



ELV Softball

Eastern Lehigh Valley Softball League

2022 T-BALL PLAYING RULES - Pre-K & Kindergarten Not Eligible before 4 years old

→ General Rules

- 1) **Game Times** - Weekday game time is 6:00 PM. Saturday game times begin at 11:00 AM. Exceptions are permitted and will be indicated on the schedules.
- 2) **Length of game and minimum playing time of players.**
 - A. Four (4) innings or one hour and thirty (1:30) minutes. No inning shall start after 1:30. If time permits you may play a fifth inning. If the visiting team is batting at 1:30 the game is over. If the home team is batting they will complete the at bat.
 - B. A running batting order consisting of all the players is mandatory - Adjust your batting order each game so a different player is your last batter, they will circle the bases
 - C. No player shall sit consecutive innings defensively. It is highly recommended that half of a player's defensive innings are in the infield. The coaches can use their discretion for safety issues or if a player only wants to play the outfield.
 - D. A league warning will result upon the first offense of not playing all players.

- 3) **Dimensions** - Length of bases shall be fifty (50) feet. Pitching rubber shall be located thirty (30) feet from the back point of the home plate.
- 4) **Complete Games** - In the event of bad weather or darkness, a game will be considered complete at the discretion of the coaches

5) Equipment

- A. The home team shall supply one new ball and one backup ball for each game.
 - I. A nine (9) inch optic Incredi Safe-T-Ball shall be used for play.
- B. Bats
 - I. All bats are acceptable
- C. Helmets
 - I. Batters and base runners must wear protective helmets with attached facemasks and chin straps.
- D. Pitching Facemasks shall be **required** for all pitchers. All organizations are responsible for providing at least one pitching facemask per team.
- E. All coaches are required to have first aid kits at all practices and games. A pair of rubber gloves must be available. Individual first aid kits are not required if your organization has a general first aid kit on location. During games the home organization is required to have a first aid kit on location at the playing fields
- F. Use of the double first base is recommended.
- G. Hit sticks may not be used during games.
- H. Metal cleats may not be worn.

6) Rosters

- A. Minimum size - six (6) player minimum unless an exception is approved by the league board. Maximum size is ten (10) unless an exception is approved by the league board.
- B. Pre K/Kindergarten - 1st Grades only if your organization doesn't have a Coach Pitch team

7) Game Procedures

- A. Game rainouts, cancellations and make ups
 - I. All rainouts and cancellations must be replayed by the first Sunday following the date of the cancellation. In the event of two rainouts/cancellations in the same week, the second game must be made up by the second Sunday following the date of the second cancellation.
- B. Scorekeeping
 - I. The Home team is responsible for submitting when the game has been played.

→ **Batting**

- A. A running batting order that includes all players shall be used.
- B. A player arriving late shall be added to the end of the original batting order.
- C. An inning ends when everyone in the batting order for the team has batted.
If three (3) outs are obtained, the bases are cleared and batting continues until the end of the batting order.

- D. The batting "Tee" will be used for the entire game during the first half of the season. **Possibly** in the second part of the season - (Talk before the game if your team wants to do the Coach Pitch portion) The coaches will pitch to the batter the entire game during the second half of the season. During the coach pitch part of the season, a batter will be given a maximum of four (4) pitches, after which time, a tee must be used in order to complete the at bat. **THIS RULE WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.**

→ **Pitching**

- A. A player may play the pitching position but is **NOT** allowed to pitch the ball to the batter and is required to wear a facemask.
B. There will be no walks allowed

→ **Base Running**

- A. On a batted ball, one (1) base may be achieved on an infield hit and two (2) bases if the batted ball goes into the outfield. This rule applies to existing base runners as well. A play may be made on any batter/runner. The last batter circles the bases with everyone that is on base.
B. The bases are to be cleared once three (3) outs have been made. A runner shall leave the base when called out. **There will be no plays at the plate.**
C. Stealing is not allowed. All runners must remain on the base until the ball is hit.
D. There will be no advances on overthrows.

→ **Defense/Fielding**

- A. A maximum of nine (9) players may play the field at one time. The positions are the following: Pitcher, First Base, Second Base, Shortstop, Third Base, and **only** four (4) outfielders. The outfielders must be positioned a minimum 1 step into the grass in the outfield
B. An adult must play the position of catcher.
C. Outfielders cannot cover a base at any time for a putout.
D. **Players are to be rotated in their positions.** No Player may play more than a maximum of three (3) innings at shortstop, first base, or pitching positions combined. All players must play a minimum of two (2) innings at an infield position within the first four (4) innings of each game. No player shall sit consecutive innings defensively. It is highly recommended that half of a player's defensive innings are in the infield.
E. The coaches can use their discretion for safety issues or if a player only wants to play the outfield.

→ **Game Conduct**

- A. Coaches & Assistant coaches will be permitted to coach the other teams players if it is done in a positive manner. They may not address or engage the opposing coaches or players in any negative manner. Arguing a rule is unacceptable. You can discuss a rule or talk with the opposing coaches in a friendly professional manner.
B. Any parent who steps on the field of play for reasons other than an injury will be ejected from the game.

→ **THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND**

- Make the game important to the girls. They will respond in kind.
- Have the girls arrive a minimum of 30 minutes before the game. Have them take warm-ups to prepare themselves for the game. If you make the preparation important the game will be even more important.
- Concentrate on teaching the fundamentals, particularly throwing and catching the ball. It's imperative that these two skills be learned. A girl can't progress in learning the other skills until they can throw properly and catch the ball. Hitting will come later when the coach pitches at mid-season.
- Keep up the level of enthusiasm. Cheer your opponent as well as your own team. Get the adrenalin flowing. Girls who leave with enthusiasm will return with enthusiasm.
- Positive reinforcement is the key. Have a lot of patience. Remember, they know absolutely nothing about the game. If they learn that it's fun from you, it'll be fun. Remember, the girls must have fun.
- Every girl needs to think that she's important and that she belongs (so do we). Every girl needs a "win", good throw, good catch, good hit, etc.. Cheer her accomplishments and have her teammates do so as well.
- Be cognizant of the tone and volume of your voice. You don't want to scare some of the girls. Be aware of their reactions when you speak to them.
- Play little games with them. Challenge them to see if they can make 3 outs before the other team has batted all of their batters. When accomplished, challenge them to do it a second time.
- Remove the batter from first base if she is made out. Some girls will be upset and cry because they think they've failed or done wrong. Use some psychology here and explain that they had a good hit, it's just that the fielder made a very good play.
- Make it fun. If it's not fun they won't be back. Don't take things too seriously and remember they will feed off of your attitude. Be well organized, keep things moving.
- Make up your lineup and batting order before the game. You can always adjust if someone doesn't show up. Have the girl's sit in batting order so they are ready to go.
- Have numerous coaches to assist. This will keep the girls motivated and ready to go. One Hour practices are plenty enough time, as long as you have help. You can break down into numerous stations. If you are having a great practice you can go longer.
- Make sure your girl's hustle on and off the field between innings and at practice going out to their positions.

→ **INSTRUCTIONS**

- **Play all the games.** It's a very short schedule of only 10 OR 11 games.
- Cancel as few games as possible. Remember, once you've given the schedule to your parents they make their arrangements around the games. If you move too many games it's not fair to the parents.
- **Check with your coordinator** to make sure the **field is available** on your scheduled home dates. The other age levels have started and it's possible games have been moved on the field you are using.
- In the event of rain, call the opposing coach a minimum of 1 ½ hours prior to scheduled game time in order to cancel the game. Reschedule the game as soon as possible.
- The schedule and directory will be posted on the league's website. The website is elvsoftball.org
- If you have any rule questions please email or call the K/1 Statistician.
- All contacts with opposing coaches are to be **DIRECT VERBAL** contacts. **DO NOT** make any game changes by email or voicemail. Doing so is a recipe for disaster. If you want to email in advance, make sure you get confirmation, if not call the coach and make sure you speak.
- **The Home team is to notify your statistician when the game has been played. Also, any issues and problems with games or other coaches.**

IF THE MAJORITY OF PLAYERS RETURN NEXT SEASON, YOU'VE DONE YOUR JOB VERY, VERY WELL. WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE A PLAYER, BEFORE THEY'VE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN AND ENJOY THIS GREAT GAME OF SOFTBALL!