



# **Laguna Beach Little League T-Ball Division Rulebook**

Division Rulebook, Version 1.0

Updated January 6, 2026

## **Introduction**

*Welcome to the Laguna Beach Little League (LBLL) T-Ball Division Rulebook, designed to guide our young athletes, parents, and coaches through a fun, skill-focused, and community-driven baseball experience. This division, designed for our youngest players, prioritizes the development of fundamental baseball skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship in a non-competitive environment. Our 10-game season is structured to ensure every player has equal opportunities to bat, field, and grow in a safe, supportive environment. Aligned with official Little League guidelines, this rulebook outlines clear rules and recommendations to foster a love for the game while building confidence and camaraderie. Whether you're a player, parent, or coach, this document serves as your roadmap to a season filled with learning, laughter, and memorable moments. Let's play ball and build a vibrant baseball community together!*

## How to Use This Rulebook:

- **League Goals:** Understand the core objectives driving the Tee-Ball Division's approach.
- **Basic Rules of Play:** Review detailed regulations for game structure, field setup, and offensive/defensive play.
- **Team & Community Building:** Explore recommendations to enhance sportsmanship, teamwork, and community engagement.
- **Closing Note & Contact Information:** *Learn about our commitment to continuous improvement and how to connect with LBLL leadership. This rulebook is a living document, reviewed annually to reflect the evolving needs of our players and community. For additional resources, visit [www.beacbaseball.com](http://www.beacbaseball.com)*

## LEAGUE GOALS

**1. Fun First:** Kids play because it's fun. Our #1 goal is smiles.

**2. Fundamentals Over Competition:** In this Division, focus on the basic skills of baseball. Winning here means nobody got hurt and everyone had fun!

**3. Everyone Plays:** All players get to play in the field regardless of the number of players.

**4. Parent Participation:** Parents are vital and active helpers/community role models who are expected to participate at all practices and games.

**5. Coaches are Educators:** Coaches and Managers must act as patient, positive educators, encouraging players while teaching Tee-ball fundamentals like hitting, throwing, catching, and base running.

**6. Safety, Supervision, Support:** Kids are watched, closely guided, and celebrated throughout practices and games as each finds success.

## BASIC RULES OF PLAY

### General Game Structure:

- **Team Size:** 6–9+ players per team.
- **Game Duration** (Rule 4.10): Games are typically 2-4 innings or limited to one hour, whichever comes first, to keep the game manageable for young players. No new inning starts after the time limit.
- **Pre-Game Arrival** (LBLL Rule): All players should arrive at the field 15 minutes before the scheduled game time to participate in warm-ups, team cheers, and pre-game gear checks, ensuring readiness and promoting team unity.
- **No Scorekeeping** (LL Rule 4.10(e)): Official scorekeeping is not required, and no standings are maintained, as the focus is on learning the game rather than competition.
- **Field Setup:** Use a small diamond (~40-foot bases).
- **Ball Type:** ONLY use Little League approved soft safety baseballs at all times. During practices, wiffle balls, tennis balls, or any ball softer than approved balls are permitted.
- **Batting** (LBLL Rule): Bat from a tee only (no pitched balls during games).
- **Note:** Coaches may attempt to accomplish pitched/soft tossed balls ONLY in practices, and at the ending part of the practice/game season.
- **Inning Structure** (LBLL Rule): An inning ends after three outs or as determined by the league. A minimum of 2 innings per game.
- **Pre-Game Inspection** (LBLL Rule): Parents must inspect gear, account players, and ensure no loose helmets or bats before the game starts.
- **Parent Presence** (LBLL Rule): A parent must be present for all practices and games to ensure supervision and safety.
- **Game Start** (LBLL Rule): Games begin with a parent-led cheer involving both teams to promote sportsmanship.

## **Field Measurements/Regulations**

- Base Distances (LBLL Rule):

Bases are set 40 feet apart, with the following measurements:

- Home → First: 40 ft
- First → Second: 40 ft
- Second → Third: 40 ft
- Third → Home: 40 ft
- Home → Second: 56.57 ft
- First → Third: 56.57 ft

## **Offensive Rules**

- **Batting Stance Guidance (LBLL Rule):** Before each at-bat, a coach or manager must assist the batter in setting up a proper batting stance, including foot placement and grip, to promote good habits and improve hitting success.
- **Continuous Batting Order (LL Rule 4.04):** All players present bat in a continuous order, regardless of whether they are in the field, ensuring equal batting opportunities.
- **No On-Deck Batter (LL Rule 1.10):** To ensure safety, there is no on-deck circle or practice swings permitted during Tee-Ball games.
- **Batter's Turn at Bat (Modified for Tee-Ball):** Batters hit the ball from a stationary batting tee placed over home plate. There is no pitching (coach or otherwise), and the tee must be used for every at-bat to allow all players to experience hitting and base running. The tee shall be adjusted to a height appropriate for the batter (typically waist level) to promote successful contact. Once the ball is hit and leaves the tee, play begins as normal.
- **Foul Balls and Strikes (LBLL Rule):** There are no called strikes in Tee-Ball. If the batter hits a foul ball (e.g., the ball rolls foul or is hit into foul territory), the batter continues their turn until they put the ball in play or reach base safely. Hitting the tee directly (causing the ball to fall off without being struck) is considered a foul and does not count as a hit.
- **The Swing Rule (LBLL Rule):** Each batter is given three (3) swings. If no hit is made, a coach or parent must adjust the tee. If no hit is made after another three (3) swings (six (6) consecutive swings), a coach or parent must assist the batter in hitting the ball.
- **Hitting & Running (LBLL Rule):** When a ball is hit, the batter runs to first base. All other runners on base advance one base only.

- **Tee-Ball Base Coaches (LBLL Rule):** Each team must provide three adult base coach/parents (one at first, second, and third base) during offensive innings to guide runners and ensure safety while teaching base-running. A coach or manager oversees home plate and bat safety in the dugout.
- **Runner Advancement Limit (LBLL Rule):** To encourage learning and prevent overly aggressive play, runners may not advance on any overthrows, simplifying base-running decisions for young players.
- **Played Outs (LBLL Rule):** If a batter is out at any base, parents should encourage both the offensive and defensive players to high-five each other. The runner returns to the dugout and receives high-fives from all players. Outs are celebrated as positive moments for both teams, not treated as negative.
- **Counting Outs (LBLL Rule):** Defensive outs are recorded for learning purposes, but the inning does not end until all players in the batting order have had one at-bat, ensuring equal participation regardless of the number of outs.
- **Home Run Hitter (LBLL Rule):** The last batter in the lineup hits and runs all bases to score a “home run.” The lineup should rotate to ensure fairness in opportunities.
- **Bat Regulation (LL Rule 1.10):** All bats must meet the USABat standard for Tee Ball, featuring the USA Baseball mark and text reading “ONLY FOR USE WITH APPROVED TEE BALL.” Certified Tee Ball bats are 26 inches or shorter. Approved bats include those listed in the USABat Approved Bat List at

**USABat Approved bat finder:** <https://usabat.com/>

- **Batting Helmets (LL Rule 1.16):** All batters, base runners, and players in the offensive dugout must wear approved batting helmets meeting NOCSAE specifications and standards. Helmets must remain on until the player returns to the dugout. Parents must check helmets for proper fit.
- **Home Plate Bat Safety & Assistant Hitter (LBLL Rule):** A coach positioned behind home plate oversees bat safety and adjusts the tee as needed. The batter may swing only after receiving a clear “thumbs up” signal from the coach, ensuring a safe and controlled hitting environment.
- **Runners Touching Home Plate (LBLL Rule):** When a runner approaches home plate to score, the coach must control the batter’s bat to prevent incidents. Batters should be encouraged to high-five the runner scoring.
- **No Base Stealing (LBLL Rule):** Runners may advance only on hits, not through base stealing.

- **No Throwing Bats** (LBLL Rule): After hitting, batters must gently drop or toss the bat forward no more than three feet within the batter's box area. Throwing the bat beyond this distance results in a gentle warning for the first offense, with subsequent violations resulting in the batter being called out, to promote safety and proper technique

## **Defensive rules**

• **No Catcher Position** (LL Rule 1.17): There is no catcher behind home plate in Tee Ball, as the ball is not pitched, allowing players to focus on fielding and throwing skills instead of specialized defensive roles.

- **Parent Coaching** (LBLL Rule): Every defensive player pairs with one of their parents who actively coaches technique, providing real-time feedback on fielding, throwing, and positioning to enhance skill development.

**Parent Coaching & Instruction Guideline** (LBLL T-Ball Rule): Parents may assist their child during T-Ball practices and games under supervision of the Manager. When doing so, always keep instruction fun, positive, and pressure-free. Praise effort, avoid criticism, and never correct in a way that embarrasses the child. Every child leaves the field smiling.

- **Position Rotation** (LBLL Rule): All players must rotate through all defensive positions each game to build versatility and improve proficiency across the field, with no player staying in the same position for consecutive innings.

- **Skill-Based Encouragement** (LBLL Rule): Defensive players are encouraged to cheer for teammates' successful skill executions, such as accurate throws or clean fielding, with parents providing specific praise to reinforce technique improvement.

- **Soft Toss Practice** (LBLL Rule): Defensive players practice controlled tosses to teammates or their parents up to 10 feet, focusing on developing throwing accuracy and arm strength during plays.

- **Active Base Play** (LBLL Rule): Players are encouraged to practice base coverage by stepping on or near the base with the ball, guided by parents, to develop footwork and coordination skills.

- **Skill Drill Retreat** (LBLL Rule): Players may step back to a designated area for a quick skill drill (e.g., catching or throwing) with their manager, coach or parent if a play is missed, turning missed opportunities into learning moments.

- **Team Spirit Boost** (LBLL Rule): Players and parents are encouraged to actively root for their teammates by shouting positive calls (e.g., "Great throw!" or "Nice catch!") after each play, fostering a supportive environment that motivates skill improvement and team camaraderie.

## Team & Community building recommendations

- **Sportsmanship Cheer for Opponents:** Teams are encouraged to huddle up together and cheer for the other team. Following the cheer, players and coaches line up and high-fives the other team, while saying “Good game” to each player/coach, promoting respect and camaraderie across teams.

Suggested cheers:

- “2, 4, 6, 8, who do we appreciate [opposing team]!”
  - “Give a shout, give a cheer, [opposing team], we’re glad you’re here!”
  - “Hey, hey, what do you say, great game to [opposing team] today!”
  - “Clap your hands, stamp your feet, [opposing team], you can’t be beat!”
- **Post-Game Parent Tunnel:** Parents from both teams are encouraged to come together to form a group tunnel immediately following the last batter’s at-bat, inviting all children to run through as a celebratory conclusion to the game before snacks are distributed, fostering team spirit.
- **Snack Thank You’s:** It’s recommended that all children receiving snacks take a moment to verbally thank the parent providing them, promoting gratitude and social skills as a valuable post-game lesson.
- **Team Cheer Practice:** All players, coaches, and parents are encouraged to gather for an energetic team cheer to cap off the game or practice, providing an engaging way to sharpen teamwork, vocal coordination and morale.



**MANAGER'S CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE AND**  
**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF OBLIGATIONS**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Full Name), in my capacity as Manager of the \_\_\_\_\_ (Team Name) in the Laguna Beach Little League (LBLL) T-Ball Division, do hereby certify that I have carefully reviewed and fully comprehend the provisions, regulations, and objectives set forth in the Laguna Beach Little League T-Ball Division Rulebook (EST 2025, Version 1.0).

I acknowledge my responsibility to strictly adhere to, consistently enforce, and actively promote all rules, safety protocols, and league goals throughout the entirety of the 2025 season. I further commit to prioritizing fun, fundamental skill development, inclusivity, and parental involvement, in full alignment with the mission of LBLL to create a safe, joyful, and foundational introduction to baseball for our youngest athletes and their families.

**Manager Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## ***Closing Note***

This Tee-Ball Rulebook, tailored for the Laguna Beach Little League (LBLL) and aligned with Little League guidelines, is designed to create a fun, skill-building, and community-focused experience for our youngest players. As of October 15, 2025, these rules and recommendations reflect our commitment to fostering a love for the game while encouraging growth in teamwork, sportsmanship, and basic baseball skills. Our purpose is to ensure every game and practice remains a positive learning opportunity. For the latest updates or additional resources, please visit [littleleague.org](https://littleleague.org) or contact LBLL leadership. Let's continue to build a supportive baseball community together—play hard, have fun, and support one another!

- **Contact Information:** For questions or feedback, reach out to LBLL at [info@beachbaseball.com](mailto:info@beachbaseball.com) or check league announcements.

- **Review Date:** This rulebook will be reviewed annually in Q4 to incorporate new insights and ensure it meets the evolving needs of our players.