



# ***ELV Softball***

***Eastern Lehigh Valley Softball League***

## **T-Ball Playing Rules (2026)**

### **General Rules**

1. Game Times - weekday game time 6:00 PM, weekend game time will be no earlier than 9:00 AM and no later than 6:00 PM
  - a. If both coaches agree, weekday games may start earlier than 6m
2. Length of game
  - a. 4 innings or 1 hour – no new inning shall start after the 1 hr mark, but once the inning has started it will be played to completion.
3. Scoring
  - a. Scores and standings will not be kept and no scores will be reported
    - i. The home team is responsible for submitting the game played to the statistician within 24 hours
4. Field Dimension
  - a. Base length 50'
  - b. Pitching rubber 30' from the back of home plate
5. Equipment
  - a. Game Balls - the home team shall supply 2 new game balls for each game. The ball for this level is a 9" tee ball
  - b. All t-ball bats are acceptable

- c. Helmets – all batters and base runners must wear a protective helmet with an attached face mask. Chin straps are encouraged but not required
  - d. Pitching facemask is required for all pitchers. Each team shall be supplied with a team face mask by their organization
  - e. Jewelry - post earrings are permitted, but no hoop earrings or dangling earrings will be allowed. A simple chain necklace is permitted, but no other jewelry will be allowed. No watches. Cell phones will not be permitted on the field.
  - f. First Aid Kit – each team must have a first aid kit at all practices and game's
  - g. Use of a double first base is highly recommended
  - h. Metal cleats may not be worn
6. Rosters
- a. Recommended 7-10 players
  - b. Minimum of 5 players required for a game
  - c. No player will sit consecutive innings defensively, it is highly recommended that at least half a player's defensive innings are in the infield. Coaches can use their discretion for safety issues or if the player only wants to play the outfield.
7. Game Changes
- a. Cancellation due to weather will be made by the coach of the home team no later than 1 hr 30 mins prior to the start of the game and must be communicated to the opposing coach via phone
  - b. Canceled games need to be rescheduled within 3 days. Rescheduling means a new game date must be given to the statistician, the game can be played any time prior to the end of the season.

### **Batting**

1. A running batting order including all players shall be used
  - a. It is permissible to start the order with a different player each time at bat though the order must remain the same
2. Any player arriving late will be added to the end of the batting order
3. If a player leaves the game due to injury or illness, the player may reenter at any time in her original position in the batting order.
4. The half inning will end when all players on the offensive team have batted
5. Each batter will hit from the tee.
6. Players will be warned for throwing the bat.

### **Pitching**

1. A player will play the pitcher position, but will not pitch to the batter
2. The tee or coach pitchers will be used for the entire game

### **Base Running**

1. On a batted ball one base may be achieved on an infield hit and two bases if the batted ball goes cleanly into the outfield. This rules applies to existing baserunners as well

2. No advancement on overthrows
3. There is no stealing
4. Baserunners may leave the base when the ball is put into play
5. Runners will leave the base when called out.
6. Bases are to be cleared once three outs have been made in the half inning.
7. There will be no plays at the plate.
8. The last batter will circle the bases after putting the ball in play.
9. Use of the double first base is highly recommended
  - a. The defensive team may only retire the batter/runner using the white base when the throw is on or inside the baseline. If the throw is outside fair territory, the fielder may use the orange base

### **Defense/Fielding**

1. There will be 9 defensive players – pitcher, 1B, 2B, SS, 3B and 4 outfielders
2. Players must be rotated to different positions throughout the game
  - a. No player may play more than 3 innings at P, 1B and SS combined
3. The outfielders must be positioned 3 steps behind the baseline until the ball is put in play
4. Infielders must be in their assigned playing position no more than 5' in front of the baseline until the ball is put in play
5. Fielders are not permitted to stand in the baseline at the start of the play when there are runners on base advancing to the affected base
6. Infield fly rule does not apply.
7. An offensive coach will play the position of catcher to assist batters and load the tee
8. Two defensive coaches may be on the field but must be located behind the infielders and shall not obstruct the outfielders.

### **Game Conduct**

1. Cheering
  - a. Players from the offensive team will be allowed to cheer for the batter and the batter only
  - b. Cheering should be positive toward your team, not negative toward the opposing team
2. Coach and Player Conduct
  - a. Any coach or player ejected from a game is automatically suspended for their next game. The ejected person will not be allowed to participate, coach or attend the game
  - b. The offending team is responsible for reporting any ejections to the statistician within 24 hours
3. Parents/Spectators
  - a. Any parent or spectator who steps on the field of play for reasons other than injury will be ejected from the game