

Millbrae Lions Baseball



Spring 2019
Tee-Ball Rules



Philosophy

The primary goal of Tee Ball is to develop the joy of the game. As such, a progression of skill development is the aim of Tee Ball. Millbrae Lions' T-Ball is a modified T-Ball league. We will begin the season with our players hitting off a tee for the first half. After we pass a designated time, we will then transition to coach pitch. Coaches pitch to the players, but if the coach and/or the player elect to use the tee, they may. Players will be required to use the tee if they are unable to hit the ball in fair ground by the 3rd pitch. **This is an instructional league.**

Game Rules and Guidelines

T-Ball uses adaptations from the [Pony League rules](#), following the guidelines below.

1. Innings will consist of all players getting up to bat.
2. Outs and runs will not be recorded. (If a coach elects to; when a player is out on the bases he shall leave the base, and return to the dugout. This can be considered near the end of the season as players are more developed and have experienced the joy of being on base and scoring.)
3. We will begin the season with all players hitting off the batting tee. This will allow coaches to help teach players the fundamental skills required for an effective swing before moving onto more advanced skills. Also, this will make for a more effective game. We all know that our children's attention span can last for roughly over one hour. We want our players to continue to have fun and not lose interest, due to waiting around.
4. After a designated midway point of the season, Coaches shall pitch to the players. Coach pitcher shall pitch from inside the drawn pitching circle. Player pitchers shall not play in front of the Coach pitcher.
5. After the designated midway point, there will be **no more than 3 Coach pitches per at bat.** (Field players at this age tend to be easily distracted.) If a batter has not hit a fair ball after three pitches, the batter will hit off the tee. (A coach may elect to use the tee before the three pitches if the player is still developing their fundamental baseball swing.)
6. Coach pitchers are advised to pitch overhand. The most efficient method of throwing to young players is throwing on a straight line, kneeling or standing, as one would throw a dart.
7. There is no player in the catcher position. A coach and/or parent will catch (and help with placing the tee).
8. Bases are set at 50 feet.
9. The ball must travel 10 feet, from Home plate, or it is a foul ball.
10. The field (players) will consist of one pitcher and six infielders (three on either side of second base). All other fielders play in the mid-outfield.

11. Coaches and team assistants are allowed to coach on the field while their team is on defense, but should remain behind the infielders.
12. There is no "on deck" circle to be used. The "on deck" batter (and all that team's players) shall remain in the dugout during players at bats with helmet on and bat in hand. Players shall not swing bats, during games, unless they are batting. Players may swing bats before the game only under parent/coach's supervision.
13. Coaches shall act as umpires.
14. Rainouts will not be made up.
15. There are no forfeits. If there are not enough players to field a team, that team may borrow from the opposing team or parents may act as outfielders and stop balls hit to them.
16. Games can **only** be rescheduled by the Tee-ball commissioner or by the league commissioner. The Millbrae fields are in high demand at this time of the year. If your team requires to reschedule a game for whatever reason, please contact league leadership.
17. No unregistered (under 18) players may participate in practices or games, unless they are accompanied by an adult.
18. All teams should arrive to the field promptly at the start time. Games are scheduled for 90 minutes. The first 15 minutes will consist of a combined warm-up where teams should perform stretches and short toss to warm up player arms.
19. First inning should start after the 15-minute warm-up. During each half inning, all players in the line-up get one turn at-bat.
20. No official scores or stats will be kept.
21. Players should be in complete uniform.
22. Any players who arrive late should warm up and stretch with their parents or a teammate prior to entering the game. Late-arriving players can be inserted into any part of the line-up.
23. The home team will be determined by Division Coordinators in advance of the game.
24. Protective cups are recommended for male players.
25. No infield fly rules.
26. No stealing bases and no leading off bases.
27. Metal cleats are not allowed.
28. No head first slides are allowed.

Suggestions

Games usually consist of 3 innings. Please be aware of time restraints, particularly when there is a game following yours (which will be the most common situation). Some additional suggestions:

- When two teams have maximum players, consider having only half of the lineup up to bat per inning. Decision to be made before the game and both teams must take part.
- Limit pitches or go direct to the tee in final inning if time is running out.
- Rotate the defensive assignments of your players. If not a few times per game, then at least once per game. Allow players to play every position. (unless you feel playing pitcher and/or 1B may be unsafe due to inability of the player to protect themselves).

- Guidelines for running the bases: Any hit in front of, or to, an infielder – one base. Any hit past the infield – two bases (at runner's risk once defensive plays start to count). Any hit past the outfield two or more bases. Runners should stop advancing when the ball is returned to the infield.
- Last batter of the inning runs all bases until he is out or reaches home plate. The fielders should try to get the runner(s) out and not just walk off the field.

Remember that this league is an instructional league. This may be the first experience, for some, in organized sports and/or playing baseball. It should be an enjoyable one.

Game Management

Game management is essential in order to keep our games on schedule and keep our players focused on the game. Here are a few ways to speed things up:

Coaches must assign a parent/coach to the dugout. That parent/coach shall be responsible for keeping the players aware of the lineup, make sure there is always a player on deck. The parent/coach shall make sure the players have their mitts before they go back onto the field after they have completed their at bat and return to the dug out.

- Keep your lineup the same for the entire game.
- Line your players up on the bench in the same order as the lineup.
- Give copies of the lineup, and field positions, to more than one coach.
- While keeping the lineup the same, consider starting the inning down one slot on the lineup each time to give multiple players the chance to finish the inning on a potential home run. Again, having a parent/coach assigned to the dugout to keep this organized is essential.

No inning should start with less than 20 minutes remaining until the start of the next game. If there is less than 35 minutes remaining, please go directly to the tee. You'll notice that most players lose interest by the start of the 3rd inning. Limiting pitches, or direct tee use often keeps them "in the game".

Games should end 10 minutes before the start of the next game. Teams waiting for the preceding game to end should be ready to occupy the dugouts as soon as the other teams are finished.

No infield practice, regardless of the time left before the next game.

Home team occupies the third base dugout and MUST line the field before the game (if needed).

General Field Rules

1. **Please be mindful to keep our fields clean.** Food and personal snacks are allowed on our fields. However, gum, sunflower seeds, and any shelled nuts are strictly prohibited. **We ask for your cooperation in discarding all of your team's trash in the appropriate receptacles.**
2. No amplified music or noisemakers are allowed.
3. No dogs or other pets allowed.
4. Shelled Nuts, seeds, gum glass containers, alcohol, smoking and use of any tobacco products are not permitted.
5. BBQ and cooking equipment are not allowed.
6. Camping, RVs, and overnight parking are not allowed.
7. No stakes of any kind may be placed on any of the fields, at risk of damaging irrigation systems.
8. Please remember that these baseball games are played for the enjoyment and growth of our children. As such, please maintain a positive atmosphere that supports this goal.
9. Each head coach is responsible for the conduct of his team and its supporters.
10. Any player, coach, or spectator who acts in an unsportsmanlike manner may be ejected from the playing field by Division Commissioners. There will be a zero-tolerance policy regarding abusive, profane or otherwise inappropriate conduct directed toward coaches, spectators, or players.
11. Any player, coach, or spectator ejected from a game may also be suspended for the remainder of the season, subject again to the discretion of Millbrae Lions Baseball leadership.
12. Tee balls will be supplied by Millbrae Lions Baseball.
13. Positive cheers and chants are allowed and encouraged. Appropriate sportsmanship is expected from all participants. The goal is to create a fun and festive learning environment at all practices and games.

Playing Fields and Their Information

The 2019 Millbrae Lions Baseball Spring Tee-Ball Season will be held at two baseball diamonds at Green Hills Elementary school.

Upper and Lower Green Hills Fields:

Address: 401 Ludeman Lane, Millbrae, CA 94030

Google Map Location: <https://goo.gl/maps/6PAJz74v14N2>

Notes: One game will be held at Lower Green Hills, and Two games will be held at Upper Green Hills during each time slot. Division Commissioners will rotate teams through each of the fields to ensure that all teams get a chance to play on all of the Tee Ball locations.

Water: Players should bring water/back up water. There are water fountains at all of our sites.

Restrooms: There are restrooms at all of our sites.

Dugouts and Spectator Stands: Our bleachers are mostly in full sun. Please bring hats. If you are seeking shade, you can watch the games from various spots on the perimeter of the field. Bring a collapsible chair if you plan on sitting under the trees.

Snack stands: Our snack stands are available at Taylor and Green Hills fields. Menu includes hot dogs, chili hot dogs, cheese nachos, chili cheese nachos, chips, Cup o' noodles, pop corn, and power aid sports drinks, among other items.

Millbrae Lions Baseball Coordinators and Commissioners

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Good luck, have fun, and feel free to reach out with any questions, concerns and/or suggestions!!!