

South Hadley Recreation Tee Ball Rules 2026

Purpose:

1. To provide children with an opportunity to learn the basic concepts of the game of baseball or softball. Tee-Ball is a modification of baseball/softball and utilizes special equipment to create a safer playing environment.
2. All kids must be given equal playing time regardless of skill level.
 - a. Recognize that you might not finish a game...schedule accordingly
 - b. Go to each practice/game with a plan (and stick to it)
 - c. If a child isn't playing in the field (or is playing a "boring" position, try to bat them first. Switch up your lineups for different games.
3. If a coach feels the need to win, he/she shouldn't be involved with this program.

Rules:

1. Scores and standings are not kept and there are no umpires.
2. Batting:
 - a. Teams bat their entire line-up every inning.
 - i. If you have 15 batters, all 15 kids bat.
 - ii. In the even numbered innings, you bat the reverse order of the odd numbered innings so the kid that batted last in the first inning bats first in the second inning.
 - iii. Everyone gets the same number of at-bats.
 - b. During the first inning, every batter uses the tee.
 - c. During the subsequent innings, the batters will be pitched to by the coach. The coaches can make the decision to hit off the tee for the entire game early in the season if both teams agree.
 - i. Challenge your better hitters.
 - ii. Set a limit for the number of pitches (6?)
 - iii. If the batter is struggling, use the tee. You will know your players and their capabilities.
 - d. Batters are OUT if they throw the bat.
 - i. Teach them in practice how to do this properly
 - ii. Have them run down the bases and drop it half way.
3. Games are 3 innings long (can play more if time permits).
4. Runners do not advance on overthrows, they remain at the base.
5. There is no leading, players can leave the base when the ball is hit.
6. The bases will be set at 45 feet.

Safety:

1. Siblings are not allowed in the bench area.
2. Only one person is allowed to be on deck. Have a coach supervise this area.
3. Soft tee-balls will be used in this division.

7. Lightning/Thunder: game over (or wait in the car). Must wait a minimum of 30 minutes before you resume play.
8. Due to the safety ball, batting helmets are not required; however, they can be worn if a player would like to. Players must provide their own batting helmet.
9. All coaches must be CORI checked through the Recreation Department.
10. All coaches must agree to the Coach Conduct signoff form.