

DRAFT!

FAIRFIELD LITTLE LEAGUE GIRLS SOFTBALL

TEE BALL GUIDELINES

Listed below are some guidelines to use during Tee Ball softball games/practices this season. The most important goal is to allow the girls to have fun with friends, teach the game of softball and discuss basic game rules.

In order to accomplish this goal, all of the Managers (and coaches), need to be consistent with what we are teaching, while also ensuring a safe and learning environment during a game/practice.

Field Set Up

- 1. Ensure that both the infield & the outfield are clear of debris and safe to play on.**
- 2. Place the bases out in the infield. Home plate should already be in place on most fields. Walk off forty (40) feet in between all four bases for proper positioning.**
- 3. If time allows and conditions warrant it, rake the batter's box and infield playing surface. A drag net should be located inside field box located behind the batting cage.**

Equipment

- 1. All players should wear their issued team uniforms every game. In cold weather, sweatshirts can be worn over the t-shirts and sweat pants can be worn instead of the issued shorts.**
- 2. All batting helmets should be certified and authorized for Little League Girls Softball use. They should not have any cracks or damaged parts. They should also have a full face cage and a chin strap.**
- 3. All softball bats should be certified and authorized for Little League Girls Softball use.**
- 4. Batting tees and bases will be available in the equipment boxes behind home plate.**

Start the Game/Practice

Warm ups should be done before the start of scheduled game/practice - utilize about 15 minutes or so for warm ups and stretching.

We have allotted two hours for a combined practice/game on weekends. With three teams, we suggest a 15-minute warm-up period and three 35-minute games (Team 1 plays Team 2, Team 1 plays Team 3, Team 2 plays Team 3). The Team not playing should use that time for practice.

A. AT BAT

- 1. A batting order should be established at the beginning of the game. This can be by uniform number (low to high, middle to high, etc.) or by the player's names. It is important to mix up the batting order after every inning. This is done so the same players are not always batting first and the same players are not always batting last. Again, this can be done by going by names (alpha.) or by their numbers.**
- 2. The only player who should have a bat in their hands is the player who is at home plate waiting to hit off the tee.**
- 3. There are no strike-outs or walks.**
- 4. When the ball is hit, do not throw the bat.**
- 5. When the ball is hit, as long as it is fair, it is a live ball. The play is declared dead once the ball returns to at least the baseline between either first and second or second and third. When a ball returns to the baseline, and if a runner is halfway to the next base, that runner may continue to that base. Otherwise, the runner shall return to the previous base.**
- 6. There should be no "leading off" the bases by players who have successfully reached a base and there should be no stealing bases. Runners can advance when ball is hit.**
- 7. No base runners should advance to an additional base on an errant throw.**
- 8. All players bat in every inning of play whether they are in the field or sitting out. If a player is injured or feels sick during her at bat, she can be skipped until she feels she can return.**
- 9. The inning will end when the last batter of the team has had an opportunity to bat.**

IN THE FIELD

1. **All of the infield positions should be covered to include the pitcher and a catcher (CATCHER MUST WEAR A BATTING HELMET!). A coach should be placed near the catcher to assure that the catcher does approach the tee area where batters will be hitting.**
2. **We should utilize four outfielders (left field, left center, right center and right field).**
3. **No defender shall be less than 40 feet from home plate until the ball is hit.**
4. **Outfielders are not eligible to tag a runner out or tag a base.**
5. **Players should change positions every inning. Every player should play at least one inning in both the outfield and the infield.**
6. **All players should have the opportunity to play all of the positions throughout the season.**
7. **Coaches should be utilized in the field to assist the players with instruction.**

I know some of the above guidelines seem “elementary” to most but we should all be clear on how we should present the game to the players to ensure a safe and educational environment on the field. At any time if a coach sees something unsafe or wants to point something out that both teams should be aware of, that coach should ask to stop the game and point out the observation.

If anyone knows of anything else we can do to help improve the girls learning and having fun please email your ideas for all of us to review and utilize (keary20@ gmail.com).