



SFX Tee Ball RULES

(03/10/2011)



SFX Tee Ball is organized as a recreational league. It is structured to provide the players an introduction to basic baseball skills and to promote camaraderie. Our coaches help players develop these skills through positive reinforcement. The score is not the focus of the game.

- Players' ages – **must be under 5 years of age as of May 1st.**
- Players on a team –12 maximum
- UNIFORM – all players should be in full uniform. Uniform consists of team shirt and cap. Long pants or sweats must be worn.
- 30 feet between the bases.
- The ball is hit off a batting tee; there is no pitching.
- There are no walks or strikeouts.
- The ball must travel 10 feet or it is a foul.
- No stealing. Player stays on the base until the ball is hit.
- An inning is over when **all the players on the team have batted once.**
- Standard game is four innings or one hour in length, whichever comes first.
- Scores are not kept.
- Safety helmets must be worn when batting and running the bases.
- Tee Ball Bats must be used.
- Ball - Softer than a standard baseball. Molded core or sponge rubber center.
- Tee - adjustable, flexible tube on a moveable base.
- Player's may only advance one base on a hit. After the last batter in the lineup has hit, that batter and all remaining base runners will run all the way round the bases
- All players and coaches on each team must line up at home plate after each game to exchange handshakes.
- Rainouts – in the event of a rain call the **SFX Hotline at 888- SFX– 1047 (888-739–1047)**

RAINOUTS: Every attempt must be made to play games as scheduled. It is difficult to predict spring weather even an hour in advance. When there is doubt, teams should meet and by mutual agreement, postpone a game only at the last moment.

No Umpire / Time Outs: In the event the umpire is late or is absent, the opposing managers will together agree and designate the game's umpire(s). Only the umpire can call time out.

Playing Time for Players: All players must play in every game that they attend. No player should sit out more than one defensive inning in a row.

NO Food or Drink on Field: No food is permitted on the bench or the playing field at anytime during the game. No smoking or drinking an alcoholic beverage is allowed by anyone associated with the game.



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Start of the Game

1. Game time – No game and its practice session will last longer than 1 Hour and 30 minutes.
2. A team should appear at the field, ready for play, 10 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the pre-game practice session.
3. Each team will have 30 minutes prior to the start of the game to set up the field and complete practice drills.
4. **Game length:** No new inning will start after 50 minutes of play has occurred.
A game will last 4 innings or a maximum of 1 hour: whichever comes first.
5. A team should field a minimum of 7 players.
6. If a team has 7 players or less and the opposing team has 10 or more players, then the coaches will select 1 or 2 players to play with the team which is short.
7. In the event of a forfeit or a low number of players on both teams, a game should still be played. Players will rotate from the field to bat.
8. All players present will be placed in the batting line-up and will bat in the order listed. If a player comes late he will be added to the end of the lineup.
9. Games will be cancelled when weather, light or other conditions make it dangerous to continue. Games will be cancelled when lightning or thunder is observed.
10. The home team shall supply a new ball for the game.
11. The home team will sit on the first base side.
12. The home team is responsible for setting out the bases, pitching rubber and tee.

Players and Positions

13. A team should field a minimum of 7 players, maximum of 12 in the field at any time
14. **Defensive Positioning:** A maximum of 14 members of each team will play a defensive position each inning.
15. **INFIELD:** There will be TWO players positioned next to the “pitcher’s rubber” (on either side) and a maximum of six infielders. An adult serves as the catcher.
16. **OUTFIELD:** FOUR players will play in the outfield **(10 feet from the baseline)** and not bunched together.
17. **OUTFIELD ADULTS:** Volunteers will serve to back up the outfielders – behind the field marker cones. They will prevent the ball from going deep into the outfield territory.
18. Plays at the plate. The fielders can throw the ball towards home plate. The coach/parent can stop the ball. The adult cannot make a play at the plate.
19. Defensive Pitchers – The defensive pitcher position is played to teach the importance of pitcher as a fielder. The position is not to allow a free roaming infielder. The defensive pitchers must play:
 - 1) Close to the mound -- no closer to home plate than the pitching rubber.
 - 2) On either side within 3 feet of the pitching rubber.
 - 3) Not in the space between the pitcher and the first or third base line.



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If the defensive pitcher does not respect these boundaries and makes a play that results in a base runner being tagged or thrown out, the runner will be called safe and allowed to advance to the base being taken. This rule is in force to allow well hit balls to be put into play.

20. Players should be rotated throughout the game to allow them to play more than one position.
21. Each player must play at least one infield and outfield position per game
22. No player may sit out more than one defensive inning in a row.

Coaches and Assistants

Adults will be needed to assist the official coaches in order to make the game run smoothly.

23. No excessive coaching is allowed during the game. Coaches should be in uniform. Children may be reminded of proper techniques, however, that should not cause the game to be delayed.
24. All teams should have a bench coach to keep the line-up in order, to keep score and to send the players to the on deck circle bat.
25. Coaches should have the line-up handy so that games may be played expeditiously
26. **OFFENSIVE COACHES:** Each team will provide a batting coach, on-deck circle coach, 1st base coach, 2nd base and 3rd base coach during the team's offensive half of the inning.
27. Each team will provide adult volunteers to be **OUTFIELD ADULTS:** Volunteers will serve to back up the outfielders. They will prevent the ball from going deep into the outfield territory.
28. The team's batting coach will help the batter get in the proper stance and the take a proper swing during the team's offensive half of the inning. This coach will remove the tee when a player is running from third to home plate.
29. In the event that the umpire does not show up for the game a necessary fan (which can be a coach) or a parent willing to assist will umpire the game.
30. Coaches or assistants will be at the batting tee instructing the children while their team is at bat.
31. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd base are not allowed to physically assist base runners; e.g. pushing the runner or helping the runner off the ground, while the ball is in play.
32. **DEFENSIVE COACHES:** A maximum of 2 coaches from the defensive (fielding) team are allowed on the playing field. These coaches should be situated in the 10 feet behind the baseline behind 1st and 2nd bases and between 2nd and 3rd bases. These coaches are on the field for instructional purposes only, such as re-positioning the fielders and relaying information.

Play of the Game

33. Make the game fun.
34. There will be no score keeping of any kind. Base paths and foul lines must be kept clear. Parents should be at least 10' from the foul lines.
35. **All players must bat:** All players must bat in order. Every player will bat during the team's offensive half of the inning, regardless if he/she has played the field or not.



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36. All players present will be placed in the batting line-up and will bat in the order listed. If a player comes late he will be added to the end of the lineup. Coaches should rotate the batting order if possible every game. If a batter bats out of order he or she will complete the at bat. The proper batter should follow immediately after which the proper order is resumed.
37. If a player is hurt, they may be removed from the game and at a later time return to the game. They may return only to the batting position that they held prior to being injured.
38. During the team's offensive half of the inning, only two players should be holding bats – the batter at the plate and the batter in the on deck circle. The remaining players will be in their “dugout”.
39. The next batter will not approach the plate until called by the batting coach or umpire.
40. The batting coach will place the ball on the tee and verify that the tee is adjusted within the strike zone (between the knees and the armpits of the batter). The batting coach may adjust and reposition the batter at any time as long as the ball is not in play.
41. At the discretion of the batting coach, the batter then hits the ball off the tee after the umpire calls "ball in play" and thereafter.
42. Batters will have 10 attempts to successfully strike the ball.
43. A ball must travel 10 feet in fair territory or else it is ruled a foul ball.
44. All batters will hit off the tee. The batting coach will remove the tee from the playing field if a player is attempting to score from 3rd base.
45. If a ball leaves the tee as a result of the tee being struck rather than the ball, then the ball shall be declared DEAD and another attempt shall be made to hit the ball.
46. In Tee Ball the play is considered ‘over’ when the ball is returned to a player at the mound or any base. The ball is then DEAD.
47. When the umpire calls the ball dead, it stays dead until the umpire calls the ball in play again.
48. The runner may not leave the base until the ball is struck by the batter.
49. Leading off a base is not permitted.
50. Base stealing is not permitted.
51. An inning is not three outs. An inning will end after **all batters** on a team have batted ONCE. The last batter and all remaining base runners will run all the way round the bases back to home.
52. The infielders should be positioned close to the base line and not creep far into the infield. Once the ball is hit, the entire field is then in play, and any player may then attempt to field the ball. Infielders should not chase the ball into the outfield.
53. The outfielders must be positioned at least 10 feet behind the baseline, so as to allow a well hit ball to go into play. Outfielders should stay in position until the ball is hit.

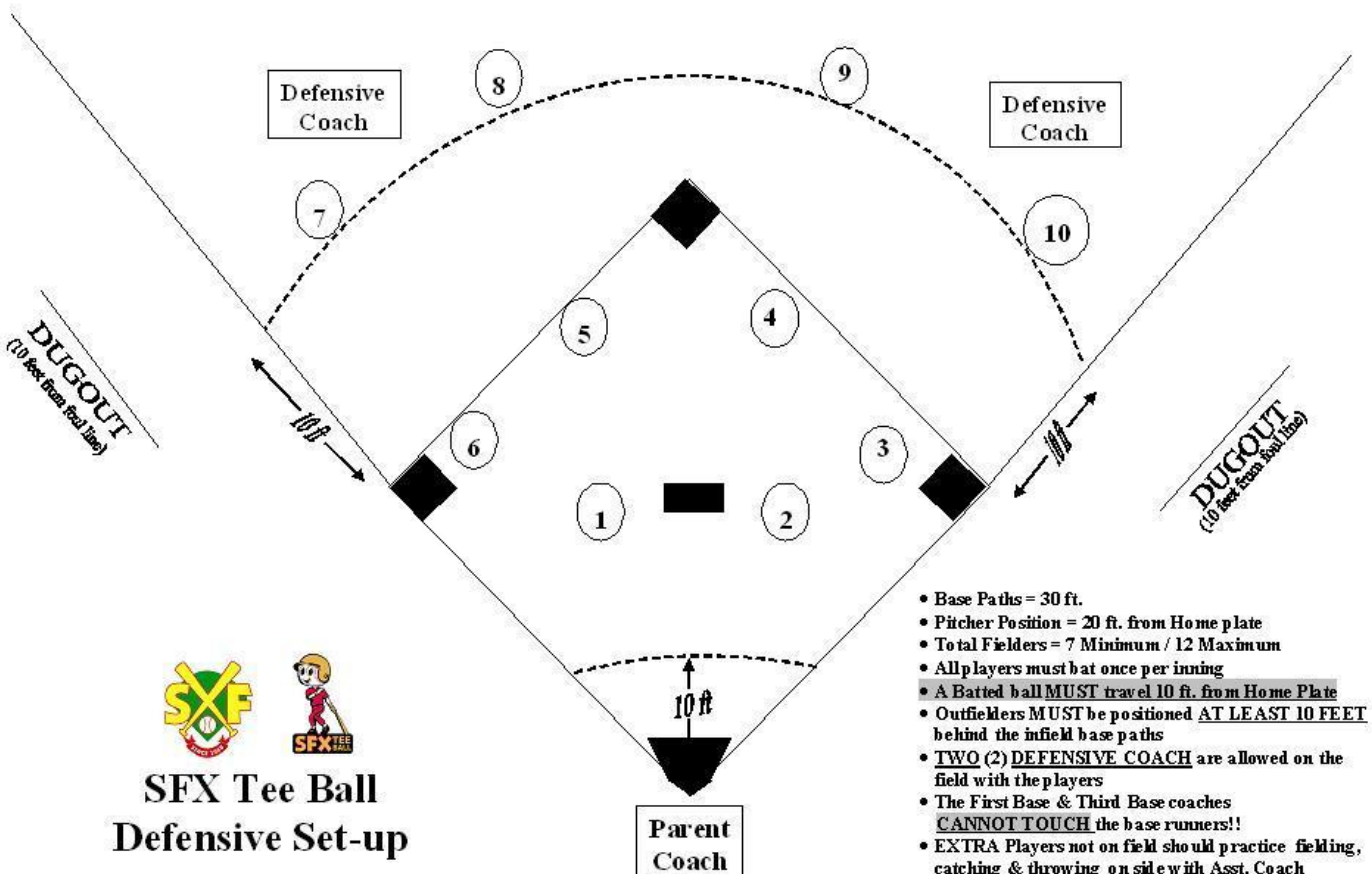


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54. Force-out: A legal force-out is made when a base runner must advance to allow the batter to achieve 1st base and the ball reaches the next base in the possession of a fielder, and the fielder while in possession of the ball, touches that base before the runner touches it.
55. Runners Overrunning a Base: First base and home plate are the only bases a runner may touch and run past. If a runner should overrun 2nd and 3rd base, and an alert fielder who is in possession of the ball touches the runner while off the base, the runner shall be declared out. A fielder may not push or force a runner off the base that a runner has gained in an attempt to tag him out. First base is treated like second and third bases when a runner makes a turn toward second base after touching 1st base. Should a runner make a turn around 1st base toward 2nd base and then tagged by the fielder, while in possession of the ball, prior to returning to 1st base, the runner shall be declared out.
56. **Blocking of the base path** - A player, **without the ball** in his or her possession **has no right to block the pathway of a runner**. The base line belongs to the runner and the defensive player should be there only when he or she is fielding a ball or already has the ball in his or her hands. Any blocking of the base path will result in the offensive player being allowed to advance to the base as safe regardless if a play is made.
57. Tagging-Up is not allowed.
58. Intentional sliding is not allowed.





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SFX Baseball Parent/Coach Code of Conduct

I PLEGE THAT:

- *I will teach all children to play fair & do there best*
- *I will positively support all managers, coaches and players*
- *I will respect the decisions of the umpires*
- *I will praise a good effort despite the outcome of the game*

I therefore agree:

1. *I will not force my child to participate in sports.*
2. *I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the came is for youth, not adults.*
3. *I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.*
4. *I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.*
5. *I (and my guest) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials, and spectators at every game, practice or sporting event.*
6. *I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player or parent such as booing, taunting, refusing to shake hands or using profane language or gestures.*
7. *I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well being of the athletes.*
8. *I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.*
9. *I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials, and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.*
10. *I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.*
11. *I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner every time.*
12. *I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition.*
13. *I will emphasize skill development & practices and how they benefit my child over winning. I will also de-emphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.*
14. *I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes ahead of ant personal desire I may have for my child to win.*
15. *I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.*
16. *I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol; and I will refrain from their use at all sports events.*
17. *I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.*