

Rochester Youth Athletic Association (RYAA) - Tee-ball rules

Ages: 4-6 (Must be 5 by 9/1 of the current year)

The goal of the RYAA T-ball program is to teach young players the basics of baseball. This includes learning how to field, catch, hit, and run the bases, as well as understanding the roles of different positions on the field. The primary goal is to encourage participation, skill development, and sportsmanship among players.

1. Playing Field and Equipment

- **Bases:** Set 60 feet apart.
- **Pitcher's Mound:** Located 40 feet from home plate.
- **Bat:** No restrictions on bat size or weight.
- **Cleats:** Only rubber cleats or tennis shoes are allowed.
- **Catcher's Gear:** Catchers are not used in RYAA tee-ball.
- **Ball:** Soft rubber T-ball, provided by the home team.
- **Home Team:** Determined by a coin flip before the game, will start play in the field.

2. General Game Information

- **Inning Structure:** Each inning consists of all batters going to the plate once. The inning ends when all batters have batted.
- **Batting Order:** All players bat, and the order may change each inning. Coaches should change the order every game making sure those who batted last in the previous game, bat first the next.
- **Umpire:** No umpire. Coaches make calls with fairness, sportsmanship, and discipline in mind.
- **Score:** No score is kept in T-ball games.
- **Coaches:** The emphasis is on equal playing time for all participants to ensure a positive and inclusive experience for everyone.
- **Cancellations:** All weather-related cancellations will be posted by 4:30pm the day of the game/practice (earlier if fields are not playable). Posted on the RYAA Facebook page and by email notification.
- **Weather:** Please keep an eye on the sky. For tee-ball, if lightening is seen, game is cancelled. See RYAA Weather Policy.

- **Warm up:** Please encourage stretching prior to game. Prior to the game when warming up, playing catch, stretching, etc. please stay off the infield. Warm ups to take place in outfield grass.

3. Game Preliminaries

- A team needs at least **8 players** to play. Teams can borrow players from the other team if needed.
- All players may play defense, but extra players must be positioned in the outfield.

4. Starting and Ending the Game

- **Game Length:** A game is **4 innings** or **end of time limit** whichever comes first. No new inning may start after 55 minutes time limit. If an inning is started, it must be completed.
- **Coaches on the Field:**
 - **Batting Coaches:** Coaches can be in the first and third base coaching boxes.
 - **Defensive Coaches:** Two coaches can be on the field in the outfield or foul territory.

5. Putting the Ball in Play

- **Half Inning:** The half inning ends when all players have batted.
- **Base Running:** Players may advance only one base per hit.
- **Stealing:** No stealing is allowed.
- **Overthrows:** Players cannot advance if the ball is overthrown in the infield.
- **Infield Fly Rule:** Does not apply in T-ball.
- **Hidden Ball Trick:** Not allowed.

6. The Batter

- **Helmet:** A league-approved batting helmet must be worn when hitting and running the bases.
- **Ball on Tee:** The coach places the ball on the tee, then calls "Play Ball."
- **Foul Balls:** If the batter hits the tee or the ball doesn't travel 15 feet, it's a foul ball, and the batter continues the at-bat.
- **Strikeouts:** There are no strikeouts. If a player struggles to hit, the coach can assist.
- **Batting Order:** If a batter is out of order, they will bat immediately with no penalty.
- **Throwing Bats:** If a player throws a bat, the coach gives a warning and explains how to properly place the bat down.

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- **Coach pitch:** After week 3, coaches may elect to pitch up to 3 strikes to a player if capable of hitting a thrown ball. After 3 swings, a tee shall be used. Coaches, please only consider for those that practice at home/during practice.

7. The Runner

- **Lead-Offs/Stealing:** No lead-offs or stealing.
- **Helmet:** Must be worn when running the bases.
- **Outs:** If a player is out, they remain on the base until the next player bats.
- **Base Coaches:** Coaches may help guide players running the bases. Remove tee from home plate when runner is running towards home.
- **Player may advance one base per hit.**

8. The Pitcher

- **Position:** The pitcher must stay on or behind the pitcher's rubber until the ball is hit

9. The Fielder

- All players play defense, with extra players positioned in the outfield.

10. The dugout

- Only the player entering the batter's box is to have a bat, no bats in hands in the dugout.
- A parent/coach should be in charge of the dugout at each game at all times.

11. Practice

- Starting at the designated date in April, teams will practice **twice weekly** until games begin, then once weekly at designated field time.
- Stay off wet infields. Help care for our fields by practicing in the grass only when fields are wet/muddy.

12. Coaches

- Thank you for volunteering. You will find this season to be memorable both for you and your players. Make your games/practices fun and personable for your players. Coaching this age

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can be both challenging and rewarding, reach out to your team parents for help this season, it takes a crew to coach these teams! I want to make this season as smooth as possible for you, please reach out to me with any questions/concerns at baseball@ryaa.org

- Here is a great link for practice ideas.
 - o <https://www.littleleague.org/play-little-league/tee-ball/>

These simple guidelines are designed to help children learn the basics of baseball while having fun and developing important skills such as teamwork, sportsmanship, and coordination.

Contact information:

General email: baseball@ryaasports.org

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RYAA BASEBALL/SOFTBALL WEATHER POLICY

1. In the event of cancellation due to field/weather conditions, an email and post on the RYAA Facebook page will be sent out by 4:30pm the day of.
 - a. If there is not a post/email by 4:30pm, the game/practice is on. We will try our best to send out notification sooner if fields can not be prepped in time for game/practice.
2. If you step on the field and it leaves behind a foot print, it is TOO WET. Please stay off to protect our fields. If fields are too wet, please use the grass area only.
3. If you see or hear thunder/lightning, immediately suspend your game or practice and instruct everyone to go inside a sturdy building or car.
Sturdy buildings are the safest place to be (Concession stand bathrooms if at park or restrooms by field 6)
4. Outdoor activity can resume 30 minutes after the last sound of thunder or flash of lightning. At any point if lightning occurs again, the 30 minutes delay starts over.
5. Use your best judgement, if you question the safety, cancel the game/practice and send players and families home.
6. If the heat index is over 100 degrees, practice/games will be cancelled. There are exceptions to this for our 12U + divisions with appropriate breaks/hydration time. We will follow IESA/IHSA guidelines for ages 12+. Please reach out to the program coordinator if there are concerns/questions.