



## Zeeland Little League Tee-Ball Baseball Rules

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### General Rules

- A regulation game consists of four (4) innings.
  - A new inning may not start after 1 hour from the game start time.
  - A drop dead time is at 1 hour 30 minutes from the game start time.
  - There are no “extra innings” – a game may end in a tie
- There is no mercy or 10 run rule.

### Hitting/Offense Rules:

- The batter and all runners must be wearing a proper helmet
- Bring a bucket full of balls to put behind the tee and out of play
- Offensive coach stays at plate to put ball on tee and give instruction
- Player is allowed unlimited swings until they put a ball in play
  - If the player hits the tee, causing the ball to go into fair play, the offensive coach should declare “foul ball” and have the hitter try again.
- Outs and safes are called by Coaches.
  - Even if a batter/runner is called “out”, they can remain on the bases to run.
- Rocket batting rule, everyone bats.
- Offense team ends their 1/2 inning at bat after any of the following occur:
  - Everyone in the lineup has had a turn at bat
- No stealing any base, including home, under any circumstance.
- Players may leave their base once the ball is hit.
- Runners may only advance one base per ball put in play.
- No on deck batters are allowed.
- For games 4, 5, and 6, the coach may institute a coach pitch style to hitters as follows:
  - This is optional for each hitter, and the hitter may bypass this and only hit TEE
  - Offensive coach is pitching to their team, bring 5 balls to mound, and put an empty bucket at backstop for pick up
  - Hitter gets 5 pitches to put ball in play, then TEE is brought in until player hits ball into play.
  - No balls/strikes are called
  - No Walks or Hit By Pitch
  - Coaches may pitch from any comfortable/safe distance per child
  - Coaches cannot play the ball but may defend themselves
  - Several coaches may pitch in one game



## Defense Rules

- Teams may play 10 players in the field.
  - 4 Outfielders (left field, left center, right center, right field)
  - 4 Infielders (third base, short stop, second base, first base)
  - 1 Pitcher
  - 1 Catcher
    - The catcher must be wearing a catcher's mask; the shin guards and chest protector are optional
    - The catcher will be positioned to the back side of the hitter and near the backstop per the diagram below
- Players should be rotated into different positions each inning
- A player may not sit on the bench for consecutive innings, and playing time in the field should be as equal as possible
- Free substitutions are allowed (meaning players may switch positions in the field and/or go from the bench to the field an unlimited amount of times).
- Coaches on the defensive team may station themselves in the field to help position their players and actively coach during the game

