals of properly running the bases during a game, provided one (1) coach remains in the dugout at all times.
- Balls hit to the infield: Runners may not advance on an overthrow to any base.
- Balls hit to the outfield: Once a ball is returned to an infield player or in the infield area (within the baselines), baserunners may no longer advance, unless they are already halfway to the next base.
- Players cannot leave their current base until the ball is hit. (No leading)
- Stealing of bases is not permitted.
- Sliding is permitted at all bases except for first base, only where game appropriate (managers should teach players when to slide and when not to).

FIELDING

- For infield play, one player is allowed to play each appropriate position. (P, 3B, SS, 2B, 1B). To clarify, there are five (5) players allowed within the base-paths at any given time. The remaining players play outfield positions backing up the infield positions.
- The player playing the pitcher position will be responsible for assuming the “catcher” position for the first seven (7) games of the season. For the last three (3) games, there will be a catcher (in full catchers gear) in position to catch balls pitched by the coach.
- No one player should play the same position the entire game or year. It is the responsibility of each coach to rotate their players to play different positions during the season to gain experience.
- There are unlimited outs per inning. In this program, think of outs as being as if not more important than runs. It is equally as important to reward players for fielding and throwing as it is hitting.
- If a team clearly makes an out either by throwing it to a player in a force out scenario or by tagging a runner properly, the player is considered out and shall return to their proper bench.
- Coaches are allowed (and encouraged) to be on the diamond/outfield while their team is in the field to help instruct and aid in coaching his/her players, which base to throw, etc.
- Stopping of hit balls (unless foul) by coaches is not permitted. Players must retrieve the ball.

ENJOY THE SEASON!!