

## Livingston T-BALL Rules

*updated 9-2021*

**PURPOSE:** The Livingston Youth Baseball T-Ball League is designed for recreational enjoyment with an emphasis on developing fundamentals, having fun, fair play, and above all, good sportsmanship.

### PLAYING FIELD

1. A foul line marked by a **10-foot arc** from home plate shall be drawn between 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base across the playing field. A batting tee shall be placed behind home plate.
2. Bases will be at **50 feet**.

### PLAYING RULES

1. Games are 1 hour. No new inning will begin 5 minutes before the time limit. **NO SCORE IS KEPT EVERYONE WINS – No Umpires are provided.**
2. Players shall hit the ball off the batting tee and it must go at least past the infield foul line to be playable. Players shall get up to 5 swings off the tee. If the ball is put into play prior to the 5 swings player shall run. A hit ball not passing this foul line on the ground shall be declared a foul ball and counts towards the 5 swings. **\*\* Last half of the Season:** Coach shall pitch the ball **to the 6 year old players that will advance to Rookies** the last half of the season. Coaches must pitch from the 35' pitching rubber from a standing position. Players will receive 5 opportunities to hit the ball in any combination of pitches or swings. **For example 3 pitches and 2 swings off the tee.**
3. Defensive players must wait until the hit ball passes the infield foul line to attack ball.
4. Pitching Coach shall be the field umpire and the defensive coach shall be the home plate umpire,
5. A ball must cross the 10' **foul line** before a runner can leave the base. Coaches may not touch the player to keep them on the base. Players may not steal any base.
6. **One base on an overthrow. CANNOT STEAL HOME. One overthrow per play.**
7. Ten (10) players shall take regular positions in the field. Eight (8) players are needed to start the game. Game time is forfeit time.
8. The pitcher shall take a normal position on the pitcher's mound, and the catcher shall be behind or to one side of the batting tee. A Coach shall be also be placed behind the plate to put the ball on the tee and to insure the safety of the catcher and runners. **The only individuals allowed in the dugout and on the field are the head coach, one assistant coach and the teams currently playing.** (This means no toddlers, babies, parents, siblings etc..) There will be no exceptions to this rule and a forfeit for the team shall be called after a first warning for this infraction.
9. **All team members will play on defense at least one (1) inning at all games.**
10. A player may not be terminated from the team for missing practices.
11. If a player quits the team, he or she may not play for another team.
12. All players' names shall be listed on the stat sheet in order and will bat in rotation. This order will remain during the game. **ALL PLAYERS WILL BAT DURING ENTIRE GAME,** regardless of playing defense at the time. Everyone wins in T-Ball.

13. Each team will bat through the line-up and then the other team takes the bat.
14. No food, alcohol, or glass beverage containers are allowed in the dugouts.
15. Players must be kept in the dugout area.
16. Complaints should be directed to Recreation Services. **THERE ARE NO PROTESTS.**
17. Three (3) outs shall end an inning, or a complete round through the batting order, whichever comes first.
18. Rubber cleats or tennis shoes only.
19. The infield fly rule will not be used.
20. Play ends when the ball is returned to the pitcher (*not the coach, coach must not touch ball. Player in the pitching position must pick up the ball and give it to the coach. Coach must move out of the circle out of the way of any play*), or an infielder is holding the ball and play has stopped, or in the judgment of the umpire, play should stop. Pitcher then returns ball to coach and the next batter takes their regular turn.
21. No smoking or chewing tobacco by the coaches while on the field.
22. **NO PROFANITY OR EQUIPMENT THROWING WILL BE TOLERATED.**
23. A child shall be warned by the umpire for throwing the bat on the first occurrence; however, a second violation is an automatic out.
24. Each team will receive participation awards.
25. **A MAXIMUM OF 1 time through the batting order will start the next ½ inning.**
26. **MISSING PRACTICES** – At the discretion of the coach, players missing two (2) or more practices are subject to one (1) inning of play (offense and defense).
27. Players may not leave the dugout to get on deck without a batting helmet. Players removing their helmet while on the field will be out.
28. When playing the field each team may have 2 coaches in the outfield. Coaches may not touch the players or the ball in the field during a play.

**At this age the kids should learn to get the ball back to the pitcher not necessarily try to make the plays in the field (value the level of play your players are capable of for this). Often trying to make plays will just lead to parents screaming kids running and running and coaches yelling causing confusion to the players.**

**Children are learning positions at this age please rotate them around.**

27. **3 Contact Rule** - A team can not meet for any reason more than 3 times per week. (*implemented 3/2008*)

***“Rule Suggestion”- Every child must play 1 inning in as an infielder and 1 inning as an outfielder per game.***